



UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA  
MEDICAL CENTER

THE CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL OF  
PHILADELPHIA



PETER C. PHILLIPS, M.D.  
HUBERT J.P. AND ANNE FAULKNER SCHOEMAKER CHAIR OF NEURO-ONCOLOGY  
PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY AND ONCOLOGY  
DIRECTOR OF NEURO-ONCOLOGY PROGRAMS  
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

ABRAMSON RESEARCH CENTER  
NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH, ROOM 516  
3615 CIVIC CENTER BOULEVARD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-4318  
Office (215) 590-2107 / 5188  
FAX (215) 590-3709

## Childhood Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium Update

During the past year the Childhood Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC) has worked to develop the critical infrastructure necessary for this project to move forward. Accordingly, we have purchased additional storage and gene sequencing equipment, purchased and installed computer equipment necessary to barcode label specimens in order to preserve patient confidentiality, hired personnel to coordinate tissue acquisition, and developed new computer programs designed to maintain clinical data and tissue data in an HIPPA-compliant fashion. We have completed regulatory review from the CHOP institutional review board and have obtained full approval. Furthermore, we are working with our collaborating institutions (University of Pittsburgh, Children's Memorial Hospital – Chicago, and University of Washington (Seattle) to assist them in obtaining regulatory approval at their institutions.

With funding assistance from Lauren's First and Goal, we have now collected more than 300 pediatric brain tumor specimens at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and anticipate that during the next year we will work through regulatory channels to obtain additional samples from our collaborators.

Funding from Lauren's First and Goal was also instrumental in a collaborative study of childhood medulloblastoma tumors together with The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Portions of medulloblastoma DNA specimens banked through the CBTTC were completely sequenced by advanced new technologies at Johns Hopkins and at CHOP. We were able to identify new mutations that represent a substantial sub-population of these tumors and have major clinical significance. We have submitted this study to a major scientific publication and anticipate its acceptance and publication later this year.

We believe that multi-institutional collaborations such as that described above, in which each group puts aside ego issues and works for the advancement of the best possible science is precisely what Lauren's First and Goal is interested in supporting. We are delighted that your support was able to bear fruit so quickly.

Peter C. Phillips

