



March 17th, 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

As a paediatric oncologist at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick, I see all too often the devastation of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) - an incurable childhood brain cancer. DIPG represents the most aggressive cancer of childhood, there are no effective treatments, and most children will die within one year of diagnosis.

Thanks to support from The Cure Starts Now, in the last 12 months we have initiated an Australian-first research project at the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA), looking for new and effective treatments for DIPG.

Government funding for this project is incredibly difficult to secure because it's such a rare cancer, and there has never been any research into this disease in Australia before. It is entirely thanks to support from parents of children who have died from this disease, and organisations like The Cure Starts Now, that we have been able to initiate this research and now have scientists working full-time to find a cure.

We have grown the first DIPG cells ever cultured in the lab, and initiated the world's first robotic drug screen, searching for a treatment that will effectively attack the tumour cells. We have already made several exciting discoveries, and have identified pharmaceutical compounds that appear to have striking activity against this devastating cancer.

I am deeply grateful for the support of the Cure Starts Now. Their fundraising efforts have enabled our research to get this far, and with their continued help, we will continue to work towards our ultimate goal – to discover an effective treatment to help save children diagnosed with this deadly disease.

Kind regards,

Dr David Ziegler

Research Fellow, Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA)
Paediatric Oncologist, Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick