



St. Baldrick's Foundation and Griffin's Guardians fund life-saving childhood cancer research

CICERO, NY - The [St. Baldrick's Foundation](#), the largest charity funder of [childhood cancer research](#) grants, and [Griffin's Guardians](#) are proud to announce the St. Baldrick's Scholar Award to Jessica Tsai, M.D., Ph.D. at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for a span of three years. This grant will support Dr. Tsai's research on pediatric diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

Dr. Tsai plans to improve outcomes for patients with DIPG by exploring new treatment approaches. Dr. Tsai discovered a gene called FOXR2, which is usually inactive but is highly active in some DIPG cases, leading to rapid tumor growth. FOXR2 can switch on a group of genes called ETS transcription factors, which in turn activate the MAPK signaling pathway—a process not previously observed in DIPGs. Dr. Tsai aims to unravel the precise collaboration between FOXR2 and ETS TFs in activating MAPK signaling, shedding light on the mechanisms driving DIPG progression.

Griffin's Guardian was founded by the Engle family in memory of Griffin Engle, who at the age of 7 passed away from DIPG. DIPG is a type of brain cancer that primarily affects children. It is a highly aggressive and unfortunately, often fatal tumor located in the brainstem, specifically in an area called the pons. DIPG is challenging to treat due to its location and the complex nature of the brainstem.

“We will never say Griffin lost his battle to cancer, but that he won.” Said Erin Engle, Griffin's mother. “He won the hearts of so many. He taught us what true strength is, he taught us to never give up, he taught us to keep smiling, and most importantly he taught us love.”

[Team Griffin](#) will fundraise at [Kitty Hoynes Irish Pub and Restaurant on March 3, 2024](#). For more information about these events, visit their [events](#) page.

To learn more about Griffin's Guardians, visit [griffinsguardians.org](#).

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a St. Baldrick's Non-Profit Partner, like Griffins Guardian's, visit [stbaldricks.org/non-profit-partners](#).

About St. Baldrick's Foundation

Every 2 minutes, a child somewhere in the world is diagnosed with cancer. In the U.S., 1 in 5 will not survive. The St. Baldrick's Foundation, the largest charity funder of childhood cancer research grants, is on a mission to Conquer Kids' Cancer by supporting the most promising research to find cures and better treatments for all childhood cancers. When you give to St.

Baldrick's, you don't just give to one hospital – you support virtually every institution with the expertise to treat kids with cancer across the U.S. St. Baldrick's ensures that children fighting cancer now — and those diagnosed in the future — will have access to the most cutting-edge treatment, by supporting every stage of research, from new ideas in the lab to the training of the next generation of researchers, to lifesaving clinical trials. Visit StBaldricks.org and help #ConquerKidsCancer.

About Griffin's Guardians

Griffin's Guardians is a recognized nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides support and financial assistance to children battling cancer in Central New York. We work hand in hand with Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital to stay up to date on what the patients' and families' current needs are. In addition, we strive to bring awareness to Pediatric Cancer and to provide financial aid for funding Pediatric Cancer Research.