



## BRAINUP WINTER NEWSLETTER

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Happy Holidays Everyone,  
We wanted to update you with some of  
our exciting moments from 2017 and let  
you know what's in store for BrainUp  
and our hospital partners!  
Please enjoy,

*Dan Kussach* *Neeraj Kussach*

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## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

BrainUp's 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk this year brought in nearly **\$200,000!** With your funding support from the past two years, BrainUp's Board of Directors has approved the funding of two exciting initiatives:

### Phase 1 Clinical Trial:

The first trial was presented to us by the University of Chicago to fund a multi-institutional Phase 1 Clinical Trial for stage 3 and 4 primary GBM (Glioblastoma) diagnosed patients. The study is entitled **Phase 1 study of Safety and Tolerability of Acetazolamide with Temozolomide in Adults Newly Diagnosed MGMT Promoter - Methylated Malignant Glioma**. This trial will be a collaboration conducted at the University of Chicago as the lead hospital with the principal investigator [Dr. Bakhtiar Yamini](#), NorthShore University Health System with [Dr. Ryan T. Merrell](#), University of Illinois Chicago with [Dr. Martin Kelly Nicholas](#) and Northwestern Memorial Hospital with [Dr. Rimus V. Lukas](#) and Northwestern Medicine Proton Center with [Dr. Vinai Gondi](#).

### Development of a New Research Program:

The second is a 3 part development of a new research program at Rush University Medical Center to establish and address the appropriate clinical trials for Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA), primarily 15-39 years of age. This trial aims to create a team approach and develop an AYA tumor database, in partnership with genetic data housed by TEMPUS, a technology company, to develop a specialized treatment and be part of new care protocols. This age group is largely overlooked since most research focuses on infants, children and 55 and older, which is the more common age range where this terrible disease strikes. The Neuro-oncologists that will lead this research are [Dr. Clement P. Pillainayagam](#) and [Dr. Joo Yeon Nam](#).

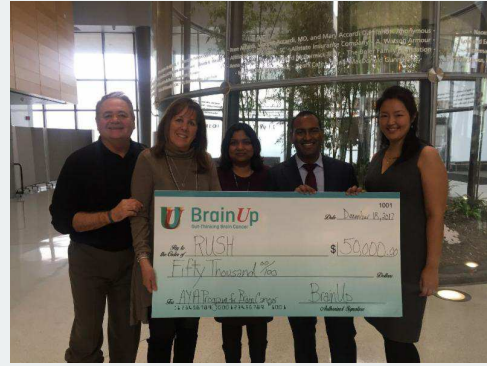
We are excited about both of these initiatives, since they will benefit a large spectrum of ages that will be participating. The institutions that we are funding are extremely honored to be our first trial recipients.

BrainUp is so proud to support our Chicago Institutions that have strong Neuro-Oncology

Services and we are extremely grateful for our supporters who helped make these initiatives possible. Thank you!



Co-Founders, Meg and Dan Kresach present \$175,000 to [Dr. Bakhtiar Yamini](#) at The University of Chicago [Medicine](#) to fund a Collaborative Clinical Trial for brain cancer.



Co-Founders, Meg and Dan Kresach present [Dr. Clement P. Pillainayagami](#) and his team at [Rush University Medical Center](#) with \$50,000 to fund an AYA Program for brain cancer.

## REFLECTING ON 2017

### BrainUp Featured on WGN-tv



BrainUp was fortunate to be featured in a compelling segment by WGN-tv news anchor, Erin Ivory, leading up to our 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk on October 15, 2017.

BrainUp values it's partnership with WGN and are grateful for their support of our mission!

[Click here to view the full video](#)

## 2nd Annual Run/Walk

BrainUp's 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk was a huge success! Despite inclement weather, we were able to raise more than **\$195,000** with over **1,000** participants!

### Kind sentiments shared at the Run/Walk by Bravery Award Recipient, Tracy Bramlet

*"I think I speak on behalf of all the recipients when I say that we don't look at ourselves as 'Brave'. Those fighting overseas are brave, the police force that protect our city streets are brave and especially the first responders who have no idea what they will be faced with, they are brave.*

*We are just trying to lead our lives without letting this horrible disease take away our joy, our love, our passion and most of all, our sense of normalcy. But if you do believe we deserve these awards then we most certainly share them with you all, because we wouldn't be standing up here if it wasn't for all of you and the brave faces you have put forward to comfort and support us. So on behalf of all of us, thank you to all of you."*





## BrainUp Cut-a-Thon

BrainUp once again partnered with Jeffrey LaMorte Day Spa to host its 2nd annual Cut-a-Thon. Between the 4 salons, over 250 haircuts were done that afternoon along with each salon hosting raffles supported by local community businesses. The event raised **\$11,200!**



## Cheers for Charity

BrainUp partnered with Lagunitas Brewing Company to host its 2nd annual Cheers for Charity event. Thanks to the careful planning of Darragh McDermott and Paul Reschke, the event raised **\$6,835.65** for BrainUp!

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# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

## Hair Education Event - April 28, 2018

Jeff from Jeffrey LaMorte Day Spa will be hosting a hair educational event. There will be stylists from all over the city attending the event at the Park West. Activities will include basket raffles with partial proceeds supporting BrainUp. More details to come!



## Cheers for Charity - August 2018

Cheers for Charity will be partnering with Lagunitas again in August! Darragh and Paul are our captains of this event and its sure to be even more fun than last year!



## BrainUp 3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk - October 2018

We had such a wonderful response to the 2017 event, thank you for all of your support - the day was amazing and inspiring - despite the weather! We are currently working with the city of Chicago to determine the best possible run/walk venue and route to get as many participants out to reach our goal of **\$400K!**

Stay tuned for an exciting announcement to come for our exact **October 2018** date!

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## Amazon Smile

We are excited to announce that U now can support BrainUp when U shop AmazonSmile. Just click on the link below (instead of the regular Amazon site) and Amazon will give a % of your purchase to brain cancer research! It doesn't cost U anything. Now U have a good



reason to shop.

Start Shopping Now!

## THANK YOU

It has been so important to Danny and I to keep all supporters informed of the progress meeting our mission. BrainUp has had many success this year with staying true to our mission to fund critical brain cancer research here in Chicago. We could not have done this without all of our dedicated supporters. We do this memory of the ones that we have lost and for those that are in the fight of their life.

Peace to all in the coming year!  
Dan and Meg Kresach  
Co-Founders of BrainUp



**Questions?** Email [info@brainup.ngo](mailto:info@brainup.ngo)

Don't forget to connect with us on [Facebook!](#)  
Help us reach our goal of 2,000 followers!

*BrainUp is a not-for-profit public charity recognized by the IRS under 501(c)(3). BrainUp EIN # is 47-5516802*