New Study Targets Cancer That Strikes Young

Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor (DSRCT) is an aggressive cancer that usually occurs in multiple masses in the abdomen and affects the lymph nodes and lining of the pelvis and abdomen. Associated with Ewing's Sarcoma, DSRCT usually affects children, adolescents, and young adults. Survival rates are poor.

Unfortunately, because this form of cancer affects only a small number of children and even fewer adults, the research aimed at improving treatment results has been limited.

The StelKin Foundation recently launched a study that involves growing DSRCT samples in the laboratory's nude mice, and evaluating the effectiveness of both standard and experimental drugs in treatment of the tumors.

Saying NO to the Status Quo

Imagine you are Patrick Scranton - a 16-year-old, viral, energetic entrepreneur and you become the oldest person ever diagnosed with DSRCT. In 2003, Patrick launched a DSRCT web site (www.dsrct.com) in April of 2004. “My goal was to create a place where everyone on the planet who had this disease could share their experiences and the options for treatment. It can save people thousands of hours of time,” Patrick said.

For all of its patients, the StelKin Foundation’s DSRCT tumor cancer study, where patients send samples of their tumors to be grown in nude mice and tested for various treatments. "I am especially interested in the foundation's role as a clearinghouse for DSRCT information to be shared by everyone," he said.

Patrick Scranton has been instrumental in helping the fundraising efforts. "The results may actually be too late for me," said Patrick, "but the StelKin Foundation has the people and approach to make a real leap in cancer treatment."

After a long and courageous battle with DSRCT, Patrick Scranton died May 5, 2005. A tireless friend of the StelKin Foundation and DSRCT patients and families everywhere, Patrick will be sorely missed.