

**North Carolina Society
Of
Medical Assistants**

Is proud to support the

**Sarcoma Foundation of
America**

**In Honor of
Rachel Migliardi**



The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) was founded by Dr. Mark Thornton, Mrs. Patricia Thornton, and Dr. John Brooks, and incorporated in Maryland in 2000.

With your dedicated support the SFA has supported 115 sarcoma research grants since 2003, along with two large American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Foundation Clinical Research grants worth \$450,000. The SFA has also funded six ASCO Young Investigator Awards and has started a large research based initiative called the Sarcoma Patient Registry, designed to increase research performed on sarcoma and to facilitate clinical trials.

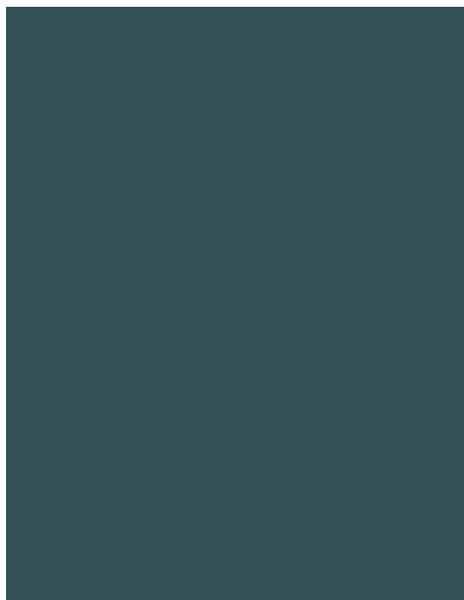
Sarcoma is a rare cancer in adults (1% of all adult cancers), but rather prevalent in children (about 20% of all childhood cancers). It is made up of many “subtypes” because it can arise from a variety of tissue structures (nerves, muscles, joints, bone, fat, blood vessels – collectively referred to as the body’s “connective tissues”). The most frequent location are the limbs since this is where the majority of the body’s connective tissue resides. They are commonly hidden deep in the body, so sarcoma is often diagnosed when it has already become too large to expect a hope of being cured.





Mission

The mission of the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) is to advocate for sarcoma patients by funding research and by increasing awareness about the disease. The organization raises money to privately fund grants for sarcoma researchers and conducts education and advocacy efforts on behalf of sarcoma patients.



Rhabdomyosarcoma is the most common malignant soft tissue tumor of children and young adults. It is an uncommon tumor in adults over the age of 30. Males are affected slightly more than females. More than half the cases occur below the age of 10 years.

The malignant cells of this tumor have features characteristic of developing skeletal muscle. Although rhabdomyosarcoma can appear in the extremities, it is more frequently seen in other areas: the head and neck region, the vaginal area in females, the testicular area in males, or the bladder and prostate. Most commonly the disease presents as a painless mass. It can also be diagnosed secondary to bleeding or pain at the site. Sometimes the tumor will present as a grape-like mass, somewhat unique among the soft tissue tumors.

Rachel Migliardi was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma in December 2017. She had went on a trip and came back complaining of her back hurting. It was thought to be from the sleeping conditions from the trip. She went to her doctor and he gave her muscle relaxers and pain medication. It went on for awhile and it became harder for her to breathe. She went to the hospital and a CT Scan was performed and showed fluid in her left lung. This picture was taken 4 days prior to her diagnosis.



Metastatic disease most commonly occurs in the lungs, lymph nodes or bone marrow but many other locations are possible. Metastatic disease developing after initial treatment or locally recurrent disease is still treatable, but the outcome is generally less favorable and particularly for those with metastatic disease the overall prognosis is guarded.

Four liters were pulled from Rachel's left lung when she was admitted to the hospital. They had to be careful not to pull too much at one time, as it could cause her to go into heart failure. They continued to pull fluid from her lung for several more days.



Rachel getting ready for her brother's wedding last year.



Rachel continues with oral chemotherapy and other medications to try and help her beat this. She looks forward to trying to go to church on Sundays. If she can't, she will watch it on-line. She has visitors from family and friends as much as she can. Her family prays each day for a miracle. They are grateful for everyday she is here with them and is celebrating 18 months of life.

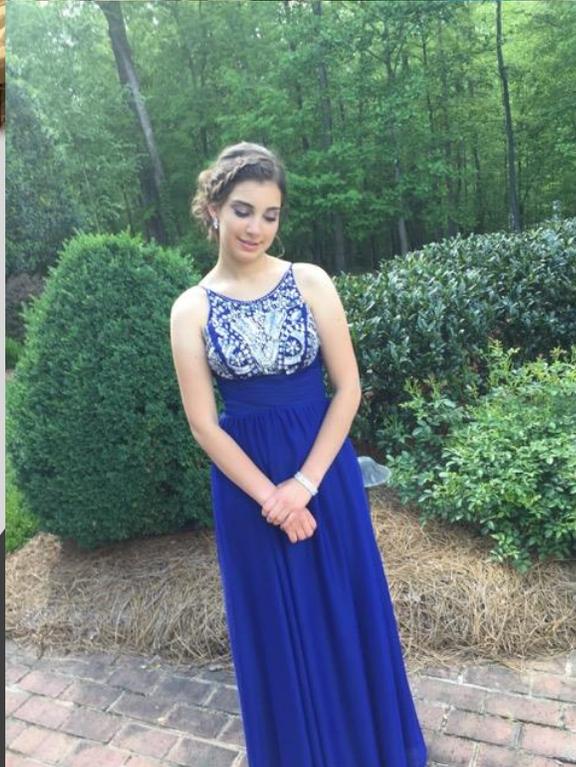


We will be collecting money at each of our seminars and convention this year to be donated to SFA to help in the search for a cure to this disease.

You can also go to

www.curesarcoma.org/rachel-migliardi/

and make a donation through the dedication page set up in Honor of Rachel Migliardi.





You can follow Rachel's story at
WWW.CARINGBRIDGE.ORG
