

## **Solving Kids' Cancer™ — Backgrounder**

Solving Kids' Cancer (SKC) is a non-profit therapeutic development enterprise whose mission is to extend life for children with the deadliest forms of childhood cancer by directly funding and managing scientific programs, clinical trials and other research.

### **History**

SKC was founded in 2007 by Scott Kennedy and John London, who both lost children to pediatric cancer. Their first-hand experiences and struggles to obtain information and access to effective treatments for their children led them to establish this organization to fill the void they had identified: there was no single group, institution or research entity exclusively and effectively devoted to solving the deadliest forms of pediatric cancers.

Solving Kids' Cancer was created not as a conventional charity but as a nonprofit enterprise dedicated to fostering a new collaborative approach to pediatric cancer research that makes therapeutic benefit and increasing survivorship the primary funding criteria. SKC believes a strong foundation of basic cancer research already exists and that what is needed is a coherent, methodical process to identify and prioritize existing data and move the most promising projects toward viable therapeutic options. It serves as a bridge between the key stakeholders including scientists, translational researchers, clinicians, and the life sciences industry. SKC's open source, 'think tank' approach will help speed the availability of new therapies to children, provide opportunities for novel solutions and allow for more flexibility than traditional clinical trials that are required to be large-scale, multi-center, single treatment and placebo controlled.

### **Mission**

Solving Kids' Cancer was founded with the goal of extending the lives of all children with the deadliest forms of cancer and making survivorship possible for these children by 2015. SKC is dedicated to facilitating the development of therapies through an innovative and aggressively funded model.

### **Therapeutic Development Initiative (TDI)**

SKC's Therapeutic Development Initiative brings together the knowledge and experience of a diverse group of scientists who represent multiple disciplines in cancer including pediatric oncologists, cancer researchers, experts in immunology and systems biology as well as specialists in adult oncology. Currently, SKC therapeutic development and funding efforts are primarily focused on the three most deadly childhood cancers—neuroblastoma, sarcomas and brain/central nervous system cancers.

SKC believes the deadliest childhood cancers will not be stopped by one agent or a single targeted approach. Since there are multiple and varying processes that contribute to cancer, it follows that multiple paths will be required to successfully stop it. With this in mind, SKC

supports clinical research projects that precisely target these key paths. SKC's staff and scientific advisory board are deeply involved in all stages of the research projects they fund, including conception, protocol design, budget, goals and milestones.

SKC's top priority is to create effective treatment options for kids with the deadliest childhood cancers. SKC sponsors pilot, proof-of-principle, and Phase I clinical trials that drive a gained understanding of both safety and efficacy of promising therapeutic agents. SKC also aims to incentivize scientific investigators who might not otherwise have the opportunity to conduct novel research that could help improve survivorship.

### **Therapeutic Paths:**

SKC scientific research and grants focus on the following seven therapeutic paths:

- Implicated Molecular Pathways
- Genomics
- Tumor Cell Surface Receptors
- Tumor Initiating Cells (Cancer Stem Cells)
- Biotherapeutics
- Immunotherapeutics
- Embryonic Development Mechanism

### **Financial Overview**

Solving Kids' Cancer is a 501(c) 3 that devotes 100% of its public donations to scientific development of therapies to make survivorship possible for all kids with the deadliest childhood cancers. All non-research expenses are paid by the Board of Directors and our sponsors.

### **Headquarters**

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- Natalie McDonald, Director of Development