

CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

The Children's Tumor Foundation's Clinical Research Award (CRA) program supports early stage pilot clinical trials of candidate therapeutics or interventions for the treatment of NF1, NF2, and schwannomatosis manifestations. These awards support innovative clinical trial enabling studies.



Ana-Maria Vranceanu, PhD, a Clinical Research Award (CRA) recipient in 2013 and 2014, has been awarded a third CRA to adapt a psychosocial support method so that it can be offered to people with NF2. This population can experience significant social isolation as well as anxiety and depression, unemployment, or divorce or separation from significant others. The Relaxation Response Resiliency Program (3RP) has been found effective for improving Quality of Life (QoL) in NF1 and schwannomatosis populations in Dr. Vranceanu's previous CTF-funded research. With the new grant, Dr. Vranceanu's team will test 3RP delivered via Skype and using Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART). If effective, she plans to implement this approach for the broader population of NF2 patients. Dr. Vranceanu is an Associate Professor in Psychology working at Massachusetts General Hospital and at Harvard Medical School. The grant award amount is \$149,836.

Gena Heidary, MD, PhD, a neuro-oncologist at Boston Children's Hospital, received a CRA to conduct a study of visual field outcomes in NF1-related optic pathway glioma (OPG). Her project builds on a multicenter study of NF1-OPG outcomes, funded jointly by CTF and the Gilbert Family Neurofibromatosis Institute. Dr. Heidary's work will examine whether visual field testing, which measures peripheral vision, is a valuable addition to conventional visual acuity testing for measuring visual outcomes in children with OPG. The grant amount is \$150,000.

