

November 7, 2017



My name is Traci Strale. My son, Casey Strale, was diagnosed with adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) in 2009 at the age of 12. ACC is an aggressive tumor with a bleak prognosis. Being a dedicated student and an avid Ice and Roller Hockey player, it was unbelievable that such a healthy young boy could ever develop such an aggressive form of cancer. Despite his determination and positive outlook, Casey lost his battle on June 24, 2013 at the age of 16, but his story is one of survival, modern medicine and faith.

When we were first introduced to the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) by sixteen-year ACC survivor and TGen Foundation board member, Troy Richards, there were no promising options for treatment - even experimental ones. With TGen's help, we establish a foundation in Casey's honor that would raise funds for much needed pediatric ACC research. Over Casey's four-year battle, all we could do was try clinical trials that were approved for other cancers in hopes that something would work, and surgically remove recurring masses. After multiple surgeries the cancer traveled to his spine and lungs, ultimately taking his life. Although it's too late for Casey, our hopes, dreams and prayers are to find a better and less invasive treatment for this monster of a disease.

ACC affects one-two per million annually, making it difficult to collect enough tumor samples to analyze for prospective therapies. This is why the clinical trial being proposed by TGen in this grant request is so significant. TGen is a world leader in translational genomic and proteomic cancer research - the study of genetic and protein drivers of disease. Without TGen's specialized team of scientists and clinical partners discovering new treatments through translational science and clinical trials, there would be no hope for kids and adults taken victims like Casey.

TGen and *The Casey Strale Foundation are committed to raising funds together to bring awareness and fuel research to develop better, more effective therapies for ACC. Casey's Foundation has generated funds for ACC research at TGen for the last 3 years through an annual ice hockey charity event "Casey's Cup" and other smaller fundraisers throughout the year. We have proudly raised over \$134,000 to date.

Today, I ask you as a mother who walked an unthinkable path alongside her young son, to join our battle. Thanks to recent TGen-led breakthroughs in ACC, we are close to finding new treatments for this devastating form of adrenal cancer. With your support we can fight this disease and win!

Thank you for your consideration to provide funding to TGen for [The Casey Strale Foundation](#), in honor of a brave young man taken away too soon.

Sincerely,

Traci Strale
949-910-9886

TGen Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation's tax identification number is 33-1092191. Make checks payable to TGen Foundation and mail to Traci Strale, 47 Festivo, Irvine, CA 92606 or donate on line: <https://tgen.org/giving/celebration-of-life/special-funds/casey-strale-acc-research-fund/>