

Dear Mary Ann,

I hope that the group will find this information helpful... We are so appreciative of your hard work and we commit to honor Brett through good work in the area of learning to best care for patients with sarcomas as well as other childhood malignancies. Please let me know if any additional information would be helpful. I hope that Brett has a good weekend.

Marcia

We are grateful to Brett, his family, and his community for putting into action their desire to further the advancement of treatment of children and young adults with rhabdomyosarcoma.

The division of Pediatric Oncology at Brenner Children's Hospital is a full member of the world's largest childhood cancer research organization, the Children's Oncology Group(COG). We, at Brenner Children's Hospital, share the stated mission of the Children's Oncology Group: to cure childhood cancer, with research as the key to finding that cure.

Through the support provided from "Brett's Ride for Rhabdo," our Section has been able to open all of the protocols currently being studied through the COG for pediatric patients who are newly diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma as well as the rhabdomyosarcoma biology protocol. In addition, we have been able to activate a protocol for recurrent rhabdomyosarcoma. During the past few years we have treated an average of 4 new patients with rhabdo each year and currently follow approximately twenty long term survivors of rhabdomyosarcoma. Our goal is to offer participation in national protocols for treatment and for long term follow-up to all eligible patients.

During the upcoming year we anticipate the activation of two new COG studies for rhabdomyosarcoma patients. These studies have received preliminary approval and following final certification from the National Cancer Institute will be brought to the internal review process at Wake Forest University Health Sciences. Because there are only about 350 new cases of rhabdomyosarcoma in the entire US each year, it is critical that institutions such as Wake Forest have these protocols available since these are the tools that we have to make real progress.

"Brett's Ride for Rhabdo" has allowed us to hire and train a new clinical research associate to help us remain up-to-date and ready to implement the next studies.

We have plans to implement a visiting professorship ("Gosnell Lectureship"), in the area of sarcoma research. The goal of the lectureship is to bring in sarcoma experts to give talks that will increase awareness of rhabdomyosarcoma in our academic community as well provide expertise to facilitate local innovative projects in the area of sarcoma research, whether clinical or laboratory-based.

While we recognize that participating in collaborative projects, such as the protocols through COG is very important, we also believe that local projects may lead towards better care of children and adolescents with rhabdomyosarcoma. Our future goal is to invest a considerable portion of the rhabdo funds in an endowment that would provide annual support for projects that will lead to new advances in therapy for years to come.