

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 31, 2006

Through event June 4-6

**From Bench To Bedside: Researchers Convene To Speed Treatments
For Common Tumor Disorder**

Contact:

Allison Walsh

(800) 323-7938 ext. 225

awalsh@ctf.org

New York, NY — The Children's Tumor Foundation announced today the final agenda for its annual Neurofibromatosis Consortium Meeting to be held June 4th-6th in Aspen, Colorado. This year's theme, "From Bench To Bedside," highlights the significant progress made in neurofibromatosis research and the move towards clinical trials this past year. Neurofibromatosis, or NF, is a common genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow on nerves in the body, including the brain and spinal cord.

The theme of this meeting also indicates the importance of translational research; that is, taking experiments from studying cells in a lab through clinical trials in humans. With this in mind, the meeting not only will focus on understanding the basic molecular mechanisms that underpin NF, but also will include sessions that detail the major clinical advances that have occurred in the NF field this year. Notably, this year has seen the beginning of clinical trials for the learning disabilities that affect over half of all persons with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1). These trials utilize cholesterol-lowering drugs such as lovastatin, and are moving ahead in the US and Europe; they will be the focus of one session at the meeting.

Another will focus on the Foundation's upcoming implementation of "best practices" guidelines for NF Clinics, to increase the quality of care for those with NF. As part of putting these guidelines into practice, the Foundation will help facilitate an NF Clinical Database of patients, which will help identify participants for clinical trials. "We must be ready to take advantage of future basic research advances and move rapidly into clinical trials," states Kim Hunter-Schaedle, Chief Scientific Officer of the Children's Tumor Foundation.

With an eye on helping to identify new NF drug candidates, the Foundation recently launched the Drug Discovery Initiative, which will fund early stage screening of candidate NF therapeutics as well as identifying a roster of candidate drugs for screening.

An initial report of the meeting at large will be available on the Children's Tumor Foundation website at www.ctf.org by mid June. The full agenda for the meeting is currently available on the website.

About the Children's Tumor Foundation:

The Children's Tumor Foundation is the leading not-for-profit health organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of the 1 in 3,500 individuals living with neurofibromatosis by funding research to enable effective treatments and ultimately a cure for NF. For more information about the Children's Tumor Foundation, please visit www.ctf.org or call 212-344-6633.

