



September 2025

**ARI-PST
2026**
Advancing Research in Israel
Pediatric Solid Tumors

ARI-PST Progress Report to the Kluger Foundation

Executive Summary

On behalf of the ARI-PST initiative and the entire Israeli pediatric brain tumor and neuroblastoma community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your vision and support. Thanks to the Kluger Foundation, ARI-PST has evolved from a concept to a national movement—delivering real impact for clinicians, researchers, and, most importantly, Israeli children and families.

Key Achievements and Milestones

1. National Collaboration

- All major pediatric oncology centers in Israel are now united under the ARI-PST framework, led by Shaare Zedek Medical Center and Tel Aviv University.
- Over 10 research groups from 6 leading institutions are actively collaborating—sharing resources and expertise nationwide.

2. Revitalizing a Dormant Field

In just two years, ARI-PST has sparked a surge in research activity:

- More research proposals and grant submissions than ever before
- New collaborations between hospitals, laboratories, and academic disciplines
- Senior researchers and clinicians have shifted their focus to pediatric brain tumors and neuroblastoma





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3. Building a Modern Research Infrastructure

- National Pediatric Brain Tumor Biobank (Organoids): National ethics approval request submitted; first samples scheduled for November 2025.
- Biobank Expansion: Ongoing negotiations with Ichilov Hospital to open access to their frozen biobank—the largest in Israel—to all institutions, creating a unique, shared resource.
- Cell Line Resources Infrastructure: Established in partnership with leading international labs (Prof. Monje)
- Liquid Biopsy (blood and CSF): Promoting collaboration with Prof. Uri Tabori (Toronto), and partnering with biotech and diagnostic companies.
- Grant & Data Platforms: Shared resources and data access for all Israeli pediatric oncology researchers are being developed; an initial database is underway.

4. Innovation and Direct Support

- 2025 Grant Cycle: Six outstanding submissions underwent international peer review; two cutting-edge projects were funded and are now underway.
- A transparent, peer-driven grant process is now in place and planned to expand annually.

5. Partnerships, Pharma Israel, and Impact

- Pharma Israel has been engaged as a national partner—advancing new regulatory models, enabling investigator-initiated studies, and acting as a bridge between Israeli academia and global industry.
- Open Day Initiative: In initial planning stages with Pharma Israel. These events and clinical matchmaking efforts will accelerate the translation of discoveries into trials and therapeutic access (planned for 2026).
- International Advisors: Prof. Michelle Monje (Stanford), Prof. Roger Packer, Prof. Sabine Mueller, Prof. Praveen Raju, Prof. Uri Tabori
- Engaged Pharma/Biotech: Novartis, AstraZeneca, Takeda, Medison, MBI, Siemens, Oncotest (Rhenium), YmAbs, and others
- Patient Advocacy: Collaborations with Larger Than Life, Shir for Life, the Israel Cancer Association, Rachashei Lev, and others—ensuring family-centered care remains a priority.





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6. National ARI-PST Congress – Growth and Global Reach

- The first national congress was held in March 2025, establishing working groups and fostering nationwide collaboration.
- The upcoming second ARI-PST Congress, powered by ILANIT and set for Eilat in February 2026, will elevate Israel's role in global pediatric neuro-oncology—attracting international participation and visibility.

7. Consortium with Israel Innovation Authority (IIA)

- A formal application is in advanced stages for multi-year consortium funding (3–5 million NIS).
- This will scale ARI-PST's national biobank, data platforms, digital tools, and industry collaborations—transforming it into a sustainable engine of innovation.
- Initial outreach has begun to potential industry collaborators. Companies that have expressed early interest include:
 - Pre-Cure (organoids and biobank)
 - MeNow (AI-based drug discovery platform)
 - JaxBio (liquid biopsy and diagnostics)
 - Insightec (Focused Ultrasound to open the blood-brain barrier)
 - Oncotest (diagnostics)
 - VIDAC Pharma (targeted therapy development)

Impact

- For the first time, Israeli children with brain tumors and neuroblastoma have real prospects for locally-driven, world-class research and care.
- National collaboration ensures that every center—and every patient—benefits from shared expertise and infrastructure.
- ARI-PST is now recognized as the driving force for research, clinical trials, and translational innovation in Israeli pediatric oncology.





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Looking Ahead (2026–2027)

- Expand the national biobank and digital/AI-powered clinical platforms
- Launch more investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored trials
- Deepen international and industry partnerships
- Continue integrating family advocacy and patient-centered approaches
- Promote regulatory and policy innovation for faster clinical translation

Closing Note

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support—these achievements are a direct result of the Kluger Foundation's vision and generosity.

With appreciation,

Dr. Iris Fried

On behalf of the ARI-PST Initiative

Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem

