



For Immediate Release

Shred Kids' Cancer To Provide \$25,000 Grant To Children's Hospital Los Angeles for Pediatric Cancer Research

LOS ANGELES, December 4, 2013, [Shred Kids' Cancer](#), a Thousand Oaks, Calif.-based non-profit that provides funding for pediatric cancer research, will make a grant of \$25,000 to Leo Mascarenhas, M.D., M.S., head of Oncology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The grant will be used specifically to help support a new multi-institutional clinical trial led by Dr. Mascarenhas. The trial will study the combination of vinorelbine with other chemotherapies in newly diagnosed older adolescents and young adults who have rhabdomyosarcoma. This pilot study is expected to begin within the next six months. It currently includes Children's Hospital Los Angeles, USC Norris, City of Hope and Miller Children's Hospital; other institutions also will be invited to participate. If successful, this new combination of chemotherapies may lead to better outcomes for adolescents and young adults with sarcomas—allowing them to enter adulthood healthier and happier and to lead more productive lives.

Adolescents and young adults diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of soft tissue cancer, are at very high risk of nerve damage caused by vincristine, one of the most successful drugs used to treat rhabdomyosarcoma. Because of these side effects, most patients are not given the optimal doses of vincristine. Vinorelbine acts in a similar way to vincristine but without the same degree of nerve damage. It also works well in patients with relapsed disease. Until now, it has not been studied in combination with other the chemotherapies typically administered with vincristine (dactinomycin and cyclophosphamide).

In the past year, Shred Kids' Cancer has granted Children's Hospital Los Angeles a total of \$58,000: \$25,000 (today) + \$26,000 (June 2013) + \$7,000 (November 2012). The \$26,000 (June 2013) grant was allocated to focus on various Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical trials for children with a variety of solid tumors where standard treatments have failed. Examples of these trials include saracatinib, inhaled cisplatin for osteosarcoma, sorafenib, metformin in combination with chemotherapy for pediatric solid tumors, ipilimumab, vemurafenib for melanoma and sunitinib for pediatric gastrointestinal stromal tumors. The \$7,000 granted in November 2012 allowed for the launch and conduct of an innovative, first of a kind clinical trial utilizing a virus to kill cancer cells at Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Teagan Stedman, an eighth grader at Harvard-Westlake Middle School and the Chairman and Founder of Shred Kids' Cancer, will make the presentation Wednesday, December 4th at 4:30 p.m. Also expected at the presentation is Shred Kids' Cancer's Shredhead Kaitlin Lehman, 10, a Newbury Park, Calif. resident who was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma in May 2013 and is being treated by Dr. Mascarenhas' team. "Vincristine has taken away Kaitlin's mobility (for now) - we are so thrilled that you are able to help fund this research. While Kaitlin may not personally participate in this study - if there is any way to keep otherwise healthy kids out of wheelchairs we are all for it! We see at least two thirds of all patients over age 8 or 9 in treatment with Vincristine in wheelchairs – it is a tragedy. Kaitlin has been off it for four months and still has issues that require daily physical therapy." said Amy Lehman. The presentation will be made in Ashley Jensen Pray's honor, an adolescent currently battling rhabdomyosarcoma who serves on the board of directors of Shred Kids' Cancer.

Children and adolescents diagnosed with solid tumors have an approximately 80 percent chance of long-term survival. This has been made possible by recent advances in chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. Despite these advances, there is a critical need for novel treatments for patients who do not respond to initial therapy and those who relapse as their prognosis remains poor.

About Shred Kids' Cancer:

Shred Kids' Cancer was founded in 2008 by 8-year-old Teagan Stedman, when a friend was diagnosed with cancer.

The organization is run entirely by young people (with adult guidance) and is dedicated to serving the community by offering kids the opportunity to use their creativity and organizational skills to help their peers who are battling cancer. Upcoming events include Shredfest 6, a battle of the bands, will be held on March 15, 2014 at The House of Blues in Los Angeles and they are an official charity of the ASICS LA Marathon 2014. To date, Shred Kids' Cancer has raised more than \$120,000 and has funded several grants to Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA in support of research that leads to the care, quality of life and survival rate of children with cancer. For more information please go to www.shredkidscancer.org

About Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Children's Hospital Los Angeles has been named the best children's hospital in California and among the top five in the nation for clinical excellence with its selection to the prestigious U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll. Children's Hospital is home to The Saban Research Institute, one of the largest and most productive pediatric research facilities in the United States. Children's Hospital is also one of America's premier teaching hospitals through its affiliation since 1932 with the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

For more information, visit www.CHLA.org. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or visit our blog: www.WeAreCHLA.org.

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