



University of Florida
Pediatric Brain Tumor Program



Children's
HOSPITAL

UF&Shands
The University Of Florida Health System

The UF Pediatric Brain Tumor Program

Brain and spinal cord tumors are among the most common cancers of childhood, second only to leukemia. Today, more than half of children with these tumors can be cured. Treatment of pediatric brain and spinal cord tumors presents a unique challenge and necessitates the collaboration of multiple specialists. Some children with brain tumors are cured with surgery alone, but frequently surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatments must be used together to achieve the best outcome. Even for patients with incurable tumors, new treatments and therapies are available to lengthen and enhance a child's quality of life.

The University of Florida Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at Shands Children's Hospital at UF brings together the expertise to provide comprehensive care for these patients in an environment that recognizes their unique needs as children.

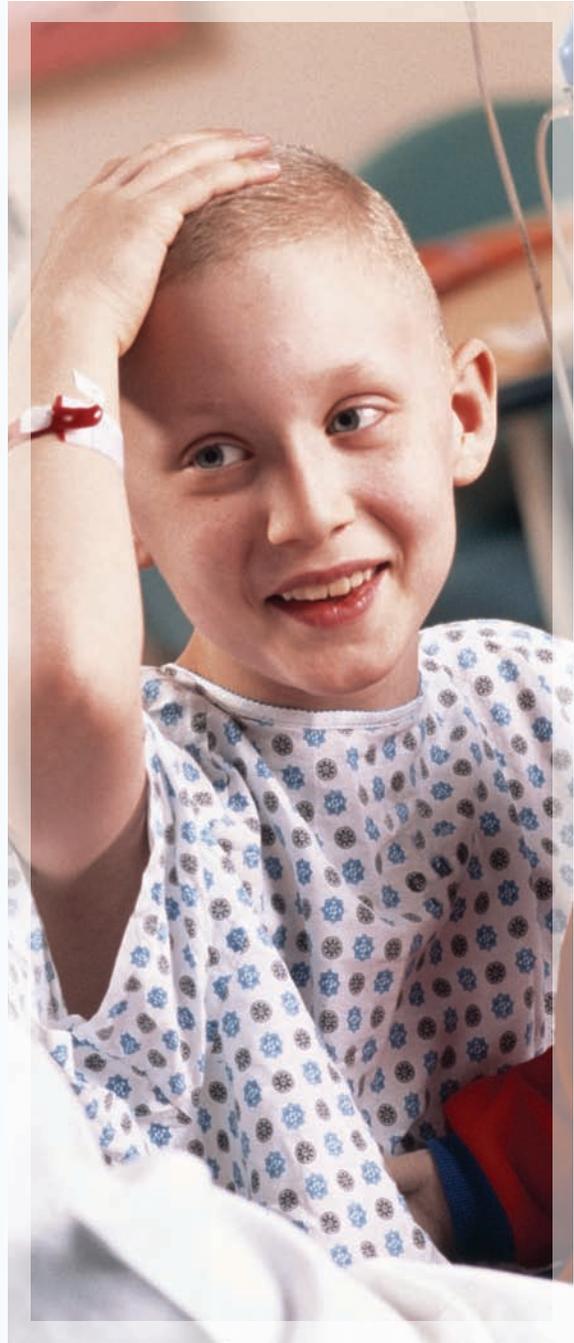


Our Mission

The UF Pediatric Brain Tumor Program is dedicated to delivering the highest level of care for children with tumors of the brain and spinal cord. Through laboratory and clinical research, we are working to develop new treatments for such tumors. In addition, we are committed to providing comprehensive services that address the many needs of these children and their families before, during and after treatment.

Our Team Approach

Leading the Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at Shands Children's Hospital are UF physicians who specialize in the treatment of pediatric brain tumors.





Amy A. Smith, MD, is the director of Neuro-Oncology at Shands Children's Hospital and an assistant professor in the UF Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Smith is the principal investigator of phase I/II new therapeutic agents program. Dr. Smith is a pediatric oncologist with advanced training and experience in neuro-oncology, board certified in pediatrics and in pediatric hematology/oncology/bone marrow transplantation. She directs the medical care and management of each patient, coordinating with other physicians and healthcare providers in creating an individual treatment plan for patients.



David W. Pincus, MD, PhD, is the L.D. Hupp Term professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery at UF. He completed his neurological residency at the Neurological Institute of New York at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

He joined the UF Department of Neurosurgery where he has served as the director of Pediatric Neurosurgery since July 2000. In addition to his expertise in the surgical treatment of brain and spinal cord tumors in children, he is involved in research on stem cells from pediatric tumors.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Pincus work together with a team of specialists in radiation therapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, neuroradiology, neuropathology, social work, neuropsychology and child psychiatry.

The core team also includes UF nurses with advanced training in pediatrics and clinical research.



LeighAnn Perkins, ARNP, MSN, and Hillary Bess, ARNP, MSN, are advanced nurse practitioners with graduate training in pediatrics. They perform physical exams, order tests and monitor laboratory results while working closely with physicians. In addition, they offer education, counseling and support to patients and their families to ensure they receive comprehensive care.





Michelle Richey, LCSW, is a Shands HealthCare clinical social worker with more than 10 years experience in pediatrics and oncology. She provides crisis and supportive counseling to patients and their families while meeting their psychosocial needs by providing assistance with resources and referrals, case management and discharge planning issues.

It's important for you to know that we are available to you at any time. Please contact us at:

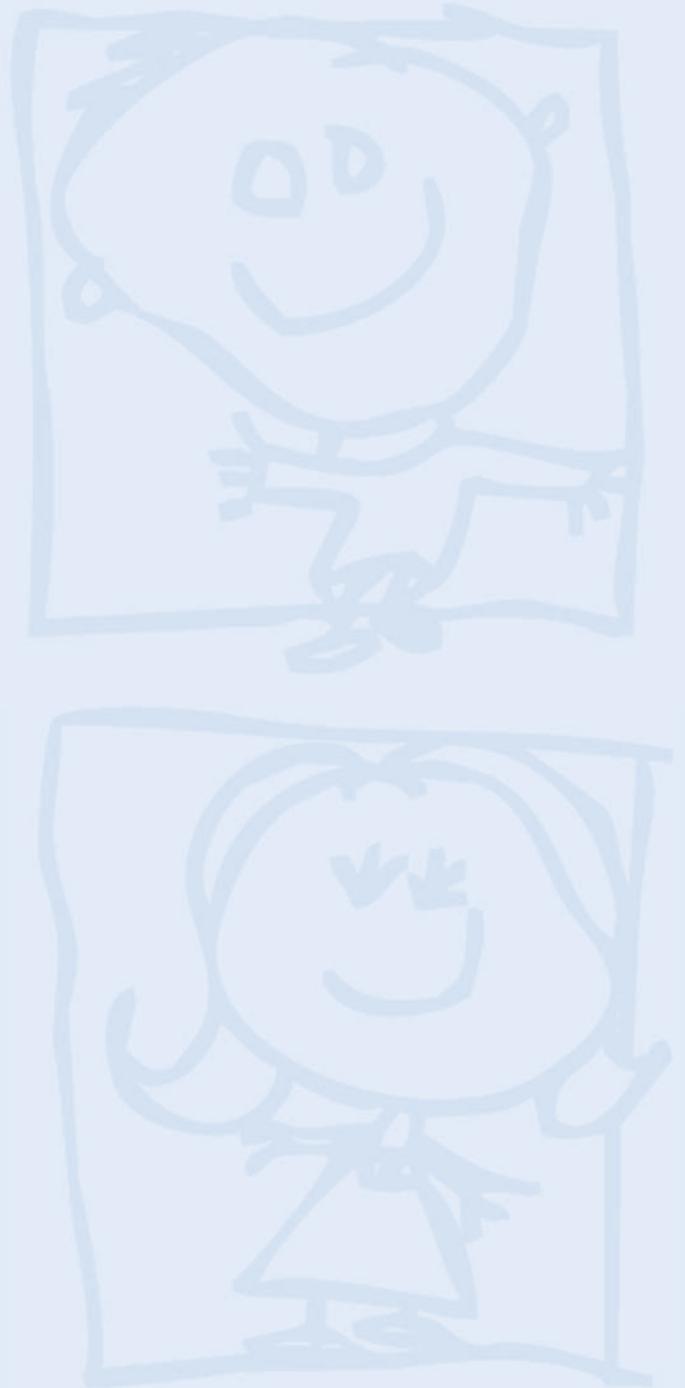
Patient Hotline

352-392-5633

**University of Florida
College of Medicine
Department of Neurosurgery**

352-273-9000

www.peds.ufl.edu/braintumorprogram





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