

# KIDS CANCER

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## **Autopsy Tissue Needs**

**Laboratory of Robert J. Wechsler-Reya, Ph.D.**

**Duke University Medical Center**

## **Research Interests**

Our research focuses on pediatric brain tumors, particularly medulloblastoma. We are studying the genes that drive tumor growth and are developing xenografts to test possible therapies for the disease. We have published several papers on transgenic mouse models of medulloblastoma, but so far our work on human tumor xenografts is unpublished.

## **Selected Publications**

Yang, Zeng-Jie, Tammy Ellis, Shirley L. Markant, Tracy-Ann Read, Jessica D. Kessler, Melissa Bourboulas, Ulrich Schüller, Robert Machold, Gord Fishell, David H. Rowitch, Brandon J. Wainwright, and Robert J. Wechsler-Reya. "Medulloblastoma Can Be Initiated by Deletion of Patched in Lineage-Restricted Progenitors or Stem Cells." *Cancer Cell* 14 no. 2 (August 12, 2008): 135-45.

Kessler, Jessica D., Hiroshi Hasegawa, Sonja N. Brun, Brian A. Emmenegger, Zeng-Jie Yang, John W. Dutton, Fan Wang, and Robert J. Wechsler-Reya. "N-myc Alters the Fate of Pre-Neoplastic Cells in a Mouse Model of Medulloblastoma." *Genes & Development* 23 (2009):157-170.

Read, Tracy-Ann, Marie P. Fogarty, Shirley L. Markant, Roger E. McLendon, Zhengzheng Wei, David W. Ellison, Phillip G. Febbo, PG and Robert J. Wechsler-Reya. "Identification of CD15 as a Marker for Tumor-Propagating Cells in a Mouse Model of Medulloblastoma." *Cancer Cell* 15 (February 3, 2009): 135-47.

Fogarty, Marie P., Brian A. Emmenegger, Linda L. Grasdeder, Trudy G. Oliver, and Robert J. Wechsler-Reya. "Fibroblast Growth Factor Blocks Sonic Hedgehog Signaling in Neuronal Precursors and Tumor Cells." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 104, no. 8 (February 20, 2007): 2973-78.

## **Autopsy Tissue Needed**

We are particularly in need of fresh tissue, which we would use to establish direct orthotopic xenografts in mice. We have already established four such xenograft lines and are eager to establish more, so that we can study the broad spectrum of human tumors. We also need frozen tissue for immunohistochemistry or RNA/DNA analysis.

### Contact Information

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