

To friends and family:

Thank you for your continued support of Kids v Cancer. I wanted to wish you a happy holiday season and give you an update on our activities.

We are growing and have expanded our team to four employees and an array of volunteers.

We're working on a number of research projects on what the FDA might do to encourage pediatric cancer drug development.

And, of course, we are continuing to make progress on the **Creating Hope Act**, which creates market incentives for the development of new drugs for pediatric cancer and other rare pediatric diseases. We have bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, including over 100 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

Please take two minutes to **email your Representatives** to express your support for the Creating Hope Act. As few as 10 emails to a Member of Congress can spur him or her to become a sponsor.

Kids v Cancer Tissue Bank

We are making good progress building out our tissue bank. We are working with a number of leading doctors, hospitals and families to ensure that autopsy tissue makes it to cutting-edge researchers who need it to advance their work.

Let me tell you why that's so important. When Jacob died, we took an unusual step to donate Jacob's autopsy brain tumor tissue to five researchers. Remarkably, two of the researchers made important discoveries using Jacob's tissue.

Dr Xiao-Nan Li at Texas Children's Hospital built the first xenographic mouse model of autopsy brain tumor tissue -- adult or pediatric.

Dr Michael Taylor at Toronto Sick Kids Hospital undertook a genomic study of Jacob's primary tumor tissue as compared to his metastases - the tumor tissue that had spread to other parts of his brain - and discovered that they are different.

Kids who die of Jacob's form of brain cancer usually die of metastases, not of the primary tumor. However, because of the lack of tissue of this sort (and the type of mouse models generated by Dr Xiao-Nan Li), most basic research and drug development is done on primary tumor.



Jacob and Ben -
December 2008

KIDS **V** CANCER

Dr Li and Dr Taylor's work with Jacob's autopsy tissue will enable researchers to develop and test more effective new drugs for kids with metastatic brain cancer.

The challenge is that many oncologists are uncomfortable asking families to donate autopsy tissue at such a difficult time and families who would want to arrange for a donation may not know that this is an option or don't know how to do so. Kids v Cancer has responded by building a pediatric autopsy tissue bank. If you are a parent of a child with brain cancer and would like more information, please see our [website](#).

Best Wishes

Thank you. Your support has made projects like the tissue bank and FDA initiative possible. And for me, I am personally grateful this season for the opportunity Kids v Cancer allows to continue to fight for kids like Jacob.

May you and your family have a happy and healthy holiday season and new year.

Warmly,



Nancy Goodman