



Lap 4 Life is a non-profit organization created to raise money and awareness for Desmoid Tumors and Organ Transplant Research.

Eleven years ago, at the age of 30, my brother was affected by a rare disease, Desmoid Tumors. These rare tumors affect one in every 2-4 million people. After nine years of medical treatment and multiple surgeries with subsequent complications he was left with few options. A final attempt to remove his large desmoid required resection of his entire small intestine. Following this, he could no longer eat and was reliant on intravenous nutrition.

Six months later he received an intestinal transplant a rare and risky procedure. This is currently the only hope of survival for patients with intestinal failure who are dependent on and often do not tolerate intravenous nutrition. Seven weeks after his transplant, he returned home to resume his life as a loving father and husband. Unfortunately, one week after being home, at the age of 39, he succumbed to an illness that his weakened immune system could not ward off.

Desmoid Tumors are uncommon conditions that affect multiple areas in the body. Because desmoid tumors are rare, research on them is scarce. Little is known about their cause, treatment and prognosis. It is known that desmoid tumors do not spread to distant sites (metastasize), however, they are locally very aggressive. When desmoid tumors are located in the abdominal cavity they are particularly troublesome. They can cause destruction of surrounding vital structures and organs and the worst of their complications can be fatal. Radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and surgical removal often have poor success.

Intestinal transplant currently offers the only hope of survival for patients with intestinal failure who are dependent on and often do not tolerate intravenous nutrition. While it is no longer considered experimental, intestinal transplantation continues to be very expensive and risky therapy with a need for life-long immunosuppression. Ongoing research has improved the outcomes significantly, to the point where patients like my brother can look forward to a long survival with a good quality of life.

There is a desperate need for continued research both into the biology and treatment of desmoid tumors and into intestinal transplantation. Your donations are greatly needed to help find answers, save lives, and build hope. This will help thousands of individuals and their families facing these horrific medical conditions. I hope you will support our efforts in raising money for this much needed cause. Every tax-deductible donation, regardless of size, will bring us one step closer to finding a cure for these terrible conditions. Please make your contribution check to Lap4Life and mail them to the address below. All Proceeds will benefit the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation and New York Organ Donor Network.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and support.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maddalena Casabianca-Reade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maddalena Casabianca-Reade
Director of Lap4Life

Our Beneficiaries

The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation (DTRF) seeks to advance the science related to desmoid tumors, by:

- Funding research related to the diagnosis and treatment of desmoid tumors
- Facilitating and enhancing the dialogue among members of the medical and scientific communities about research related to desmoid tumors
- Providing informational support for desmoid tumor patients and their families and friends, and heightening awareness of desmoid tumor diagnosis and treatment



We are certain that our efforts to fund the most cutting-edge desmoid tumor research will result in the development of treatment options and will bring us closer to our ultimate goal -- a cure.

NY Organ Donor Network

Mission Statement

The New York Organ Donor Network is dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissues for people in need of life-saving and life-improving transplants.

We are committed to increasing awareness and fostering understanding of organ and tissue donation among health care professionals and the general public.

With respect and compassion, we will provide individuals and their families with the knowledge required to make informed decisions about donation.