



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 8, 2017

**PAT MAC'S PACK DONATES \$125,000 TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE  
PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH AT ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO**

*Local, family-run nonprofit organization supports doctors, program that treated  
late son for more than a decade*

**CHICAGO** – Last night, [Pat Mac's Pack](#), a Chicago 501c3 charitable organization formed in memory of 13-year-old Patrick McNamara, presented \$125,000 to the Brain Tumor Program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The donation will support new technology and the highest priority neuro-oncology clinical research at the hospital, ultimately helping to bring Lurie Children's world-class team closer to translating discoveries in pediatric brain tumor research into clinical practice.

Specifically, Pat Mac's Pack funds will enable Lurie Children's Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute's new Becher Laboratory to purchase equipment that has recently exploded within the field of cancer genetics and allows researchers to permanently modify genes in living cells. With this new equipment – the CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) – researchers will make new mouse models in order to study gene function in tumors at a faster pace than ever before. Pat Mac's Pack donation will also fund further clinical research with this new technology.

"At Lurie Children's, we continue to push the boundaries in advanced care and research for pediatric brain tumor patients thanks to generous philanthropy," said Dr. Steward Goldman, MD, Division Head of Hematology, Oncology, Neuro-Oncology and Stem Cell at Lurie Children's Hospital. "Support from Pat Mac's Pack will allow us to invest in promising research initiatives. Their support of state of the art technology like the CRISPR for Dr. Becher's lab and clinical research will give us the springboard to significantly ramp up our efforts and make the quantum leaps forward that will make a difference in the treatment of pediatric brain tumors. We thank Pat Mac's Pack for partnering with us to bring viable solutions to children with cancer and their families." Dr. Goldman was also Patrick's doctor.

"We are honored to be able to support this promising research," said Tom McNamara, co-founder of Pat Mac's Pack. "Pediatric brain cancer is severely underfunded. Our mission is to make sure future patients have the best treatment options as possible available to them."

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*Pat Mac's Pack is a 501c3 charitable organization established in 2014 in memory of Patrick Thomas McNamara, who died at the age of 13 after an eleven-year battle with recurrent brain tumors. Pat Mac's Pack raises funds for pediatric brain tumor research, including drug research and development, and the advancement of novel surgical procedures used to treat pediatric brain tumors. Pat Mac's Pack also provides direct assistance to young cancer patients and their families.*