MAKE A PERSONAL IMPACT

We hope you are inspired to join the dedicated and passionate group that supports the Center for Neuro-Oncology. By giving to this program, you are helping to accelerate the pace of discovery and the movement of revolutionary treatments from the labs to the bedside. Take action in the fight against brain cancer.

To learn more or to become involved, please contact:

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HOW THE CENTER FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY IS CHANGING LIVES

Profile: Genotyping Study Leads the Nation

Specialists in the Center for Neuro-Oncology are enrolling patients in a study called Profile—one of the nation’s most comprehensive personalized cancer medicine initiatives—that aims to identify genetic alterations in tumors. This study currently involves the analysis of 471 mutations in 41 genes, and has enrolled nearly 2,000 patients with 10,000 patients expected to enroll within the next 12 months. The test, which is performed on solid tumors, bone marrow, or blood samples, identifies most of the genetic mutations currently implicated in cancer development and growth.

Due to the large number of patients involved, Profile is recognized as a powerful tool for discovery and personalized care medicine. This innovative study aims to identify targeted therapies to determine the most effective treatment for individual patients. Profile is expected to enhance the understanding of CNS tumors and determine why certain tumors remain benign while others become malignant, simultaneously supporting proposals for new research studies and clinical trials.

LEVERAGING CLINICAL TRIALS

As a renowned leader in clinical trials for brain tumors, specialists in the Center for Neuro-Oncology lead an average of 20 clinical trials at a time. These personalized, tailored therapeutic approaches span the entire neuro-oncology spectrum, expanding the availability of targeted therapies and improving the standard of care for many patients with CNS cancers.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Center for Neuro-Oncology has already made a significant impact thanks to grant and philanthropic funding. This support has fueled groundbreaking research and innovative clinical trials, accelerating novel ways to treat brain cancers. Researchers in the Center for Neuro-Oncology are focused on a future of personalized, more effective therapies. Ongoing support is critical to making this goal a reality.
What distinguishes Dana-Farber's Center for Neuro-Oncology?

- **Commitment to our mission:** Dana-Farber's 50-50 balance of research and patient care is the cornerstone of our lifesaving mission. The Center for Neuro-Oncology seamlessly integrates science and clinical care, moving discoveries rapidly between the laboratory bench and the patient's bedside.

- **Total Patient Care:** Our approach to compassionate care centers on the individual needs of our patients and their families. Team members in the Center for Neuro-Oncology work closely together to ensure patients receive carefully coordinated treatment and support—from medical care to psychological counseling and physical therapy—all under one roof.

- **Advanced Treatments:** The Center for Neuro-Oncology offers state-of-the-art treatments for patients with brain and spinal cord tumors. Innovative multimodality techniques are designed to offer multiple avenues for combating tumors and advanced radiation techniques that deliver higher dosing with less toxicity.

On the Cover: Dana-Farber physician-scientists identified the transcription factor Olig2 (green) as a drug development target for malignant gliomas. This discovery is one of the many examples of how the Center for Neuro-Oncology is laying the foundation for more effective, personalized treatments.

A focus on the best and the brightest

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Center for Neuro-Oncology researchers are leading a vast array of studies to advance the understanding of central nervous system (CNS) tumor development and identify new therapeutic targets. This groundbreaking research focuses on issues including new approaches in spine oncology, characterization of cancer genomes, stem cell biology of brain tumors, and epidemiology of meningioma and glioma.

- **Center Leadership:** Director Patrick Y. Wen, MD, and the Center for Neuro-Oncology act as the coordinating center of the Ivy Foundation Early Phase Clinical and Pathology Trials Consortium, a group of select centers from across the nation with the ability to genotype patients’ tumors at diagnosis and enroll them into targeted trials. By personalizing therapy, the Ivy Consortium strives to maximize the chance of patients benefiting from treatment and accelerate the development of novel agents. Dana-Farber’s important role in this elite group reflects the Institute’s national prominence and leadership.

- **Training Future Leaders:** The Center for Neuro-Oncology improves the future of cancer care through the education of thousands of clinicians and researchers who are trained at Dana-Farber and continue their careers here or elsewhere in the world.

"With our growing understanding of the biology of these tumors, we are leading clinical trials that target the root of their development and growth. These new agents are designed to augment our previous discoveries in neuro-oncology."

— Patrick Y. Wen, MD
Director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Neuro-Oncology