2026 Impact Report: Advancing Brain Tumor Research with KMF Support

KMF has given $1.6M to the Duke Brain Tumor Center to support research and development of high grade glioma and glioblastoma projects since 2021. Collectively, these projects show how the generosity of our donors fuels progress across the entire spectrum of brain tumor research—from discovery to direct patient impact.

In 2026, KMF support helped advance six complementary research projects at the Duke Brain Tumor Center. This work spanned studies of why tumors recur, how the immune system responds to treatment, and the development of innovative therapies.

FLiRT Trial – Repurposing Prozac to Treat Glioblastoma

In September 2026, initial results from the completed and closed trial were presented at the European Association of Neuro-Oncology scientific meeting. Early evidence suggests that fluoxetine disrupts how tumor cells process fats. Unexpectedly, the team also found that it may reduce the activity of immune cells that normally help protect tumors. Our team is now working to validate these observations to determine whether fluoxetine could improve the effectiveness of chemotherapy.

MOAB Trial – Understanding How Immunotherapy Changes Glioblastoma

KMF support continues to enable cutting-edge spatial analyses that map individual cells within tumor tissue and reveal how cancer cells and immune cells interact. Early findings are helping identify barriers to treatment and inform more effective immunotherapy combinations.

BRiTE and TRiTE – Developing Next-Generation Immunotherapies

BRiTE uses an engineered protein to connect immune cells directly to glioblastoma cells, and has already entered early clinical testing at Duke. Building on this work, our team is developing TRiTE, a more advanced version of the treatment, with potential early clinical trials opening in 2028.

REVAMP Trial – Advancing a New Glioblastoma Vaccine

The REVAMP trial is developing a therapeutic vaccine designed to train the immune system to recognize and attack glioblastoma cells. A generous donor contribution

matched KMF's commitment, doubling the combined support from these two sources. REVAMP was also selected for rolling FDA review, potentially accelerating the path toward clinical testing!

GRETeL Study – Understanding Responses to Glioblastoma Treatment

Researchers have identified promising markers that may help predict treatment response and tumor progression. Most analyses are complete, and findings are being prepared for publication.

Oligodendroglioma Study – Understanding Patterns of Recurrence

Researchers are examining where, when, and how oligodendrogliomas return, sometimes many years after treatment. The goal is to improve monitoring and help physicians make better decisions about additional treatment.

Together, these six projects represent complementary approaches to improving brain tumor treatment. KMF's support has been instrumental in advancing this research, enabling sophisticated tumor analyses and helping move the REVAMP vaccine toward clinical testing. Continued KMF support will be critical both to sustaining progress across this research portfolio and advancing the REVAMP Trial toward its first patient enrollment.

With the help of our donors, we are truly advancing research on brain cancer to give warriors like Knox a shot at a long life! Please consider joining us in 2027 as we strive to continue funding this important and vital research at the Duke Brain Tumor Center.