

American Brain Tumor Association Announces Coveted Fellowship in Honor of Long Island Native

In gratitude for her children's support and encouragement of research programs, the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) has announced a two-year Research Fellowship in memory of Rose DiGangi, an East Islip resident who passed away last fall from an aggressive malignant brain tumor.

This fellowship is a major accomplishment in the eyes of the DiGangi family, which raised \$67,000 for the ABTA through the inaugural Fire Island 5K and Festival in August of 2007. Rose DiGangi passed away just a few weeks after the event, and her children are currently organizing the second annual Fire Island 5K and Festival, "The Run for Rose," in her memory.

"This fellowship in memory of my mother is a tremendous honor," said Rose's son, John DiGangi. "With the support of family, friends and local businesses for our grassroots fundraiser, we are having a direct impact on the research that may one day find a cure for brain tumors."

The Rose DiGangi/American Brain Tumor Association Fellowship has been awarded to Rahul Jandial, MD, of the Burnham Institute for Medical Research in LaJolla, California. The title of the research project is "Lineage Mapping of a Brain Tumor."

The DiGangi family, led by Rose's five children, hope to surpass last year's amazing fundraising success by broadening the scope of the second annual Fire Island 5K and Festival. The entire day is an opportunity for runners and non-runners alike to enjoy fun, family-friendly activities. Registration for the 5K race, which travels the scenic communities of Ocean Bay Park and Seaview on Fire Island, is almost at its full-capacity of 300 runners. The post-race festivities will include even more raffles and prizes, a DJ, live music and a BBQ at the Fire Island Hotel, just steps away from the beautiful sandy beach.

Anyone interested in attending the festival, donating to the cause, volunteering for or sponsoring the event should visit <http://www.fi5k.com/>. The website will provide all the necessary details. The DiGangi family and friends encourage everyone to "Run for Rose" and others who continue to battle this aggressive disease.

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