



**THE FIRST 10 YEARS PROVED WHAT'S POSSIBLE...  
THE NEXT 10 YEARS WILL DELIVER WHAT'S NECESSARY.**



## **2025 IMPACT REPORT**

# 10 YEARS TOUGH

## A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

### A Decade of Discovery and Determination

#### A Message from Our Founders

Ten years ago, we began this journey out of love for our sons and heartbreak over a diagnosis no family should ever face. At the time, DIPG/DMG tumors were widely considered incurable, underfunded, and overlooked. Families were given few answers and even fewer options. But we believed that accepting the status quo was not an option.

Over the past decade, that belief, shared by so many of you, has helped spark real change. Together, we have fueled groundbreaking research, supported clinical trials, fostered global collaborations, and helped transform our understanding of these tumors. While DIPG/DMG remains a devastating diagnosis, new discoveries are beginning to extend and improve life for some children. This is an important step forward in a journey that is far from finished.

At the same time, we've learned that progress isn't only made in laboratories. Through My DIPG Navigator, we connect families with a dedicated team of experienced pediatric

oncology nurses, as well as a social worker, who provide free expert guidance, trusted information, and compassionate support from the moment of diagnosis — so no family has to navigate DIPG/DMG alone.

None of this happened by chance. It happened because of partnership, persistence, and the willingness to invest early, when answers were unclear but hope remained strong.

**The first 10 years proved what's possible. The next 10 must deliver what's necessary.** Thank you for believing, for standing with our families, and for helping move us closer to a future where DIPG/DMG is no longer a life-ending diagnosis.

Together, we will Defeat DIPG.



*Tammi & Jason Carr*  
Tammi & Jason Carr

*Jenny & Mark Mosier*  
Jenny & Mark Mosier

### Momentum for the Decade Ahead

#### A Message from Our CEO



Since the beginning of ChadTough Defeat DIPG, I've had the privilege of watching belief turn into progress and progress

turn into momentum. But momentum isn't an endpoint. It's a charge to keep going.

The next 10 years will be defined by how boldly we act on what we now know. Science is moving faster. Opportunities are expanding. And families are counting on us to translate discovery into real-world impact. Our responsibility is clear: to keep investing early, to push collaboration further, and to ensure progress reaches every child and every family who needs it.

The path ahead will require focus, partnership, and resolve. I am confident that together, we will carry this momentum forward and turn today's promise into tomorrow's outcomes.

*Ann Friedholm*  
Ann Friedholm

# WHAT CHANGED IN 10 YEARS? EVERYTHING.

## Hope Looks Different Today

When the Carr and Mosier families first heard the words diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), they were confronted with a devastating reality. Decades of neglect had left this deadly childhood brain cancer with little scientific understanding and no effective treatments.

In the 10 years since ChadTough Defeat DIPG was founded, the landscape of DIPG/DMG research has been fundamentally reshaped. What was once a sparsely populated field has become a global research effort. What were once isolated labs are now collaborative networks. What was once scientific pessimism has been replaced by cautious – but growing – confidence. This transformation did not happen by chance. It happened because families, donors, and researchers refused to accept that nothing could be done.



Chad Carr



Michael Mosier

## Then vs. Now: How the Experience for Families Has Changed

| 10 Years Ago  | Today  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>One standard option</b><br/>Radiation was the only recommended treatment, offered primarily to relieve symptoms and temporarily slow the tumor.</p>               | <p><b>Radiation plus strategy</b><br/>Radiation remains part of care, but it is now paired with biologically informed treatment planning and clinical trial pathways.</p>                      |
| <p><b>Limited clinical trials</b><br/>Trials were scarce, not designed specifically for DIPG/DMG, and often tested single drugs without clear biological rationale.</p> | <p><b>Purpose-built clinical trials</b><br/>Trials are now designed specifically for DIPG/DMG, testing targeted and immune-based therapies informed by tumor biology.</p>                      |
| <p><b>Few meaningful drug options</b><br/>No systemic therapies showed benefit, and families were often told there were no effective drug treatments.</p>               | <p><b>First FDA-approved therapy</b><br/>For the first time, there is an FDA-approved therapy for patients with H3K27-mutant DMG after progression – an important milestone for the field.</p> |
| <p><b>Families navigated alone</b><br/>Parents were often left to find information and trials on their own, during the most overwhelming moments of their lives.</p>    | <p><b>Guided support for families</b><br/>Families now have access to navigation, education, and support that helps them understand options and make informed decisions.</p>                   |
| <p><b>A message of finality</b><br/>Families were often told, “Go home and make memories.”</p>  | <p><b>A message of hope</b><br/>Families now hear, “Here’s what we know, here’s what’s being tested, and here’s what comes next.”</p>  |

## Program Spotlight: My DIPG Navigator®

When a family receives a DIPG/DMG diagnosis, they are suddenly asked to make urgent, complex decisions – often while in shock. My DIPG Navigator exists so no family has to face that moment alone.

Launched in May 2022, the program has now supported more than 600 families. What began as a vision has grown into a dedicated care team of five specialized nurses and a licensed social worker, providing individualized guidance from diagnosis through every stage of the journey.

“Our Nurse Navigator helped us understand our options, connect with experts, and access critical resources. Most importantly, she made us feel supported and not alone during the most overwhelming time of our lives.”

– Meghan Scoggins, mom to Kenzie

My DIPG Navigator reflects a core belief of ChadTough Defeat DIPG: While we work relentlessly toward better treatments and a cure, families deserve expert support and compassion now.



# BUILDING MOMENTUM IN DIPG RESEARCH

Ten years of intentional investment by ChadTough Defeat DIPG changed the trajectory of DIPG/DMG research.

## Ten Years Ago, the Field Was Stuck

For decades, children diagnosed with DIPG/DMG were treated without a true understanding of the disease. Radiation was the only standard of care, and single-agent trials delivered limited results. The biology of these tumors was simply not yet understood. Without the ability to safely biopsy brainstem tumors, researchers lacked critical insight. Promising drugs were tested in the wrong patients, trials failed, and progress stalled.

## A Breakthrough in Understanding

Over the past decade, a quiet revolution in molecular biology and tumor sampling has transformed DIPG/DMG research. Scientists now understand that while many tumors share a common genetic alteration, they are biologically diverse. Differences in tumor genetics, immune environment, and brain location influence how each tumor behaves and how it should be treated.

## From Guessing to Targeting

Research has moved beyond trial and error. Treatments and clinical trials are now designed to match tumor biology, leading to smarter combinations, more precise enrollment, and early signals of benefit that once would have gone unnoticed. The question is no longer whether a drug works, but for which children it may work best.

## Building the Field Was a Deliberate Choice

When ChadTough Defeat DIPG was founded, very few researchers focused their careers on DIPG/DMG. Funding was scarce, expertise was limited, and early-career scientists were often encouraged to pursue safer, more established fields. ChadTough Defeat DIPG made a deliberate decision to change that. Through Fellowships and New Investigator grants, the foundation invested in people, attracting new scientists to the field, supporting early-career researchers, and creating a growing pipeline of expertise dedicated to DIPG/DMG. What began as a handful of committed labs has become a global research community.

## Scientific Rigor at the Core

Every research dollar ChadTough Defeat DIPG invests is guided by its Scientific Advisory Council, a global group of leading clinicians and scientists in pediatric brain cancer.

All funding applications undergo rigorous review focused on scientific validity and true incrementality. This disciplined approach ensures donor dollars are invested wisely, strategically, and in research most likely to move the field forward.

## Accelerating the Field Together

Each spring, in partnership with the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center at Michigan Medicine, ChadTough Defeat DIPG convenes researchers from around the world for its annual **Research Workshop**. Widely recognized as the go-to meeting for those working in DIPG/DMG, the workshop brings together established leaders and emerging investigators in a highly collaborative setting designed to accelerate progress and fuel new partnerships.



“When we started, hope meant simply trying something. Today, hope is grounded in biology, collaboration, and a growing community of researchers committed to solving this disease together.”

— Mark Mosier, Co-Founder  
ChadTough Defeat DIPG

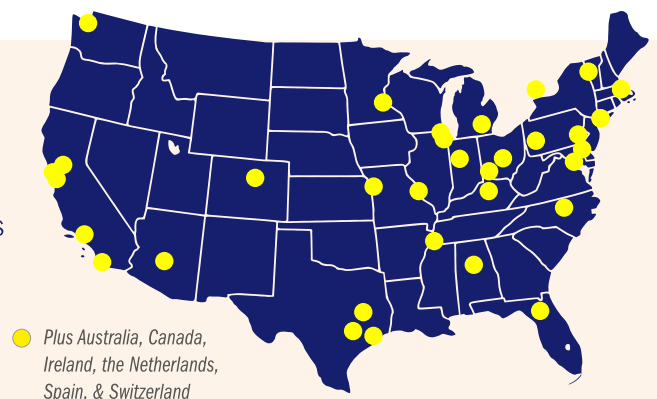
## Funding Leading Institutions Around the World

 **\$44M**  
COMMITTED

 **47**  
INSTITUTIONS

 **105**  
RESEARCHERS

Learn more about the research we've funded by scanning the QR code.



# FROM STRATEGY TO RESULTS

## Research Funded Today Is Delivering Once-Unthinkable Results

Over the past decade, a deeper understanding of DIPG/DMG biology, combined with intentional field-building and rigorous project selection, has begun to change what is possible. The progress below reflects not a single breakthrough, but a research ecosystem now capable of delivering real results for families.

### A Turning Point for DIPG/DMG

For more than six decades, children diagnosed with DIPG/DMG had no approved drug therapies. In 2025, that changed when ONC201, now known as Modeyso™, received FDA accelerated approval for patients with H3K27M-mutant DMG following disease progression.

While not a cure, this milestone confirmed something the field long hoped for but could not yet prove: DIPG/DMG is biologically targetable. Rational, mechanism-based therapies can show benefit, and sustained investment in pediatric cancers can lead to real regulatory success.

For the first time, a therapy designed around the biology of DIPG/DMG crossed a regulatory threshold signaling that decades of scientific persistence, collaboration, and investment can lead to real progress in even the most challenging pediatric cancers.

ChadTough Defeat DIPG was proud to support this work at pivotal moments, helping sustain momentum through investigator-initiated research and collaborative clinical trial infrastructure when treatment options were limited.

Read more about how ChadTough Defeat DIPG helped make this milestone possible!



### Ethan White

#### When Progress Becomes Personal

When Ethan White, University of Michigan senior and marching band drummer, stepped onto the field at Michigan Stadium as an honorary captain in 2025, it was more than a moment of recognition. It reflected how far the field has come.

Over the past year and a half, Ethan has endured two rounds of radiation, multiple targeted therapies, and serious complications. Surgery brought relief, but the fight continues. Modeyso™ has played a meaningful role in extending both Ethan's life and his ability to keep showing up for the moments that matter most.

Doctors once gave Ethan nine to twelve months. Nearly two years later, he continues to defy the odds. Though not yet back on the field with the Michigan Marching Band, Ethan remains its heartbeat, attending practices and cheering from the sidelines, holding onto hope that he will one day march again.

## Oncolytic Virus Research

### Fueling the Next Generation of Treatments

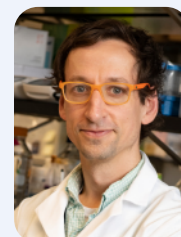


Dr. Marta Alonso's research helped drive early, proof-of-concept studies showing that the oncolytic virus *Delta-24-RGD* combined with radiation is safe and biologically active in aggressive DIPG/DMG models — a critical step toward transforming how these tumors are treated. Those encouraging clinical signals and deepening insights into how the virus activates antitumor immunity laid the groundwork for the

next wave of translational research and clinical testing under collaborative efforts like DMG-ACT, moving this approach beyond safety toward evaluating real therapeutic benefit. This progress exemplifies how early funding accelerates foundational science into clinical development and brings us closer to effective, life-extending treatments for children with DIPG.

### Progress in DIPG/DMG was driven by philanthropy — not chance.

“Donor support has been essential to advancing DIPG and DMG research. Early funding allowed us to pursue ideas that were promising but unproven. That investment is transforming the disease from a single fatal diagnosis into a field with real therapeutic momentum.”  
— Dr. Carl Koschmann,  
Michigan Medicine





# POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

No one faces DIPG/DMG alone. ChadTough Defeat DIPG was built on the belief that meaningful progress comes through collaboration. Together, we are turning loss into purpose, determination into action, and hope into measurable impact.

**Family Partners** embrace the foundation as their own, honoring their child's legacy by raising funds to advance research and support other affected families.



Research & Navigator Partners collaborate with the foundation to fund groundbreaking DIPG/DMG research and to ensure My DIPG Navigator remains a free resource for families in need.

- Alro Steel Foundation\***
- Archer Foundation\***
- Austin Strong Foundation\***
- Avery's Little Army\***
- Cal's Angels Foundation**
- Cannonballs for Kayne Foundation**
- Chimerix, a Jazz Pharmaceutical Company**
- The DEKM Fund**
- Dylan Jude Harrell Foundation**
- Elle's Angels Foundation\***
- Emily's Light Foundation**
- Lace 'Em Up for Libby**
- Love for Linley Foundation\***
- Luke's Posse: DIPG Ends Now!**
- Magic for Maddie\***
- Mark Massey Legacy Foundation**
- McKenna Claire Foundation\***
- Mighty Madison Fund**
- Mithil Prasad Foundation**
- The Moca Foundation**
- Neev Kolte & Brave Ronil Foundation\***
- NoahBRAVE Foundation\***
- Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation**
- Prayers from Maria Foundation**
- Rossi Family Foundation**
- Run DIPG**
- Shaker Family Charitable Foundation**
- SoSo Strong Foundation\***
- Storm the Heavens Fund**
- TaterTough Foundation**
- Taylor Anne Foundation**
- Team Cozzi Foundation**
- Team Landon Clay Foundation**
- Ted & Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation\***
- Tougher2ogether Foundation\***
- Violet Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer**
- Vivienne C. Finn Foundation\***
- Zatkoff Family Legacy Fund\***

\*Collaborating as both a Research Partner and Navigator Partner

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# MOMENTUM IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Real, measurable, and accelerating progress is happening, and now is the moment to lean in. Not only to sustain what has been built, but to fuel the bold leaps still required to move this work forward.

With your help, we will:

- ✓ Transform DIPG/DMG from a terminal diagnosis into a treatable disease.
- ✓ Expand My DIPG Navigator so every newly diagnosed family receives immediate, expert guidance and support.
- ✓ Accelerate the next generation of trials and treatments, so no child is left waiting for hope.

We believe the next 10 years can be the decade when survival replaces despair. When families are offered real choices. When children are finally given the chance to imagine a future beyond diagnosis.

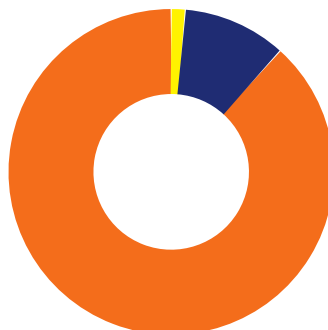
## Together, We Will Defeat DIPG.

We're grateful for our Playmaker Partners who support our mission at \$100,000 and above.



We also express our heartfelt gratitude to Covington & Burling LLP and Select Equity Group Foundation for their significant and unwavering support.

## 2024 Audited Financials



|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Total Revenue  | \$7,486,862 |
| Total Expenses | \$9,820,536 |
| Program        | \$8,664,277 |
| Fundraising    | \$1,009,125 |
| Administrative | \$147,134   |

- Program: **88%**
- Fundraising: **10%**
- Administrative: **1%**



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## 2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

Look inside to see what we've accomplished together in our first 10 years.

# THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

We need you — your voice, your generosity, your belief — to carry this fight forward. For Chad. For Michael. And for every child still to come.

[WWW.CHADTOUGH.ORG](http://WWW.CHADTOUGH.ORG)



### Host a Fundraiser

From bake sales to social media fundraising, your efforts play a vital role in making a meaningful difference in the lives of children battling brain cancer.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### Participate

Throughout the year we host several runs, both locally and virtually, so you can make a difference anytime, anywhere!

[EVENTS](#)



### Monthly Giving

Become a monthly donor and help fuel research while providing essential support to families in need.

[DONATE](#)

