



In the News...

- **New BTAO site!**
- M.D. Anderson - brain tumor SPORE
- The IBTA "Walk Around the World for Brain Tumours" Oct. 26-Nov.1, 2008
- [May is National Brain Tumor Awareness Month](#)
- Join the BTAO community as an advocate!
- We need volunteers! Volunteer from your computer! We need your talents!

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Brain Tumor Awareness Organization announces launch of new website!

We have launched our new website! We have been working diligently to design a site with easier navigation, better graphics and more resources.

You will find various ways to learn about brain tumors, brain functions, engage in brain activities, listen to podcasts, watch videos, read research articles and more! Our site brings various resources together so that students, advocates, patients and professionals can contribute and obtain information.

Our site is volunteer-driven; articles and information are contributed to the site as they are reported. We encourage students, advocates and professionals to assist in making this a comprehensive source of brain tumor information.

Our next task is to build a network of resource volunteers to support this great effort! We are appealing to advocates from each state to join [Advocates' Corner](#) and learn how to be an advocate for your region or state and update your own advocates' page to promote your events, your area support groups, your area brain tumor center and resources.

Major Grant Advances Personalized Therapy for Brain Tumors NCI names M. D. Anderson team a Specialized Program of Research Excellence

Researchers at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center will advance two new therapeutic approaches for malignant [brain tumors](#) and develop biomarkers to guide treatment decisions under a major translational research grant from the National Cancer Institute.

The [Specialized Program of Research Excellence \(SPORE\)](#) grant for brain tumor research is the 11th such grant received by M. D. Anderson under the NCI's program, which is designed to move basic science findings into early stage clinical trials.

[read more....](#)

Source: M. D. Anderson News Release 06/25/08

Features of the website:

- ♦ **Resource Directory**-advocacy issues, clinical trials, brain tumor centers, online resources, a Social Security Disability application tutorial, prescription assistance resources, a state directory of support groups.
- ♦ **Our library**-access a library of learning modules-listen, watch, interact or research.
- ♦ **Alerts**- Advocacy alert issues accessible through our alerts page, research legislation, stay abreast of the nation's war on cancer.
- ♦ **Auditory Relay**- listen to "audcasts", podcasts, discussions and more!
- ♦ **BRAIN S.C.A.N.**-access our newsletter, submit stories, and search archives.
- ♦ **The Mind Maze**- a variety of brain games & activities to sharpen your skills.
- ♦ **News archives**-articles of interest that the brain tumor community has contributed .
- ♦ **The Learning Lab**-interactive modules of learning about the brain.

- ♦ **Hemisphere**-access online brain tumor groups, communities, forums, list serves and more!
- ♦ **The Library**-find authored works from survivors here.

Other features of the website are found within the main features of the site under 'About Us' 'Education' 'Support' 'Donate' and 'Contact'.

We hope that this proves to be a valuable resource community online for brain tumor patients, survivors, caregivers and advocates. We have found it to be empowering to be able to direct an individual to one website where they can have access to so many resources in the brain tumor community!

Please contact us with feedback after you have visited the site! We want to hear from you and how we can improve!

Anderson Earns Top Ranking for Cancer Hospitals

In Annual U.S. News & World Report Survey
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center once again is the top hospital in the nation for cancer care, according to the U.S. News & World Report annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey.

This is the fourth time in the past five years that M. D. Anderson has achieved the lead ranking. It has been ranked as one of the top two hospitals for cancer care for 19 years since the survey began.

[read more....](#)



Source: M. D. Anderson News Release 07/11/08

Upstate South Carolina Hospital-M.D. Anderson Affiliation

Gibbs Cancer Center formed an alliance with [M. D. Anderson Physicians Network](#), further enhancing the level of cancer care available to patients in the Upstate of South Carolina. Spartanburg Regional is the only healthcare system in South Carolina to have an alliance with M. D. Anderson Physicians Network..

[M. D. Anderson Physicians Network](#) - a subsidiary of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center - selected Gibbs Cancer Center as its ally in the fight against cancer

[read more....](#)



Investing in science makes good sense for cancer patients.

“An experimental vaccine is now in multi-center, late-stage trials for treatment of glioblastoma...”



Safety verdict regarding cell phones still out.

NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams “Confronting Cancer”

MSNBC’s Nightly News with Brian Williams “Confronting Cancer” features segments about brain tumors and treatments.

“[Creating new therapies for brain tumors](#)” features Dr. Morris Groves of M.D. Anderson and it discusses tumors and needed advances for treatment.

“[Kennedy’s brain surgery successful](#)” with correspondent Robert Bazell. Awake brain surgery procedures discussed as well as treatments prescribed.

“[Vaccine offers hope for brain tumor patients](#)” with correspondent Robert Bazell discusses immunotherapies and their increase of survival.

These and other articles can be found in [Focalpoints](#) the video section of The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization’s new website.

If you have a video you would like to submit to be featured on our website or in our newsletter, please [email](#) the link to us!

Duke in the news....

PBTF Gives \$6 million to Duke

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF) is giving \$6 million to its research institute at Duke University to further the work started by a \$6 million grant it gave in 2003 to create the institute, Duke President Richard H. Brodhead and Chancellor for Health Affairs Victor J. Dzau, M.D., announced Wednesday.

[read more...](#)

Source: *Laura Shaftel Williams*
www.cancer.duke.edu website



[Migrant Worker becomes Brain Surgeon](#)

Dr. Alfredo Quiñones’ hands used to pick vegetables, now they saves lives

Dr. Quiñones followed his heart and became a brain surgeon after being a migrant worker here in the U.S. He is the Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery and Oncology Neuroscience and Cellular and Molecular Medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

“What matters is that you give the world the best, and the best will come back to you.” answers Dr. ‘Q’.

Read his story as reported by Bob Dotson, a TodayShow.com contributor.

Cross hairs on a cancer

An experimental brain tumor vaccine coaxes the immune system to attack diseased cells only. Trials on other cancers may follow....

An experimental vaccine is now in multi-center, late-stage trials for treatment of glioblastoma, the most common brain cancer in adults. If the therapy lives up to its promise, it could potentially be used for other cancers as well.

[read more...](#)

Source: *Bruce Goldman*
Special to the Los Angeles Times
www.cancer.duke.edu website

Action News Extra: Cell Phones And Your Health

Experts weigh in on the various studies that have occurred regarding cell phones and their cause of brain cancer.

Despite contradicting opinions, this article gives practical advice why cell phone usage should be kept at a minimum to the side of the head, headsets or speaker-phones would be preferable and consumer education regarding choices of devices and their SAR levels should be increased.

International experts agree that children shouldn’t use cell phones and have come together with the following recommendations:

1. Don’t give cell phones to children
2. Do use a speaker phone or earpiece
3. Don’t carry a phone on your body
4. Put keypad facing body
5. Avoid use in crowded places
6. Keep conversations short
7. Switch sides regularly
8. Avoid using when signal is weak
9. Text to limit exposure
10. Choose a low Specific Absorption Rate (SAR)

Source: *ThePittsburghChannel.Com*

Senator Harkin to Offer \$500 Million for NIH in Second Supplemental

Champions of health research on Capitol Hill are working hard to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Last week, Senator Arlen Specter (PA), Ranking Member of the Senate LHHs Appropriations Subcommittee, introduced a bill to add \$5.2 billion to the NIH budget this year. By another legislative strategy, Senator Tom Harkin (IA), as Chair of the Senate LHHs Appropriations Subcommittee, will recommend \$500 million for NIH in a new supplemental appropriations bill on domestic spending.

[Contact your Senators immediately](#) and urge them to support

NIH research as they consider supplemental appropriations this week.

Source: *ResearchAmerica!*

Bills introduced by Senator Specter to note:

S. 3272 A bill to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

S. 1750 : A bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to community cancer care by Medicare beneficiaries.

S. Amdt. 505 to S. Con. Res. 21

To increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the health professions.

Recommended reading:

“Never Give In-Battling Cancer In the Senate”

by Senator Arlen Specter

Available [here](#) at Amazon.com

[Today Show article](#) and interview with Sen. Specter about his book.



A daily game of squash may not keep the doctor away, but is necessary therapy for Senator Specter.

Live 10th Anniversary Remote Broadcast from The 44th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Chicago, Illinois

The annual ASCO meeting is the world premier scientific event for oncology professionals. This year's meeting will gather more than 30,000 cancer specialists from around the world to discuss the latest advances in cancer care, treatment, prevention and survivorship. 2008 marks The Group Room's 10th annual live show from the ASCO floor and this year's broadcast will take a

retrospective look at the clinical advances of the past decade, along with the current state of cancer care as personalized medicine comes to the forefront of oncology.

The Group Room cancer talk radio show is a weekly call-in radio show where listeners can tune in live every Sunday from 1:00pm-3:00pm PT and 4:00pm-6:00pm ET on select stations across the United

States, XM Satellite Radio, podcast, and online at www.vitaloptions.org, where all shows and feature interviews are archived for later listening. Callers participate in on-air discussions through the toll-free hotline at 800-477-7666 (foreign access numbers for international listeners are listed on the website), and are invited to e-mail their questions and comments to info@vitaloptions.org.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

LIVESTRONG.COM launches new fitness site

LIVESTRONG.COM launched to provide a community for individuals to interact and find resources to allow them to set goals and achieve a healthier lifestyle.

From this author's perspective, it is a wonderful site to collaborate and discuss with others that have similar **DARES**-the online pledge you make to your-

self to improve an aspect of your life.

“Dares help you set goals and track daily progress. You can also connect with friends, family and a community of like-minded people who will cheer you on.”

Source: *LIVESTRONG.com*

I challenge the readers to visit **LIVESTRONG.com** to learn what simple goal-setting can achieve

when it is provided for you in an easy to navigate, engaging, web community.

I have researched many online resources of support and this by far addresses another dynamic of “wellness” that hasn't been experienced online as of yet.

Written by Julie Houston
President-BTAO



It is through the experiences of others and storytelling- a tradition throughout the ages, that each generation benefits from the one before them.

JFH

The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization

Contact us:
news@braintumorawareness.org
www.braintumorawareness.org

Want to be a news correspondent for BTAO?

Contact us and we will put you in our newsroom!

The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization was founded by a patient and a caregiver, to provide an interactive resource community. This community will provide access to resources and be enhanced by an advocacy network who uses it to raise awareness and provide support. Bringing talents together in a web community will empower survivors and advocates to provide valuable assistance to those new on this journey—simply by sharing this website! Become a state affiliate and you can host your own web page within this community, update your events here, and raise awareness and funds for your community! Join today and help us develop this advocacy network!

www.advocate.braintumorawareness.org

The 2nd International Brain Tumour Alliance “Walk Around The World for Brain Tumours”

October 26-November 1, 2008 will be the [2nd International Brain Tumour Alliance “Walk Around the World for Brain Tumours”](#) in which communities around the world are encouraged to host an awareness event and raise funds for their specific organization or charity—supporting their education, outreach and support efforts.

This year, the Brain Tumor Awareness Organization needs your support! We have completed the first phase (without funding) of a resource website but the second phase of our outreach efforts is to distribute resource guides to brain tu-

mor survivors and their families. With the downturn of the economy, fundraising hasn't met our needs. Our organization doesn't have overhead currently—all funds go to the development of the website, web community and a resource guide using the **LIVESTRONG Survivorship Notebook** customized with brain tumor specific resources and support materials.

How can you participate and assist us in funding this project?

If you live in the State of South Carolina, you can familiarize yourself with our Heritage Corridor Trail which

runs 240 miles across the state. You can hike it and explore South Carolina history or you can visit our website and do our virtual walk and explore the trail and its beauty through their website. Either way, you pledge miles to BTAO and funds can be donated via our [Donate](#) page.

The total miles will be representative of our organization within the IBTA's goal to encircle the globe 3 times or more this year.

Our goal to this year is \$10,000! Spread the word and participate online or in person!



The 2nd Annual Brain Tumor Awareness Organization's 'Virtual Walk' Around the World for Brain Tumours can provide needed funding to distribute information and promote our resources in the community.

Please walk for us!

Raise Awareness by Action!