



Washington University Neurofibromatosis Center receives Children's Tumor Foundation grant to participate in NF Preclinical Trials Consortium

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Investigators in the Washington University Neurofibromatosis Center were recently awarded a grant to participate in the NF Preclinical Trials Consortium.

In an effort to accelerate the identification of effective therapies for individuals with NF1 and NF2, the Children's Tumor Foundation launched a new \$4 million program to screen promising candidate drugs in multiple tumor models of NF. Five centers were selected to participate in this exciting initiative.

David H. Gutmann, MD, PhD and his colleagues at Washington University Neurofibromatosis Center received one of these five awards. Along with Joel Garbow, PhD and Joshua Rubin, MD, PhD, the Washington University site will focus on developing and evaluating new promising therapies in their model of NF1 optic glioma (brain tumor).

Other participating centers will focus on plexiform neurofibromas, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors, leukemia, and NF2-related tumors.

The grant that supports these efforts will be written by all five centers over the next 6 months. It is anticipated that these exciting preclinical studies will pave the way for new studies aimed at evaluating new drugs for their ability to reduce tumor growth in children and adults with NF1 and NF2.

The NF Preclinical Trials Consortium represents a significant step forward in our ability to find the promising therapies for children and adults with NF1 and NF2 by rapidly and efficiently screen new therapies in multiple relevant tumor models. The combined efforts of the five centers will greatly accelerate progress in this area.