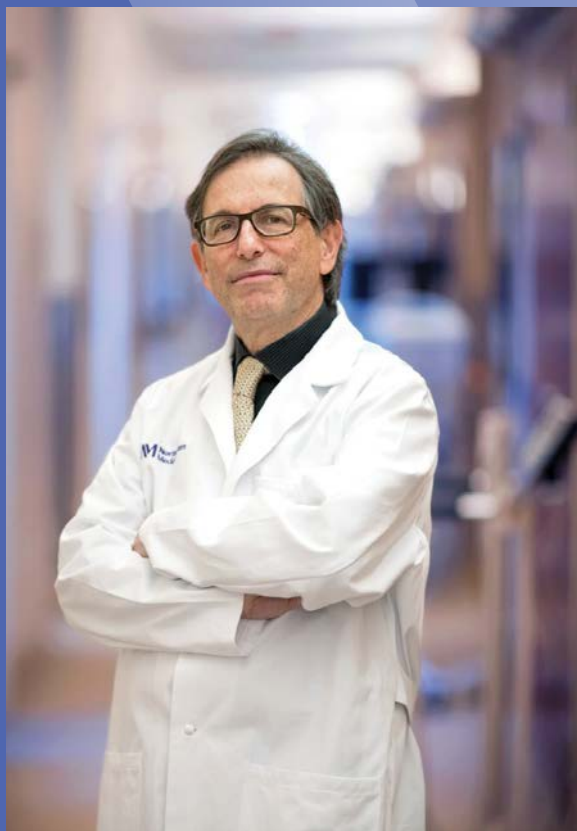


Moceris Partner with Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, Make Forward-Looking Gift

"We hope to shine a light on the importance of philanthropic support."

—Dan Moceris



Dr. Roger Stupp

"I am moved by, and very grateful for, the remarkable support and trust of Dan and Sharon Moceris. It is an honor to know them and to play a role in Sharon's care and their family's journey. Through their generosity, the Moceris are helping our team at the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute continue to make important strides toward further revolutionizing treatment for glioblastoma. They are true partners in our ongoing quest to improve length and quality of life for patients here at Northwestern and far beyond."

—Dr. Roger Stupp



Dan and Sharon Moceris strive to help others and contribute to a future of hope and promise. Inspired by these goals and personal experience, they made a substantial gift to support clinical research at the Northwestern Medicine Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

In 2018, Mrs. Moceris was diagnosed with a glioblastoma, an aggressive malignant brain tumor historically resistant to many therapies. The Moceris are dedicated to changing this reality. At the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, they have found a true partner in their efforts: world-renowned neuro-oncologist Roger Stupp, MD, the institute's co-director. Dr. Stupp also is chief of Neuro-oncology in the Ken & Ruth Davee Department of Neurology and the Paul C. Bucy Professor of Neurological Surgery at Feinberg.

"When Sharon was diagnosed, we were so fortunate to find Dr. James Chandler [co-director of the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute and the Lavin/Fates Professor of Neurological Surgery], who successfully re-sectioned her tumor. One week after Sharon's surgery, Dr. Chandler introduced us to Dr. Stupp, and we could immediately tell that there was something special there," Mr. Moceris remarked. "We always say, 'Things happen for a reason,' and, in terms of Sharon's care, that is absolutely true."

Before joining Northwestern in 2016, Dr. Stupp established the "Stupp Protocol," a breakthrough treatment that increased the two-year survival rate for patients with glioblastoma. It remains the global standard of care today. In 2017, he and colleagues helped to validate another groundbreaking treatment option, a medical device called Optune that transmits low-intensity electrical fields to tumors, destroying cancerous cells and increasing survival rates for patients with glioblastoma. Both the Stupp Protocol and Optune have been important components of Mrs. Moceris's treatment.

"We understand the difference Dr. Stupp makes every day in the lives of others," Mr. Moceris said. "Also, we believe that history is a good predictor of the future, and we see the outstanding track record that he has established in treating patients with brain cancer. We want to do our part to help him and his team continue to increase longevity and improve quality of life for people with glioblastoma."

The Moceris' philanthropy is supporting a pioneering clinical trial led by Dr. Stupp and Adam Sonabend, MD, assistant professor of Neurological Surgery. The trial addresses a great challenge in treating glioblastoma: the presence of the blood-brain barrier, a coat of cells that surrounds the brain, protecting it from toxins in the blood. The blood-brain barrier also prevents chemotherapy medications from reaching the brain, meaning that glioblastoma patients have been unable to fully benefit from potential treatments, until now. The trial is testing a novel form of ultrasound technology to deliver chemotherapy across the blood-brain barrier to a patient's tumor.

The Moceris also are funding a clinical research nurse position that will connect numerous aspects of research and care within the institute.

"With our gift, we were looking to support endeavors that could ease the burdens and improve the quality of life for everyone going through this cancer," Mrs. Moceris said. "We have so much confidence in Dr. Stupp and everyone at the institute. I feel totally blessed to have found such compassionate, knowledgeable doctors and nurses."

Mr. Moceris added, "Dr. Stupp and his team are doing such outstanding work, and yet, even as they keep breaking new ground, funding is always a challenge. Especially in the research arena, it is so important for an initiative to have support across the full trajectory: from basic science research, to clinical trials, to proof-of-concept studies. We hope to shine a light on the importance of philanthropic support."

The Moceris draw encouragement from all the positive chapters that have unfolded, thus far, in their story—the chapters that led them to Northwestern Medicine; to Drs. Chandler and Stupp; and to opportunities that make a difference for others.

"I'm so thankful for my husband and our children. Every day, they keep me going," Mrs. Moceris said. "And I'm so thankful for Dr. Stupp. Every time I go for my treatment, I look at the other patients, and I send them a wish: 'I hope you all get to meet Roger Stupp.'"