



helping kids fight cancer

#CureMEdullo
powered by Carson Leslie Foundation

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The Carson Leslie Foundation #cureMEdullo was launched honoring Carson's last whispered wishes ...

"Momma, make sure they study those tumors in my brain because if those tumors can help some kid some day not die from cancer like I am, I'd like that – and help the next kids with cancer." – Carson Leslie



On an unyielding quest to honor Carson's last whispered wish,
Carson's mom Annette sought solutions to the horrific problem that brain cancer is the deadliest disease of our Nation's children
and medulloblastoma the most common; accounting for approximately 20% of all childhood brain cancer.

She found trailblazers, influencers, and mentors for guidance in a space only known to her through her son's valiant fight for life.

A few months after Carson's death, Annette was invited to serve on the now
\$6,000,000,000 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Advisory Council on Childhood Cancer (ACCC).

Although still deeply in grief, and out of her league serving on a council filled with Chiefs, Directors, Professors,
she was savvy enough to recognize her advisory position and knew precisely how she hoped to advise.

One evening, CPRIT's ACCC gathered in the lobby of an Austin hotel and Annette sat next to Nobel Laureate Dr. Al Gilman, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer and Annette asked Dr. Gilman what it like to win a Nobel Peace Prize. He graciously, explained that he won a Nobel Prize for G-Proteins not a Nobel Peace Prize.

Mortified at her blunder, and not remembering a word of his exposition on G-Proteins, she does remember he didn't make her feel small for her big blunder.

Back in Dallas, they would often share lunch at a little Mexican food place near UTSW when one day Dr. Gilman said, "Annette call me Al, we're friends!"

A few lunches later and a couple of official meetings with her friend Al, CPRIT launched

The Carson Leslie Awards for Pediatric Brain Cancers and Dr. Gilman agreed to serve as CLF's Chief Scientific Advisor.



A few months later, CPRIT announced three Carson Leslie Awards.

Dr. Gilman advised Annette to contact each Principal Investigator and request a proposal to for a research add-on to their Carson Leslie Award, therefore maximizing CLF's research investments and enriching CPRIT approved projects.

And just like that, a \$3.2M collaboration between CPRIT and Carson Leslie Foundation was formed.

TOGETHER, we aligned around the big problem of childhood brain cancer, the deadliest disease of our nation's children. Pooling resources, accelerating change and deepening our collective impact on the awful diseases that has not seen significant advancements in decades.

This shared passion was the beginning of driving change in Texas' childhood brain cancer research community.

Shortly after that, CPRIT made childhood cancer an institutional priority reflected in their portfolio that increased from barely 3% to a whopping 12%.

Calendar years 2017 and 2018, 23% of CPRIT's portfolio was invested in childhood cancer prevention and research projects.

“It is rewarding to work with Annette Leslie and the Carson Leslie Foundation to help stimulate submission and facilitate rigorous reviews of high-quality research proposals delving into the mysteries and potential treatments of pediatric brain cancers. We earnestly hope for exciting results from these talented investigators who are pursuing these most important problems.”

- Dr. Alfred Gilman

“Annette, without your support and the encouragement of Dr. Gilman,
I would have never ventured into the world of childhood brain tumors.

But he was passionate about you, about science

and you made him passionate about curing childhood brain tumors; especially medulloblastoma!!

Your incredible courage and commitment made childhood cancers and the emphasis on brain tumors
a reality for CPRIT, and that has continued on!

I will never be able to fully express my deep appreciation to you and to be able to fully share how much I admire you personally;
from a mother’s perspective, a strong woman, and an advocate for change.”

- Dr. Elizabeth Maher, MD, PhD, UTSW

“Annette Leslie was invited to join CPRIT’s Advisory Council on Childhood Cancers. Through her advocacy, CPRIT has expanded its role in pediatric cancer, including a \$3.2 million program to fund research directed at less toxic treatments for childhood brain cancer.”

Tom Luce, CEO- Founder, Texas 2036



“We named CPRIT’s conference room after Carson to honor his memory and to inspire us with a tangible reminder of the courage and hopefulness he showed in his fight against cancer.

CPRIT has made childhood cancer a priority. Our increased grant support is intended to accelerate progress for prevention and research of pediatric and adolescent cancers, and to help Texas become a global leader in childhood cancer research.”

- Wayne Roberts, CEO - CPRIT

Photo: Carson Leslie & King George proudly hangs in CPRIT’s Carson Leslie Conference Room

Photo credit: The Dallas Cowboys



CARSON ROBERT LESLIE

July 6, 1992 - January 12, 2010

"I can either go around mad and sad, or go around living
with the strength and courage that comes
from God and from the people he puts around me." - Carson Leslie

Carson was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a brain tumor at the age of 14 in 2006.

He shared his fight against cancer in his book, *Carry Me*, which Carson hoped
would offer encouragement and strength to other young cancer patients.

He asked his family to make sure that researchers study the tumors in his brain,
"because if those tumors can help some kid not die from cancer like I am, I'd like that,
it's hard to have cancer." The Carson Leslie Foundation was established in his memory.

**IN NAMING THIS ROOM FOR CARSON,
CPRIT HONORS ALL TEXANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY CANCER.**



RESEARCHERS ROUNDUP

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Dr. James Willson - CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer

&

Carson Leslie Foundation

Mr. Gerry McDougall - PwC Global Oncology Partner

Chairman of CLF's Board

Are Rounding Up

Texas Childhood Brain Cancer Investigators

to

DISCUSS | IDENTIFY | ENCOURAGE

COLLABORATION

Outcome of RoundUp will frame
CPRIT's Childhood Brain Cancer RFA's

Working Reception - Dinner

January 12 5-10p

RoundUp - Conference

January 13 8a-3p

Researchers Round-Up

On the ten-year anniversary of Carson's death. A perfect way to honor his valiant fight for life and last whispered wish
"momma, make sure they study those tumors in my brain and help the next kid with cancer."

Researcher's RoundUp

CPRIT & CLF

Engaging the Brightest Texas Childhood Brain Cancer Investigators

- Facilitate innovative discussions about the problem of childhood brain cancers
- Encourage collaboration between Texas childhood brain cancer investigators
- Identify projects achievable only through collaboration
- Discuss cross disease research
- Breakout sessions for disease specific projects

Engage Funding Foundations to further invest in CPRIT
supported childhood brain cancer research



This is a great time for pediatrics, with numerous opportunities to establish institutional, state, national and international collaborations with the goal of rapidly advancing our field.

Whether it is the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative occurring at the national level or the CPRIT and Carson Leslie Foundation's Researchers RoundUp on Pediatric Brain Tumors in Dallas at the state level or the many local initiatives; pediatrics is well positioned to capitalize on the work that has already been done, as well as the initiatives and platforms put in place.

Dr. Richard Gorlick, MD,

Division Head, Department Chair, Pediatrics - MD Anderson

From an email forwarded to Annette from a member of the physician's network.



“I am particularly enthusiastic because the Researchers Roundup represents a potential model for how the CPRIT Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer and groups like the Carson Leslie Foundation can help CPRIT to identify important opportunities for future CPRIT investments that will accelerate progress in childhood cancers. “

- Jim Willson. Chief Science Officer, CPRIT





State Senator Jane Nelson, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and Annette's sorority sister. Senator Nelson introduced HJR 12, known as Proposition 6 during 2019 Texas' legislative session creating the constitutional amendment to give CPRIT another \$3 billion for cancer prevention and research services in the Great State of Texas.

CPRIT is ...

1. Economically judicious for Texas
2. Going head-to-head in the fight for our nation's children
3. Investing 12% of their portfolio into childhood cancer research and prevention



CPRIT is the 2nd largest funder of cancer research, in Texas, our Nation, our Globe.

When Texas Congressman Michael McCaul was in the 4th Grade, his best friend died from cancer – they attended St. Marks School of Texas.

When he became an elected official, to honor his childhood friend, he launched the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus.

After receiving a copy of Carson's book, *Carry Me*, Representative Michael McCaul invited Annette to share Carson's story at the

Inaugural Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus gathering in he and Mrs. McCaul's Washington, DC home.

Their living room was packed with Senators, Members, leaders in childhood oncology organizations and a few mom's and dad's who'd lost a child to cancer. We were seeking help from the decision makers presiding over the most powerful nation in the world.

It has been with resolute leadership from Congressman McCaul, and the childhood cancer community working together, our Nation has four new laws benefiting the overall state of childhood cancer.



GOLDEN TOAST

Founder | Chairman | Host

The Carson Leslie Foundation founded, chairs and hosts the annual Golden Toast in Washington DC for Members of the bipartisan Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus and the childhood cancer community to convene and celebrate the accomplishments of the unstoppable-collaborative-global-childhood-cancer-movement.



Annette Leslie, Rep. McCaul, Mrs. Linda McCaul



Wayne Roberts, CPRIT CFO, Annette Leslie, Rep. McCaul

“During my time fighting pediatric cancer, I have met many devoted individuals and organizations also dedicated to this fight.

The Carson Leslie Foundation (CLF) stands out as a leader in the childhood cancer community.

I have had the privilege of working closely with CLF’s founder Annette Leslie and with other like-minded organizations, we have begun to make a difference for children battling cancer, but there is still so much work left to be done.

Recently, I was honored to be asked, and eagerly agreed, to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Carson Leslie Foundation’s National Advisory Council as they assemble leaders from around the country to assist with the foundation’s efforts in accelerating the development of new treatments and a cure for medulloblastoma and other childhood brain cancers.

Congressman Michael McCaul, Texas 10th District

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