

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 11, 2008

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**Seventh Annual Brain Tumor Awareness Day:**  
*Facilitated Support Group Sessions;*  
*Special Panel on Cell Phones and Brain Tumors*

More than 350 brain tumor patients, their caregivers, friends and loved ones will join some of the world's premier experts in neurology, research, neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, pathology and caregiving, for a day of information, support, and awareness about brain tumors and the importance of early detection, at the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Tumor Awareness Day**, Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Schwartz Lecture Hall "F", NYU Medical Center, 401 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street (between First Ave. and FDR Drive), in Manhattan.

**Brain Tumor Awareness Day**, sponsored by The Brain Tumor Foundation, provides information and support to those coping with a brain tumor diagnosis. Speakers and panelists will address issues regarding treatments, research and clinical trials to empower patients and their families to feel more knowledgeable when making decisions on their own.

"In addition to medical information and support services, **Awareness Day** provided participants with a plethora of useful information about everything from navigating insurance coverage to financial planning," explained Alan D. Pesky, Awareness Day Co-Chairman.

Many brain tumor patients choose not to spend their last months or weeks in a medical institution, preferring the warmth of home and family instead. At this point caregivers assume the very crucial role of providing for the day-to-day basic needs of a brain tumor patient – and they must study as much as possible about the illness and how it will progress.

One of the highlights of **Brain Tumor Awareness Day** are concurrent support group sessions, where patients and caregivers can discuss management strategies for specific tumor types – and their concerns or fears about what they are facing, or anticipate facing, in the near future.

"Mine has been a long journey...from dancer to brain tumor patient to support group facilitator and dance therapist," said Zazal-Chavah O'Gara, M.S.W., Facilitator, *Body and Mind in Motion: Coping with Stress*. "I really feel for all those who are struggling to survive a brain tumor. I want them to know it can be done and to help them along the way."

Another feature at this year's Awareness Day will be a special session: ***Head-Lines: Cell Phones and Brain Tumors*** with medical experts David O. Carpenter, M.D., Ronald B. Herberman, M.D. and Joshua H. Muscat, Ph.D., M.P.H. leading the discussion.

The convention also seeks to raise awareness about the importance of early detection among the general public and medical professionals. Each registrant of **Brain Tumor Awareness Day** can get a free, onsite MRI brain scan, on a first come, first served basis.

"Last year's event far exceeded all expectations," said Michael Schreiber, Chairman of the Board of The Brain Tumor Foundation. "The attendance was gratifying, the quality of presentations was superb and the eagerness of participants to obtain the latest information on treatment, diagnoses and management strategies reflected the importance of the day."

Founded by Patrick J. Kelly, M.D. F.A.C.S., *Joseph Ransohoff Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at NYU Medical Center*, The Brain Tumor Foundation guides and supports patients and their families through the turbulent times when their lives are touched by a brain tumor. The Brain Tumor Foundation offers support groups, peer matching programs and medical referrals.

**Medical Panelists and Speakers to include:** Patrick J. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.S. *Founder and President, The Brain Tumor Foundation, Joseph Ransohoff Professor of Neurosurgery, NYU Medical Center*; Cameron W. Brennan, M.D., *Assistant Attending Neurosurgeon, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*; David O. Carpenter, M.D., *Director, Institute for Health and Environment, State University of New York at Albany*; Ellen Feingold, M.D., M.P.H., *Director, The Homeopathy Center of Delaware*; Mark R. Gilbert, M.D., *Deputy Chair and Professor, Department of Neuro-Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*; Ronald B. Herberman, M.D., *Director, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute*; Duane A. Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, The Brain Tumor Center at Duke*; Joshua H. Muscat, Ph.D., M.P.H., *Associate Professor, Public Health Sciences, Penn State Cancer Institute*; Andrew T. Parsa, M.D., Ph.D., *Associate Professor in Residence, Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco*; Alfred Quinones-Hinojosa, M.D., *Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Oncology, The Johns Hopkins Hospital*; Theodore H. Schwartz, M.D., *Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical Center*.

Other speakers and panelists include: **Sandy Markowitz, M.A.**, *Support Group Project Chair, BTF*; **Zazel-Chavah O'Garra**, *Dance Therapist*; **Michael Schreiber**, *Chairman, The Brain Tumor Foundation*, and **Wendy Mitchell, L.M.S.W.**, *Social Worker, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center*.

For more information or to arrange interviews with **Awareness Day** participants, please contact The Brain Tumor Foundation, 212-489-0600 or [paige@braintumorfoundation.org](mailto:paige@braintumorfoundation.org).

**Speakers will be available for photo ops and interviews.**

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