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February 20th, 2020

Adam Resnick PhD
Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
3501 Civic Center Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Michael Prados MD
University of California San Francisco
1450 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA, 94158-0520

Dear Drs. Resnick and Prados,

I am writing to offer our support for the application "Pediatric Brain Tumor SPORE" in response to **PAR-14-353, Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)**. I was surprised to hear there has never been a Pediatric Brain Tumor SPORE until your application. I am a supporter of The Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC, <https://cbttc.org>), and Pacific Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium's (PNOC, <https://pnoc.us>) work to drive the acceleration of research for improved treatments for children diagnosed with brain tumors, and I was so pleased to hear that these two organizations will be joining efforts for this SPORE. Your leadership has brought together pediatric hospitals across the US and the globe to collaborate and share resources. These efforts have led to the successful launch of over 20 clinical trials and the creation of the largest pediatric brain tumor genomic and biospecimen repository, and large-scale cloud resources and discovery platforms for researchers world-wide to collaborate in real-time. This would never have been possible without your successful collaborative approach in this rare disease area as no single institution sees enough pediatric brain tumor patients alone. By developing an infrastructure and operations team and scientific collaboration across over 19 pediatric institutions, we believe the research proposed in the Pediatric Brain Tumor SPORE will be successful.

I/We fully support this new endeavor. As you are aware, pediatric brain tumors are the leading cause of disease-related death in children. Without collaboration across institutions, we are not going to be able to change this horrific statistic. Given the rare number of cases and the need for expertise across many universities and labs, scientific efforts MUST harness multiple labs across our groups in order to bring forth the best science.

In learning that Drs. Prados and Resnick would be co-leading this SPORE, I/we were thrilled. as co-Project Leader of PNOC, Dr. Prados has fostered its growth to currently include 19 academic centers across the United States, with international sites in Canada, Australia, Europe, and soon-to-open sites in India and Israel. Under

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the direction of Scientific co-chair Dr. Adam Resnick, the CBTTTC has become the largest biorepository of its kind, linking longitudinally clinically annotated biospecimens including radiological and pathology imaging and genomic data for thousands of children with brain cancer. The CBTTTC data centers offer a rich environment for basic and translational research with both patient samples and animal models extensively profiled and available for use for investigators around the globe. Together the two consortia have underpinned the development of large-scale cloud resources and discovery platforms including the recently-launched NIH Kids First Data Resources Center (<https://kidsfirstdrc.org/>), providing the unique opportunity in the context of a SPORE to translate these big data resources for clinical impact. The CBTTTC and PNOC have a strong and interactive relationship that has been developed over the years, with the common vision to rapidly improve translational research that informs clinical trial strategies.

We believe with this grant, children with brain tumors will have the best researchers driving forward innovative initiatives to provide improved treatments for our children finally. <INSERT Personal Narrative>

This project is long overdue; please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any additional information.

Sincerely,
