

Date: November 17, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Live Like Bella® Foundation Fishes for a Cure For Pediatric Cancer

The foundation funds research for childhood Leukemia at Harvard using Zebra fish in memory of Briana Vega.

Funds raised at the 2014 Westminster Christian School (WCS) Fishing Tournament in memory of Briana Vega, in partnership with the Live Like Bella® Foundation, will fund studies at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital to identify new strategies to combat therapy resistant T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL). Studies will be led by Dr. David Langenau whose research focuses on uncovering the mechanisms driving progression and relapse in pediatric tumors.

T-ALL is a childhood disease, with a 30 percent survival rate for patients suffering relapse. Using zebrafish models of pediatric cancer including leukemia, Langenau laboratory has undertaken studies to visualize tumor cells in live animals. Work funded by the Live Like Bella® Foundation will build on results and will fund innovative studies to identify new strategies to kill therapy resistant leukemia cells. There is hope that these findings will also extend to a wide range of pediatric leukemias.

Westminster Christian School dedicated their annual fishing tournament to the memory of Briana Vega, a student who lost her battle with leukemia, donating all proceeds to the Live Like Bella Foundation® for Childhood Cancer.

WCS is a private school in Palmetto Bay, FL that serves 1,176 students from preschool through 12th grade. For more information visit: www.wcsmiami.org

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LIVE LIKE BELLA® FOUNDATION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

Live Like Bella® was founded in June 2013 in memory of Bella Rodriguez-Torres, who passed away at the tender age of 10 from Rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive childhood cancer. In her six-year battle she inspired millions to #LiveLikeBella and we are dedicated to finding a cure for pediatric cancer by funding innovative pediatric cancer research. The foundation also provides support for families with children currently in treatment and provides financial assistance for the purchase of a headstone for families who have lost a child to cancer. For more information visit www.livelikeybella.org

Founded in 1811, the [Massachusetts General Hospital \(MGH\)](#) is the oldest and largest hospital in New England. MGH conducts the largest hospital-based research program in the United States and is the largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Langenau's research laboratory resides in the Molecular Pathology Unit at MGH and is part of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. For more information visit www.langenaulab.com

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