

HOPE for a Healthier Tomorrow

When your loved one is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, it's natural to turn to your doctors for help—but what if that disease has no treatment options?

When incurable disease strikes, science is our best hope for a healthier tomorrow. **Sanford Burnham Prebys is the hope for millions of families whose loved ones are affected by the toughest diseases, from cancer to heart disease, Alzheimer's to rare children's diseases—and YOUR support is the lifeline that keeps that hope alive.**

Your gift today fuels scientific discovery in our four disease-focused centers, enabling our world-class research teams to blaze scientific pathways toward the development of new treatments, therapies and cures. Please consider a gift of any amount today. Not only will your support be matched dollar for dollar up to the first \$50,000, but it will help bring hope to patients around the world and here in our own community—patients just like Amirah.

Donate Now

Before her diagnosis, 7-year-old **Amirah** was a bright, energetic child who loved singing, dancing and playing with her Pokémon toys. In spring 2025, worsening headaches and nausea led to an ER visit, where a CT scan revealed a tumor the size of a golf ball on her brain. The family was stunned.

Amirah was transferred to the ICU at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, under the care of pediatric oncologist Angela Liou, MD. Dr. Liou diagnosed Amirah with pediatric diffuse midline glioma (DMG).

While meeting with Dr. Liou to review treatment options for their daughter, Amirah's parents, Monica and Ruben, received the devastating news that no child has ever survived the disease, and available treatments carry a significant risk of toxicity, potentially leaving Amirah in a vegetative state. Ruben became visibly furious at the grim prognosis.

Starting to lose hope, Ruben asked Dr. Liou, "Who are the scientists out there doing the research to find better treatments for my child?"

To which she replied, "Actually, I'm one of them."



Little did Amirah's parents realize that Dr. Liou is a physician-scientist with a dual appointment at Rady Children's and Sanford Burnham Prebys. She spends four days a week at our Institute, investigating DMG. Having lost her own father to cancer, Dr. Liou has dedicated her life to generating the scientific knowledge that could lead to the development of more effective, less toxic treatments, and even a cure.

Ruben paused for a moment, surprise written all over his face. Then he leaned forward and gave Dr. Liou a fist bump—a small gesture of his gratitude, knowing that someone out there was fighting on Amirah's team.

Your gift today will help keep that feeling alive for the 1.5 million Californians and their families who have been diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and the 175,000 new cases added to the California Cancer Registry each year.

Our NCI-designated Cancer Center is one of only seven Basic Laboratory Cancer Centers in the U.S. that meet the National Cancer Institute's rigorous standards; and our Conrad Prebys Center for Chemical Genomics is the nation's leading nonprofit drug discovery center, with more than 60 current projects, 12 ongoing clinical trials and eight FDA-approved treatments and tests. Your gift today plays a vital role in helping researchers make lifesaving advances and discover new molecules and compounds that will hopefully form the basis for next-generation drugs.

Thanks to generous matching gifts from Sanford Burnham Prebys Board president, Donald Kearns, MD, and Board member Lori Moore, the first \$50,000 received by December 31 will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your gift. As we look ahead to our 50th anniversary next year, there has never been a better time to join the fight. The next big breakthrough could be just around the corner, and your gift today will stretch twice as far toward getting us there.

Amirah's treatment is ongoing, but she and her parents have remained active with Sanford Burnham Prebys. They haven't lost hope. Will you show them you haven't either?



Soon the holidays will be here, a time to reflect on the things that are most important to us. For so many of us, the health and well-being of our loved ones is at the top of that list. Thank you for giving generously so that we may all celebrate this special time of year with hope for a healthier tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Sandy Liarakos, CFRE, CSPG
Vice President, Philanthropy

Donate Now

Thank you!