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Chicago, IL (PRWEB) September 15, 2009 -- The Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF) has added $100,000 in grant funding to support New Approaches to Neuroblastoma Therapy Consortium (NANT) initiatives. This latest award brings CNCF total contributions to NANT to $500,000 since 2006.

"CNCF is committed to our mission of raising awareness and funds to benefit meaningful neuroblastoma research projects as well as the organizations dedicated to achieving that same goal," said Patricia Tallungan, president and founder of CNCF. "We are pleased to be able to continue to support NANT's efforts in their pursuit of more effective treatments for neuroblastoma."

NANT has leveraged CNCF funding to support its goal of developing new therapies to improve the outcomes for children suffering from this deadly form of pediatric cancer. NANT enters an average of 45 neuroblastoma patients per year into clinical trials, made possible in part, through CNCF support.

CNCF funds have also been used for critical infrastructure project investments, including the development of a centralized database to allow for the timely review and publishing of study data. CNCF support contributed to five NANT publications in 2008 and 2009 highlighting results of clinical studies, as well as two presentations at the 2009 American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting on the results associated with using a novel powdered formulation of fenretinide and a combination therapy using low dose oral cyclophosphamid with zoledronic acid (a drug that targets bone metastases).

"We are very grateful for the ongoing financial support of CNCF," said Robert Seeger, MD, principal investigator, NCI Grant "Biology and Therapy of High Risk Neuroblastoma" and Professor of Pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. "The new award will continue to provide critical support for entering patients into our innovative clinical trials and for obtaining samples from patients for laboratory studies to help us better understand the mechanisms of these therapies."

About Neuroblastoma

Neuroblastoma is a solid tumor cancer that arises in immature nerve cells outside of the brain and strikes mainly infants and toddlers. It is the most common cancer affecting infants with an incidence rate almost double that of leukemia. Its cause is unknown. Fifty percent of children diagnosed with neuroblastoma have advanced-stage disease, and only 40 percent live five years.

About Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation

The Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF) is a non-profit national health organization committed to finding a cure for neuroblastoma through research, education, awareness and advocacy. CNCF initiatives educate the public about a disease dramatically lacking in awareness and funding. It serves as an advocate for families by influencing relevant legislation, as well as a liaison between healthcare providers and families. To learn more, visit www.nbhope.org.
About New Approaches to Neuroblastoma Therapy (NANT) Consortium
The NANT (www.nant.org) consortium is a group of 15 Universities and children's hospitals with strong research and treatment programs for neuroblastoma. Working closely together, they test promising new therapies for high-risk and relapsed neuroblastoma. The majority of funding for NANT comes from the National Cancer Institute. NANT was formed to provide a group of closely collaborating investigators who are linked with laboratory programs developing novel therapies for high-risk neuroblastoma. NANT conducts clinical trials that test new drugs and new combinations of drugs against high-risk neuroblastoma. Those with promising results will then be considered for more extensive national testing. Several NANT therapies are already being moved into Phase II/III testing in the Childrens Oncology Group.

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