

Knox Martin Foundation for Brain Cancer Research Honored with the William W. Shingleton Award from Duke University's Duke Cancer Institute

Durham, NC — We are proud to announce that the Knox Martin Foundation for Brain Cancer Research has been selected to receive the prestigious William W. Shingleton Award from the Duke Cancer Institute (DCI) at Duke University. The award — presented by DCI's Shingleton Society — recognizes exemplary generosity, service, and dedication to advancing cancer research, care, and patient-support initiatives.

"The Knox Martin Foundation for Brain Cancer Research (KMF) is honored to join the ranks of outstanding partners who stand alongside the Duke Cancer Institute in its mission to discover, develop, and deliver the future of cancer care," said Becky Martin, President/CEO of KMF. "This recognition reflects our deep commitment to supporting innovative research, including clinical trials focused on the deadliest and most aggressive form of brain cancer: glioblastoma (GBM). We are energized to continue our work with Duke and the broader community to improve brain cancer patient outcomes."

Why this award matters

The William W. Shingleton Award is named in honor of William W. Shingleton, MD, founding director of Duke's first comprehensive cancer center, in recognition of his pioneering contributions to surgical oncology and cancer care. The Shingleton Society recognizes donors and partners who give at significant levels and who engage their time and resources to further DCI's mission of extending and improving the lives of people with cancer.

KMF's role & impact

Since its founding in 2021, KMF has supported five landmark projects at the Duke Brain Tumor Center, fueling progress across the entire spectrum of brain tumor research — from discovery to direct patient impact: completed trials moving toward publication, cutting-edge preclinical innovation, and an ongoing trial already making a real difference for glioblastoma patients. This award acknowledges not only our financial support but also our ongoing collaboration in shaping a future where fewer lives are lost to cancer, and more patients are served with dignity and hope.

What's next

Looking ahead, KMF will continue deepening its partnership with Duke and DCI by committing two years of support toward its latest project in collaboration with the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center: the **MOAB trial — a multicenter trial of atezolizumab in recurrent glioblastoma** — now open at Duke, Kansas City, Huntsman Cancer Institute in Utah, and UCSF. **To date, 29 patients have enrolled.** We invite our friends, partners, and community members to join us in this journey: together, we can accelerate progress, foster innovation, and deliver results.

About KMF

In September 2017, Knox Martin's life took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. KMF was founded in April of 2021, less than four months after Knox passed away from his courageous three-year battle, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering determination at the young age of 24. Co-founded by a dedicated group of Knox's friends and family, KMF's mission is to reverse the underfunded and under-researched nature of brain cancer by funding innovative research on the most aggressive form of brain cancer — glioblastoma (GBM). Few research studies are conducted in aggressive brain cancers each year because patient outcomes are so poor, yet the outcomes remain poor because so few research studies exist. KMF's goal since inception: to end this infinite loop. Their vision is a world where a glioblastoma diagnosis is both treatable and curable.

About Duke Cancer Institute

The Duke Cancer Institute is a leading academic cancer center at Duke University, bringing together research, clinical care, education, and community engagement to make transformative advances in cancer treatment and survivorship. The Shingleton Society honors annual donors who make possible DCI's quest to extend and improve the lives of all people with cancer.

The Knox Martin Foundation has supported 5 Landmark Projects at the Preston Robert Tische Brain Tumor Center at Duke 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.

1. **PESKE Trial** – Now completed and closed, results have been published. You can read them [here](#).
2. **FLIRT Trial with Fluoxetine** – Now completed and closed, with manuscripts expected within the coming year.
3. **TIL Development** – Preclinical efforts are advancing to prepare the next wave of IND-enabling studies.
4. **Personalized Vaccine Program** – Functional validation is underway as our lab moves toward IND submission and first-in-human testing.
5. **MOAB Trial** – A multicenter trial of atezolizumab in recurrent glioblastoma, now open at Duke, Kansas City, Huntsman Cancer Center in Utah, and UCSF. So far, 29 patients have already enrolled, and KMF support is enabling deep analysis of their samples.

These initiatives span the full continuum: from completed trials moving toward publication, to cutting-edge preclinical innovation, to an ongoing trial already making a difference for patients. Our support is the bridge that sustains these efforts with our lab team at the Duke Brain Tumor Center and accelerates discoveries that would otherwise not be possible.

This information was shared and reviewed by our lead researcher at the Duke Brain Tumor Center: Mustafa Khasraw, MD

Thank you.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact Becky Martin at (770) 861-8420 or becky@knoxmartinfoundation.org