

Make a Difference Today

We've lost great minds to brain cancer.
Use yours to help us find the cure today.
--Mario Lichtenstein
VABC Founder

You, the volunteers and donors, are instrumental to our success. You have the power to change the lives of brain cancer patients and their families by getting involved or making a donation. We would be happy to have you as a member of our growing team!

I have brain cancer or I am a caregiver for somebody with brain cancer.

☐ Yes ☐ No

- ☐ I would like to make a donation of \$_____.
- ☐ I have enclosed a **check** made payable to Voices Against Brain Cancer.
- ☐ I have listed my **credit card** information below.
- ☐ My company has a **matching gifts** program.
- ☐ I want to get involved with VABC. Please send me more information about:
- ☐ Opportunities to **Fund a Grant or Sponsor a Program**.
 - ☐ Serving on the **Board of Directors**.
 - ☐ Serving on the **Volunteer Committee**.
 - ☐ Participating in **Create Footprints™**.

☐ Please send this newsletter to a friend of mine, whose contact information is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Your Contact and Payment Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card Name: ☐ AmEx ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Exp.Date: __/__/__

Credit Card Number: _____

Security Code (3- or 4-digit number on back of card): _____

Signature: _____



Please enclose this form in an envelope and send to:

Voices Against Brain Cancer
c/o Darren Port
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

You can also make a donation online at:
www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org

Voices Against Brain Cancer is a not-for-profit public charity recognized by the IRS under 501 (c) (3). VABC's EIN/Tax ID is 20-2872778.

message from the founders



From left: Adam, Mario, Dora, Deborah and Eric Lichtenstein. The Lichtenstein Family founded Voices Against Brain Cancer in memory of their son and brother Gary, who passed away from brain cancer at the age of 24.

Dear Family and Friends:

We are very proud of the strides we are making at **Voices Against Brain Cancer (VABC)**. Your generous support has enabled us to help many people in the brain cancer community through innovative research grants, clinical trials, and support groups. We want to sincerely thank all the donors, volunteers, Board and Committee Members, and everybody who attended *Sounding Off For A Cure* in 2009.

We remain committed to our mission of finding a cure for brain cancer by advancing scientific research, increasing awareness within the medical community and supporting patients and families afflicted with this devastating disease. **We are proud that our Medical Advisory Board continues to grow. These doctors and researchers from across the country are one of our best assets since they review all grant requests sent to VABC and recommend the ones that are most likely to get results and help cure brain cancer.**

With your help, we continue to fund research studies that improve treatment and quality of life, but survival rates remain low. Brain cancer can affect people of every age, gender, ethnicity and health history. Each year, many people in the United States are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. There are hundreds of different types of brain tumors, resulting in highly variable symptoms and survival rates. There are currently no known causes of brain cancer.

Please help us in this urgent fight. Make a donation, volunteer your time, join the Board or Committee, or attend our upcoming fundraising event, *Sounding Off For A Cure*, to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at The Hammerstein in New York City.

Let's work together to find a cure and *Raise Our Voices Against Brain Cancer!*

Sincerely,
The Lichtenstein Family

VOICES
AGAINST BRAIN CANCER



initiatives

The Programs Made Possible With Your Donations

Your support has helped fund many much-needed initiatives in the world of brain cancer. VABC is pleased to make a difference in people's lives with these programs.

All of us who have been diagnosed can recall vividly the terror and dread we experienced at hearing the words "you have a brain tumor." My experience made me aware of the need for a forum to address the emotional and psychological needs of the patient throughout treatment. Our group is delighted to become part of the VABC family.

--Rochelle Guttman, L.C.S.W.
Facilitator of Non-Malignant Brain Tumor Support Group

Non-Malignant Brain Tumor Support Group (New York, NY)

The group, which meets twice a month, helps people understand how to navigate treatment options and provides strategies for dealing with life changes due to non-malignant brain tumors. The group provides outreach to the newly-diagnosed through their network of doctors, hospitals, and related organizations.

NeuroOncology Brain Tumor Support Group (University of Michigan)

VABC funded a retreat for participants that included sessions on nutrition; art, music and massage therapy; and yoga. We also funded a social outing for brain tumor patients and their families that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The support group meets monthly and is managed by a team of NeuroOncology nurses.

Support Group for Caregivers and Family Members of Brain Cancer Patients (New York)

VABC holds a monthly support group that provides medical and practical education from professional guest speakers in a location provided by the **American Cancer Society**. Members discuss side effects of treatment, how to properly handle emergency situations, nutrition, effective communication, and the emotions that caregivers and family members experience. This group improves the well-being of those who attend and the loved ones being cared for.

Learn more or register for our support groups at www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org.

Raise Your Voice Manual for Newly-Diagnosed Patients

A binder filled with helpful information for brain cancer patients and caregivers is distributed by **New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University's Brain Tumor Center**. VABC wrote this manual, with consultation from **Dr. Steven S. Rosenfeld**, Co-Founder of the Brain Tumor Center and member of VABC's Medical Advisory Board. Patients and caregivers use the manual to navigate the healthcare system and to improve their loved one's quality of life during treatment. VABC is expanding this program to hospitals all over the country. **Access the manual at www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org.**

Create Footprints™

This program allows volunteers around the world to plan a walk, run, bike ride or other event to raise funds for research and initiatives through VABC. You can become an organizer of an event and raise money in your own neighborhood using our easy tools. **Email ken@createfootprints.org to get started today.**

Patient-Caregiver Advocacy Committee (New York, NY)

In June, VABC joined the North American Brain Tumor Coalition (NABTC), a group of nonprofits who advance the interests of individuals with brain tumors through public policy efforts in Washington, DC. Robert Cannata, Dora Lichtenstein, and Alyssa Coleman-Gendal are VABC's representatives. Recently NABTC has been advancing health care reform.

These programs never would have been possible without your help. Together, we are making progress toward a cure. Please make a donation today and help us defeat this terrible disease.

a face behind the foundation

Board Member Roslyn Bernstein Discusses Her Involvement with Voices Against Brain Cancer

My husband, Rob, was diagnosed with brain cancer in January 2009 and I knew I had to get involved with finding a cure. I learned about VABC through a co-worker who is close friends with founder Mario Lichtenstein. I spoke to Mario and saw his passion and dedication and I knew that VABC was the perfect place for me to get involved.

The foundation has had a wonderful impact on my family. It allowed us to help others who are going through a similar experience, and, more importantly it has given us new friends and family. Their support has helped our family through so many difficult moments.

As a board member, I use my connections in a positive way and reach out to those who can help support our important cause. My goal, along with everyone else's, is to help find a cure for brain cancer. Being a caregiver for my husband has taught me how to be there for others who are going through some of the same difficulties. I have been very involved in the fundraising process. I have also introduced family members to VABC who are now important volunteers and bring new ideas to this amazing organization.

My best memory at VABC was being able to run in the NYC half marathon with my daughter where we raised over \$15,000 together. This was especially important for me because my husband and I were always very active people. We always enjoyed bike riding, hiking, and running outdoors. Being able to accomplish this allowed me to honor Rob and support this great foundation.

If you would like to serve on the Board or Committee, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 212.340.9446 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.



Board Member Roslyn Bernstein with her husband Rob, a brain cancer survivor.

Voices Against Brain Cancer
c/o Darren Port
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018



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Sounding Off For A Cure,
to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at The Hammerstein
in New York City. Formal invitation to follow.



VOICES
AGAINST BRAIN CANCER

Annual Newsletter
Spring 2010

www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org

Cutting-Edge Research Programs Made Possible with Your Support

VABC is a terrific organization that is developing more effective strategies for treating brain tumors. Their financial support is helping us with a project that may reverse the damage seen in patients treated for a primary brain tumor. I am honored to be receiving the 2010 Gary Lichtenstein Humanitarian Award at this year's event.

-Henry S. Friedman, MD
VABC Grant Recipient and Medical Advisory Board Member

These innovative research projects will have a monumental impact that will one day cure brain cancer. Your donation helps scientists and doctors study various approaches that will one day cure brain cancer.

New Granting

Genetic Marker Clinical Trials
Led by Tracy Batchelor, MD, MPH at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School

These trials will evaluate and monitor the genetic status of tumors in patients over time using biomarkers. Biomarkers have the potential to show which genetic changes in tumors make patients more responsive to a specific drug, whether genetic changes occur in the tumor during drug treatment, and how the patient responds to therapy. Batchelor is a recent addition to VABC's Medical Advisory Board.

Stem Cell Approaches to Stimulate Neuro-Regeneration Following Radiation Therapy
Led by Henry Friedman, MD at Duke University Medical Center

Treatment of glioblastoma usually involves aggressive therapy which causes damage to normal brain tissue and leads to neurocognitive dysfunction. Bone marrow-derived stem cells (BMSC) hold tremendous promise to enhance neuro-repair. This study evaluates the therapeutic properties of BMSCs in mice. If successful, the researchers anticipate preliminary phase I experiments in glioma patients within two years. Friedman has recently joined VABC's Medical Advisory Board.

T-Cell Immunotherapy of Glioblastoma
Led by Laura Johnson, PhD at Duke University Medical Center

Immunotherapy utilizes the body's own immune system to seek out and destroy the source of disease. Using tumor immunotherapy, it is possible to modify patients' own T-cells to recognize and destroy tumors with a high degree of specificity and efficiency. This project will use a marker unique to GBM to engineer T-cell receptors to specifically target and destroy the brain tumor, without damaging normal tissues in the body. Preclinical studies will be conducted in mice, with hopes to rapidly translate to a Phase I/II clinical trial for humans.

Glioma Cell Migration and Invasion
Led by Steven Rosenfeld, MD, PhD at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center

Patients diagnosed with glioblastoma that receive treatment with anti-angiogenic medications have enjoyed a longer life expectancy than those receiving other treatments. Despite this benefit, in about 50% of patients, the tumors change from local to diffused, highly-invasive, chemotherapy-resistant and fatal. Dr. Rosenfeld will use mice to study why this change happens and how to potentially block it. Rosenfeld is on VABC's Medical Advisory Board.

Nanoparticle-Based Combination Therapy
Led by Joseph Piepmeier, MD at Yale School of Medicine

Glioma Stem Cells (GSCs) have recently been identified as the likely root of glioma development, yet most current chemotherapy drugs cannot eliminate them. This study focuses on identifying drugs that can eliminate GSCs and using nanotechnology to deliver these drugs directly to the cells.

Ongoing Granting
Drug Clinical Trials
Led by Andrew Lassman, MD at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

This study will test whether a combination of two drugs, temsirolimus and perifosine, will benefit in treatment of patients with glioblastoma. The drugs act on a chemical in our bodies called AKT, which increases the likelihood of tumor growth, invasion, and resistance to treatments. The drugs have shown promise in tests on mice.

Chemotherapy Coils
Led by Susan Pannullo, MD at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

This groundbreaking research program investigates a novel way of delivering chemotherapy into brain tissue of patients who have malignant gliomas. This research is important to prevent a tumor's re-growth after it's been surgically removed. The chemotherapy coils will deliver focused drugs straight to the tumor, penetrate further than previous drugs, degrade inside the brain, and help prevent tumor re-growth. Pannullo is on VABC's Medical Advisory Board.

Carbon Microbeams
Led by Avraham Dilmanian, PhD at Brookhaven National Laboratory

Dr. Dilmanian's research targets radiation treatment on brain tumors without damaging healthy brain tissue. This novel approach may actually promote growth of new healthy brain tissue and expedite healing after treatment. It may be of great benefit to patients for whom surgical tumor removal is not an option. Dilmanian has recently joined VABC's Medical Advisory Board.

Notch Inhibition
Led by Xing Fan, MD PhD at the University of Michigan Health System

There is emerging evidence that a small population of cancer stem cells within brain tumors are responsible for tumor formation and growth. The Notch Signaling Pathway, which is important for cell to cell communication, regulates normal stem cells in the central nervous system. Notch signaling, for some reason, malfunctions in many cancers. This study hypothesizes that a combination of inhibitors of Notch signaling and radiation therapy will enhance the depletion of cancer stem cells and improve the treatment of glioblastoma.

Young Investigators Program

VABC hopes to encourage bright young people to enter the field of brain cancer research after they graduate. We fund brain cancer-related projects to spark graduate students' interest in the topic. After success at Northwestern University, this program is expanding to Duke University and many other institutions.

Find out more grant information at www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org. Email adam@voicesagainstbraincancer.org if you would like to learn about becoming a sponsor of a research grant.



Sounding Off For A Cure

VABC would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our fourth annual fundraising event, *Sounding Off For A Cure*, held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at The Hammerstein in New York City.

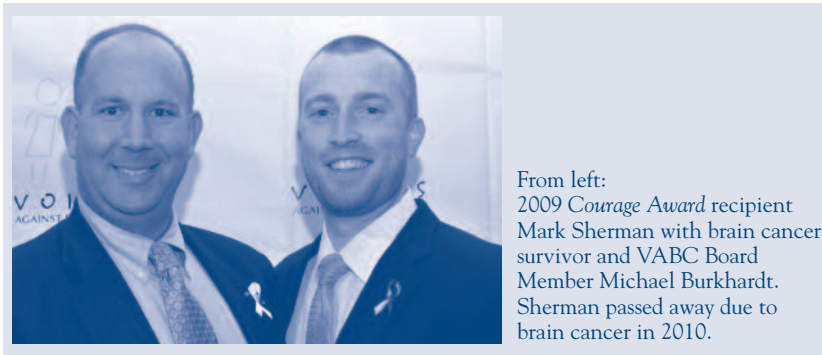
The event honored **Dr. Lisa DeAngelis** (Co-Executive Director of the **Brain Tumor Center** and Chairman, Department of Neurology at **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**) with the *Gary Lichtenstein Humanitarian Award* and **Al Musella** (President, *Musella Foundation For Brain Tumor Research & Information*) with the *Voices Award* for their dedication and charitable giving to brain cancer research and support.

VABC presented 2009 *Courage Awards* to several individuals who have bravely fought against this devastating disease: **Marissa Carney, David Emmett, Jr., Robert Immerman, Florence Marazia, Mark Sherman, Kathy Swineford** and **Harold Winshel**. Awards were presented by Board Member and brain cancer survivor **Michael Burkhardt**.

Our generous sponsors included **Alyssa & Steven Gendal; BTIG, LLC; Chardan Capital Markets; Dr. Kildeen Moore Research Fund; Hapoalim Securities; Harry M. & Gertrude Y. Schwartz Foundation; Hillary & Daniel Leibowitz; Hunter EMS; Knight Equity Markets, LP; New York Post; Pali Capital; Paul Bernstein; RBC Capital Markets; Richard Patrick, Jr.; Scott Khourie; Stephanie & David Simon; The Lichtenstein Family; The Taube Family; The Tessler Family; and Wendy's Arby's Group.**

Cuisine was provided by **Bamboo 52, Butterfield 8, Chocolate Dreams, Flute Champagne Lounge, Fratelli's, Grandaisy Bakery, Heartland Brewery, Ivy Bakery, Kitchen Table Bakers, Lucky Strike Lanes, Philip Marie, STK, Victor's Café, Wine Cellar Sorbets and Woolworth Tower Kitchen**. Beverages were provided by **1921 Tequila Cream, Bluecoat Gin, Burnett's Vodka, Domaine de Canton, Frederick Wildman Wine, Heartland Brewery, Jagermeister, Liquid Chef, Lucid Absinthe, Orange V Vodka, Pama Pomegranate Liqueur, Polished Palette, Sonu Water, Southern Wine & Spirits of New York and Tommy Bahama Rum**. Live music was provided by **Chieli Minucci & Special EFX**.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers who made this evening possible.



From left: 2009 *Courage Award* recipient Mark Sherman with brain cancer survivor and VABC Board Member Michael Burkhardt. Sherman passed away due to brain cancer in 2010.



From left: 2009 *Voices Award* recipient Al Musella and VABC Chairman Michael Klipper


SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our fifth annual fundraising event, *Sounding Off For A Cure*, to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at The Hammerstein in New York City.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event or would like to serve on the Volunteer Committee, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 212.340.9446 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.



Participants in the Support Group for Caregivers and Family Members of Brain Cancer Patients discuss healthcare issues in their monthly meeting.

 **YOU, the volunteers and donors, are the backbone of our foundation. The time, dedication, services and funds you donate help VABC work towards achieving our mission. We would not be able to create change in the brain cancer community without you.**

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Barry Goldin, MS, PhD <i>Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine Professor of Nutrition and Social Policy Tufts University School of Medicine</i>	Mario Sznol, MD <i>Chairman, Protocol Review Human Investigations Vice-Chief, Medical Oncology Yale University Cancer Center</i>

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VABC is proud that all Board and Committee members are volunteers and not compensated for their service.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or Volunteer Committee, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 212.340.9446 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.