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Front cover: Lorraine Fauld's EHE ribbon fingernails as she drives to the Great North 10K run in Newcastle, UK

Welcome

Celebrating 10 years!

We are delighted to issue our latest edition (edition 42) of **The Pledge**, the quarterly newsletter of the global EHE community and the EHE notfor-profit organisations that work so tirelessly to represent them.

We rejoice in sharing stories about the activities of all those involved, especially as we continue to celebrate our tenth year of activities. We hope you will enjoy the many stories included in the following pages. They are all wonderful examples of the group's mantra:

"Alone we are RARE, but TOGETHER we are STRONG!!".

Just Live!

An Tust live

Highlights

The EHE Foundation celebrates 5K success

The EHE Foundations Fun Run and Walk was another huge success, raising more than \$90,000 for EHE research.

EHE Advocates collaborate on research

EHE foundations in Italy,
Australia, USA and UK have
come together in different
combinations to support and
jointly fund EHE research,
achieving more as a group
than they could individually.

Italian EHE patients share their stories

As part of its EHE awareness campaign, EHE Italia Non Solo Laura were pleased to post news of inspiring EHE patients stories, both in the press and within its own social media.

Huge support for EHE events in Canada and the UK

Michelle Hughes' was thrilled to report huge turnout for her 2025 Just Live Fun Run, raising more than \$108,000, while the UK's '10 for 10' campaign enjoyed wonderful support in many forms.

Research progressing and a new grant-cycle launched

EHE research continues to move forward, delivering new and exciting results. But there is far more to do, and the EHE Foundation were pleased to announce the launch of their 2025 Research Grant Cycle.

A daughter's story shared

It is always with sadness that we read stories of lost loved ones, but through these stories there is often inspiration and a feeling of huge gratitude for helping to expand awareness of EHE. We send huge thanks to Taz and Terry for having the strength and compassion to share Kyla's story. She was clearly a very special young lady.

Details on these stories, and much more, can be found in this edition of



And Tust live

Patient Support and Advocacy

The EHE community continues to work to create greater awareness of EHE, improve support for our patient community across the globe, and achieve greater focus on the research we need to defeat this disease. Much of the support is provided through the different EHE social media platforms by patients themselves, while advocacy activities are also undertaken by the EHE Group entities in their respective regions. The following pages contain stories of just some of the activities that took place between July and September.

Solidarity with all sarcomas

The EHE Foundation posted news of a colourful campaign during July, Sarcoma Awareness Month. The 'Wear Yellow Wednesday' campaign asked everybody to wear yellow to show solidarity with all sarcoma patients. Here is the campaign poster and just two of the photos of people taking up the challenge.

Here at the Pledge, we want to say well done to those who wore yellow. The Pledge also wants to show solidarity with all sarcoma patients, which is why our front cover for this edition is indeed yellow!



In addition to 'Wear Yellow Wednesday', The EHE Foundation also supported the 'TAG someone who walks with you' campaign, recognising that sarcomas like EHE can be very isolating. For this reason, supporters of a patient, often from family and/or friends, are so important, ensuring that a patient never feels alone.

We love this campaign, recognising those who support patients with such love and compassion. Here at The Pledge, we want to thank them all for the support and care they provide. You are all stars.



Spreading awareness of EHE

A core objective of the EHE Group is to take every opportunity it can to explain what EHE is and so spread awareness of such a rare disease. Every one of these opportunities is so important, so securing broad coverage through either local or national media is hugely valuable. Associazione EHE Italia - Non Solo Laura ODV (EHE Italia) is no different and were therefore thrilled to be able to report on such coverage. as Andrei Ivansecu, President of EHE Italia e explained:



EHE patient, Chiara, shared her story on II Resto del Carlino di Macerata, a precious gesture that has given visibility to our ultrarare disease and to the association that works every day to support those affected.

O1 Patient Support and Advocacy



Speaking publicly about such a little-known condition is an act of courage and generosity: thanks to its story, many people were able to learn a reality that often remains invisible.

Here at The Pledge, we also want to thank Chiara for having the courage to provide her story. Talking openly and honestly about such a personal matter takes huge courage, but it is so important. So, thank you, Chiara for your brilliant support.





Dr. Baechler leads virtual EHE support groups

The third quarter of 2025 saw Dr. Maeve Baechler continue to provide EHE patients with a supportive space where they could connect with one another and share experiences and concerns. This is part of the EHE Foundation's Support Groups program, with Maeve's sessions targeting 'Adults Affected by EHE'.



As an EHE patient herself, life coach, and psychiatry resident, Maeve is perfectly positioned to lead the group and provide a warm and supportive environment for these discussions. Those who have attended these have found Maeve's sessions to be excellent. If you are interested in participating, then details of how to register can be found on the EHE Foundation's website at www.fightehe.org.



Thank you very much, Chiara, for putting your voice at the service of all of us. Your input matters and helps us take a step forward towards greater awareness and inclusion.

10 Years of Progress

Since its founding 10 years ago, the EHE Foundation has been driven by a relentless quest to improve the lives of people affected by EHE. Through innovative research funding, extensive educational programming, and passionate advocacy, they are taking bold steps to give the EHE community what it needs most: HOPE.

And here are just some of its tremendous achievements:



Palliative care discussed

One of the areas we know our patient community are keen to learn more about is that of palliative care. Many people think that palliative care is solely about making a patient's last few days comfortable, but it involves much more than this, including, for example, managing pain and other symptoms.

The EHE Foundation were therefore keen to provide the EHE patient community with exposure to palliative care experts so the field could be more fully explained, and patients could ask questions and discuss issues. Using their EHE 360 Connect+ platform, the EHE Foundation hosted an educational webinar entitled 'Understanding Palliative Care: An Extra Layer of Support in Your Care Journey' with Dr. Elizabeth Loggers, MD, PhD, from The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.



Dr Loggers first discussed the complexity of EHE, then explained what palliative care is and how it can help, using patient stories as examples. The webinar ended with an excellent O&A session.



O1 Patient Support and Advocacy

Those who attended the webinar found it to be highly educational, with Dr. Loggers providing an excellent and informative presentation, as well as answering patients' questions. We would like to join the EHE Foundation in thanking Dr. Loggers for her time and excellent contributions, which will leave people with EHE better informed.

For those who were not able to attend, we are delighted to share a link to the recording:

https://fightehe.org/ehe-360connect/understanding-palliative-care-an-extralayer-of-support-in-your-care-journey/

Self-care and awareness is so important

Jane Biddlecombe is an Australian patient who lives in Darwin and was instrumental, together with others, in setting up The EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia (EHERCFA) in 2015. The EHERCFA is the EHE Group entity that covers the Australasia region. Jane spent many years supporting all elements of the EHERCFA's activities and was also a significant contributor to the EHE Group's worldwide social media communications.



As all our patient members know only too well, however, living with EHE on a daily basis is a significant and constant psychological challenge. Jane was no different and sensibly

decided as part of her self-care programme to take a break from her social media activities. She never lost touch with the EHE global community however, who were happy to see Jane enjoying life to the full, the main objective of the Group's Just Live motto.

But Jane was missed and so The EHE Group were delighted when Jane posted news in the third quarter that, with batteries recharged, she was ready to re-engage:



Hello Australians and my EHE friends worldwide! After a much needed selfimposed social media ban. I realised that I really missed supporting the EHE community which has been an important part of my life for the last 10 years especially interacting with the community via the Australian Facebook page in my role as a volunteer for the EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia. I just wanted to let our new Australian community, and any members wherever you are in the Australasian Pacific region (or even further afield) to join the EHE Rare Cancer Australia Facebook Page; it's an Australia-specific page and we've got some exciting things happening in the next year, and would love to see / meet you all there! Here is the link:

https://www.facebook.com/EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia

Welcome back Jane. We hope that your break has done you a world of good and are so excited to have you back.

Awareness through sharing their story

A very powerful way to raise awareness of EHE is to tell the stories of patients affected by it. This may sound easy, but being open about such a personal, and at times heartbreaking, story requires extraordinary bravery. Taz and Terry had that bravery when they shared the story of their daughter, Kylar, who had passed away after a short battle with EHE, through an NBC 10 special report.

We want to express our deep gratitude to Taz and Terry for sharing both their story and their love for Kylar through this moving report, scenes from which are shown above. We know it will have resulted in greater public awareness of EHE. We are also sure that Kylar will have been looking down on her parents with pride and a smile.













Supporting the EHE Global Patient Registry

For an ultra-rare disease patient community, one of the most valuable things they have is their experience with the disease, along with data and information about their treatment journeys. When this data is captured in a structured system and then interrogated, it provides a treasure trove of information that can help clinicians and researchers identify patterns and treatment outcomes that may lead to a better understanding of the disease itself and generate hypotheses for testing novel and existing treatments.

Documenting each individual's journey with EHE in a research-ready structure was the rationale behind the EHE Global Patient Registry, providing every EHE patient the opportunity to contribute their data and experiences, thereby building a priceless research resource that is a treasure trove of information. It is difficult to overstate the value of every patient's data in this process, as EHE is so rare. That is why the EHE Group entities continue to promote the registry and encourage patients to participate and add their data.

The EHE Foundation hosts and maintains the registry, and we were delighted, therefore, to see their campaign through the third quarter, highlighting different sub-groups of our patient community and asking them to contribute their data if they had not already done so. As always, the EHE Foundation produced some wonderful graphics to support the campaign, which we are delighted to reproduce here.

Here at The Pledge, we also encourage every EHE patient in our global patient community to support the Registry, if you have not already done so. If you have any concerns about contributing your data, please contact your nearest EHE Group entity, as they will be able to help anyone who is unsure. Every patient's data is critical, so the EHE Group will do all it can to assist you.

For support in donating your data, logging in, or joining, contact registry@fightehe.org.



Italian Sarcoma Group meet in July

During July, Sarcoma Awareness Month, the Italian Sarcoma Group organized an online meeting for Patients and Families entitled "Cure Dialogues". This important initiative, open to all sarcoma patients and their families, was coordinated with the support of the Patient Associations that actively collaborate with ISG, including EHE Italia.



In the webinar, the group discussed the following key subject areas:

- Doctor-Patient Relationship
- Psycho-oncological support in the treatment journey
- Narrative Medicine

Caterina Colaci, herself an EHE patient, from EHE Italia explained:



We were delighted to help organise this event with ISG and patient advocates from other sarcomas, giving sarcoma patients a forum where they could listen to clinical experts talk about sarcoma, and importantly ask questions. Participation was free and we think having the opportunity to pose questions to the ISG Experts was hugely positive. This is a totally different engagement to clinical consultations, and we know that our patients found it very useful indeed.

Andrei Ivanescu. President of EHE Italia. was also thankful for the support of ISG:



We could not be more grateful to all the ISG experts who so generously gave their time to participate and contribute to this important webinar. I hope that they all realise how important and powerful their involvement was to the sarcoma patient community.

CURE interview with Dr. Michael Wagner

CURE is the leading omni-channel resource for patients with cancer, survivors, and their caregivers to become empowered advocates in their journeys. In an interview with CURE, Dr. Michael Wagner, medical oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and faculty member at Harvard Medical School, both in Boston. Massachusetts, highlighted the various therapeutic regimens for patients with EHE, as well as a clinical trial he is leading, slated to open at the end of 2025.



O1 Patient Support and Advocacy

Dr Wagner explained:



Because the disease for a patient with epithelioid hemangioendothelioma (EHE), an ultra-rare type of vascular cancer, can vary from person to person, their course of treatment must be just as individualized, ranging from surgery, ablation, systemic chemotherapy, mTOR inhibitors, and beyond.

During the interview, Dr. Wagner answers the following questions:

- What are the available treatment options for a person with EHE?
- How widespread is next-generation sequencing in an EHE diagnosis?
- What clinical trials are available for patients with EHE?

Takeaways from the interview are listed as:

- EHE treatment is highly individualized and may include surgery, ablation, chemotherapy, and systemic therapies, depending on patient-specific factors.
- Next-generation sequencing helps identify genetic mutations, guiding targeted therapy decisions for people with EHE.
- Clinical trials for EHE face funding challenges but are exploring promising therapies such as mTOR inhibitors and TEAD inhibitors.
- A new clinical trial for the mTOR inhibitor Fyarro is anticipated to open by the end of 2025, offering potential new treatment options.

We want to thank CURE for posting this excellent interview, available at this link:

Treating EHE: What Are Your Options? | CURE

EHE Italia adds patient stories

EHE Italia were delighted to report that they had added a completely new space on their social channels and on their website: 'The Stories of EHE Patients and Caregivers'. Andrei Ivanescu explained:



In these pages you will find authentic voices from those who live with EHE sarcoma every day: the moment of diagnosis, the assessment of therapies and treatment, the small daily victories and the humanity that comes from sharing. Through every story, an authentic space of sharing opens, so readers can feel part of a network that welcomes fears, feeds hope, and remembers that no one is alone on this path. Be inspired by someone who turned their challenge into a tale of courage and share these stories to let anyone in need know that a community is ready to welcome them.



Caterina Colaci added:



We are so grateful to those who have bravely shared their stories on our website. We know that these are one of the most powerful ways to spread knowledge of the disease and make the public aware of what living with an EHE diagnosis is like. We hope to add further stories in the future, but here are excerpts from four which we have already published.

I had my life ahead of me. What now?



Never give up, because hope is the last to die. In life you must never give up, because if you do, you're lost. When you receive a diagnosis like that, you have to dry your tears, get up and say: I have to do this.

- Marta

Marta - My Story with EHE



My name is Marta, and my life changed suddenly in January 2017. I was only 24. For a few months, I'd been losing weight and had a dry, unrelenting cough. I was working in a jeans factory, and I thought it was just stress or poorly treated bronchitis. I certainly never imagined what was about to happen.

One day, while I was working, I felt a terrible pain in my chest, as if I was completely short of breath. I pretended nothing was wrong, even when my fever rose that evening and I couldn't even lie down to sleep. I didn't want to worry my family, so I kept quiet. But the next day I went to my doctor. He examined me and immediately realized something was wrong. He sent me to the emergency room immediately.

But there: "Madam, you have a tumor. It's full." My world fell apart. There was no way I could have prepared for those words. I was only 24.

Chiara - My story with EHE



My name is Chiara and I've been living with EHE since I was just a child.

I'd been dancing since I was three years old. My dream was to become a professional ballerina. But one night, during a rehearsal, I fell to the floor due to excruciating pain in my leg. I was paralyzed for hours. That night was the beginning of the end of my dream. They told me I had a mass in my femoral vein. I underwent a very long, experimental surgery, lasting seven hours. They saved my leg with a vein transplant: the first such operation in Italy. That day, they saved my life.

O1 Patient Support and Advocacy

My life changed suddenly, without warning. And for a long time, no one really told me what was wrong with me. I was the one who discovered it one evening, while searching for a T-shirt in my mother's closet. A folder with my name on it fell out on me. I opened it. There were many papers, but one struck me more than the others: 'Rare tumor'....

... After the second surgery, in fact, when I woke up, I asked my mother for a piece of paper and a pencil. I drew a whale wrapped in flowers. I had never drawn before. That drawing was my rebirth. Since then I discovered my talent: art. I began studying hands: I drew tons of them, all different in style and shape. Over time, the psychologist pointed out to me that those were the hands of those who had saved me: doctors, nurses, people who had helped me. The whale's meaning is rebirth, so it was truly a sign that I drew it as soon as I woke up.

This journey has led me to who I am today: a graduate illustrator and cartoonist, and I'm continuing my studies to become an art history teacher. My dream of dance has transformed into another dream, different but deeply mine. Illness made me discover my gift. It became my way of communicating.

And art also led me to love: the person who is now my life partner, and who will one day be my husband. He shares my passion.



On the other side, beyond the diagnosis, there is a wonderful life worth living.

- Chiara

Noemi - My story with EHE

My name is Noemi, and it all started in March 2009. I was 26 years old when, during a simple ultrasound of my right leg for a lump I felt on the inside of my thigh, something abnormal emerged.



The mass was vascularized by the femoral vein. From there, everything began: MRIs, further ultrasounds, and colour Doppler ultrasound. Shortly thereafter, I was admitted to the hospital for a biopsy.

During that hospitalization, a chest X-ray revealed suspicious spots on the lungs. A contrast-enhanced CT scan confirmed metastases in both lungs. The biopsy confirmed the diagnosis: epithelioid haemangioendothelioma.

I still remember the confusion. I didn't understand exactly what I had. The doctors talked about sarcoma, but no one could really explain. They told me they'd treated similar cases before, that there were many treatments... but the words remained vague. I felt alone, disoriented, and full of guestions.



Today I'm here. Despite everything, despite the fears, despite the interrupted treatments, the underestimated pain, the initial loneliness. I'm here and so are so many others like me. And this network, this little big family, is what allows us to move forward, one day at a time.

- Noemi

Lucia - My story with EHE



At first, I wondered if my medical history would be of interest to anyone, because there are no striking details or special solutions I could share to help those still struggling in this chaotic sea that defines our rarity. Then I changed my mind; in reality, we are all important, and each of us can shed light on a particular aspect or simply be part of a statistic.

During the initial chaos following my diagnosis, I met several people who later became, as I like to call them... "adventure friends." Yes, because this disease shouldn't be considered a "misfortune," otherwise you just endure it. It's better to think of it as an experience to be faced, just like so many others in life. It's obviously awful, and you'll have to live with it forever; so, in a certain sense, you have to accept it and get to know it well.



Together we will always orient ourselves towards that ray of sunshine that will make us shine.

- Lucia

Elena and Alessandra - Our story with EHE



My name is Elena, and I'm Alessandra's mother. Our story with EHE began suddenly, at a peaceful moment in our lives, in the fall of 2023.

Alessandra was in Prague for her Erasmus year. She was a medical student, full of enthusiasm. and in excellent health. One night she called us because she was having severe stomach pain. At first, we thought it was just a stomach ache, nothing serious. We recommended medication to relieve the symptoms, but that evening she called us back: she was still in pain. So we told her to go to the emergency room. We managed to convince her to return to Italy for an MRI in Turin, where I work. It was October 23, 2023. The report completely changed the scenario: these weren't harmless growths, but multiple liver metastases. The word "metastatic dissemination" made our world fall apart.



When you receive such a shocking diagnosis, your first reaction is confusion. But facing everything calmly and with determination can make all the difference. You don't have to face everything alone: sharing the burden, supporting one another, and finding points of reference are what truly help you move forward. In times of difficulty, unity is a real strength, capable of giving you relief even in the darkest moments.

- Elena

Simple messages of inspiration

Often, patient support comes in the form of simple, inspiring messages from fellow patients.

Bridgett Koval posted such a message to her fellow patients:



Even the impossible days end in 24 hours. Each day we are given a bucket to fill with all of the things we thought were impossible.... Even on our worst days... fill your bucket with what you can carry and dump it before the day is through. Me...... Scan Day. My fight is not defined by my Cancer. I win each day by living.



Jennifer Mulligan, meanwhile, posted news about Joe, her son and a champion of the EHE Group:



Update. Dr. Meyers called us Friday and the biopsy was clear. He commented how Joe is famous in the EHE community, and we did the right thing. We have been doing scans annually for 6 years post tumor removal, unless anything else looks off. We go back in April! Dr. Denise Adams is behind the scenes per Dr. Meyers. Here is the photo that made us worried about the ear. Joe was diagnosed with EHE 6 years ago at age 9; now age 15. He is extremely aware of the uniqueness of this cancer. We have been monitoring a spot on Joe's ear, and this week we had the biopsy and were waiting for the results.







Joe embodies Just Live, a motto that I hear over and over in this community, and I cannot express now how in the world he does it, or why he does it with such a brave face, when I crumble inside as his mom, but Joe inspires me every day, and I just wanted to share these pictures with you. He is my role model. I love this boy. He is now 15 and taller than me...

Joe is indeed a star!

Anke Bebber-Rzanny wanted to share an idea she has and seek support and participation from the patient community:



Hello everyone, so, I am in the process of composing a song for my band that is about us... The title obviously being "Just live". I plan to organize a small charity festival next year, where the song should be ready. I was thinking about the backing vocal track being names - of you or people you want to have remembered. I imagine this being "spoken word" as kind of a foundation for the main vocals. If you like the idea of becoming part of an art project or want your loved one to be remembered in this way, add your name (just the surname) to this list, and I'll keep you updated on this project.

We love this idea Anke and wish you every success with the project.

Upcoming event

As part of its ongoing excellent EHE 360 Connect+ campaign, the EHE Foundation was delighted to provide details of its forthcoming webinar entitled 'Exploring Histotripsy as a treatment option for EHE'. This is a new treatment modality that EHE patients are very keen to understand, offering a new non-invasive treatment for liver tumours.





Dr. Wang Surgical Oncologist DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE



Dr. Shyn Radiologist **BRIGHAM AND** WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



Dr. Wagner Medical Oncologist DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

FIGHTEHE.ORG

OCTOBER 14, 2025 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET



The EHE Foundation explained:



Join us for an educational discussion on histotripsy, an emerging treatment for liver tumors. A multi-disciplinary team of experts from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital will explain how histotripsy works, who may benefit, and what patients should consider when evaluating this and other treatment options for hepatic EHE. This session, led by Dr. Jiping Wang, Surgical Oncologist, Dr. Paul Shyn, Department of Radiology, and Dr. Michael Wagner, Medical Oncologist, is intended to help people with EHE tumors in the liver, with or without metastatic disease. gain knowledge that supports informed care decisions.

We want to congratulate the EHE Foundation for organizing another excellent event. We look forward to reporting on this webinar in our next edition of The Pledge.

O2 Research

In this section of The Pledge you will find news and articles relating to EHE research and our understanding of the disease. Much of this work is supported and funded by the EHE Group entities thanks to the wonderful support of our global patient community. It is this research that will ultimately help the EHE Group find new ways to treat and manage EHE. We hope you will be inspired by the work taking place. Together with our patient community, the researchers and clinicians are at the heart of everything we do

EHE Foundation Opens the 2025 EHE Research Grants Cycle

Every year, the EHE Research Grants Program, fueled by generous community donations, brings hope to families affected by EHE by funding impactful science. It is one of the most important ways the EHE Foundation drives progress toward better treatments, improved care, and a future where EHE is no longer feared.

In July 2025, the EHE Foundation invited researchers from around the world to submit their most promising ideas—ideas that can lead to real change for patients.

The Foundation is especially interested in research in the following areas:

- EHE biomarker identification and development that can help doctors diagnose EHE earlier, treat it more effectively, and understand it more clearly.
- Identify and advance new treatment options, including medicines that already exist for other conditions.
- Build essential laboratory tools and models that help scientists study EHE cell behavior and treatment effectiveness
- Bring new clinical trial opportunities to people living with EHE.

Researchers begin by sending a short proposal (letter of intent), which is reviewed by the Research Committee and the most promising ideas are invited to submit a full application. The Foundation will select projects that demonstrate the strongest potential to improve the future for people affected by EHE. Final funding decisions are expected later this year.

Your support makes this possible. Every donation helps spark research that brings us closer to answers—and to the treatments our community is waiting for.

Promising research from the Lamar Lab at **Albany Medical College, New York**

Preclinical Evidence Supporting the Therapeutic Potential of Statins in EHE.



In 2022, the EHE Foundation funded the Lamar Lab's project entitled 'Use of Pre-clinical EHE Models to Identify Druggable Pathways to Treat EHE,' with the goal of identifying FDA-approved drugs that can be repurposed to treat EHE. By looking for drugs that are ideally already FDAapproved, positive pre-clinical findings could be more rapidly translated to the clinic because the drug has been proven to be safe for use in people, overcoming a necessary but significant hurdle in new drug development.

Using EHE cell lines generated from the Rubin Lab genetically engineered mouse model, the Lamar lab conducted a drug screen and discovered 17 drugs capable of blocking EHE cell growth and survival. The screen prioritized drugs with fewer potential side effects, focusing on those that target EHE cells without harming normal cells. Of the 17 drug candidates, 5 met this criterion, and remarkably, 4 were statins, a safe and widely used class of drugs prescribed to lower cholesterol and reduce cardiovascular risk.

The lab found that Statins dramatically reduce both the proliferation (growth) and survival of EHE cells, not by lowering cholesterol, but by inhibiting an enzyme required to activate Ras-GTPases, a family of proteins that drive cell growth and survival. These results were independently confirmed in a human EHE cell line, strengthening the lab's findings.

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The lab is currently testing whether statins can suppress the growth of aggressive human EHE tumors in mice (*in vivo*). Since statins are considered safe for long-term use, the lab is also exploring their potential to control or manage indolent EHE, similar to managing a chronic disease.

While data so far is not yet sufficient to warrant the use of Statins in patients, if the ongoing work is successful, it will provide the preclinical data needed to support the initiation of a clinical trial in EHE patients. This body of work could transform a familiar, well-tolerated drug into a new targeted therapy for EHE.

New Study Uncovers Unexpected Role for AMPK in EHE



A project funded by the EHE Foundation, the EHE Rare Cancer Charity (UK), and the EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia, and led by Dr. Ryan Kanai in the Lamar Lab, was recently published in *Cancers*, revealing a surprising new role for AMPK in controlling the growth of EHE cells.

Dr. Kanai set out to find molecular pathways that could block the activity of TAZ-CAMTA1, the fusion protein that drives EHE. Initially, the project proposed to use fibroblasts expressing TAZ-CAMTA1 because there were no EHE cell lines available. Using engineered fibroblast cells, his team found that activating AMP kinase (AMPK), a master regulator of cellular energy,

could suppress TAZ-CAMTA1 activity.

Subsequently, EHE cell lines were developed in Dr. Brian Rubin's lab, allowing the team to test AMPK-activating drugs directly on EHE cells. These drugs slowed EHE cell growth by shutting down the mTOR pathway, providing new evidence to support the use of Sirolimus (an mTOR inhibitor) in EHE. Interestingly, the study also revealed a second, unexpected effect of AMPK activation.

Although in fibroblasts, AMPK suppressed TAZ-CAMTA1 activity, in EHE cells, it actually increased TAZ-CAMTA1 activity, paradoxically slowing the growth of the EHE cells. This surprising result suggests that EHE cells depend on a delicate balance of TAZ-CAMTA1 activity to proliferate and survive: too little activity halts their growth, but too much may also be detrimental to them.

These findings raise the intriguing possibility that the transition from indolent to aggressive EHE may depend on whether EHE cells can adapt to or overcome the harmful effects of excessive TAZ-CAMTA1 activity.

Collectively, this work identifies AMPKactivating drugs as potential therapeutic candidates for EHE. It also provides new insights into the complex role of TAZ-CAMTA1insights that could be leveraged diagnostically to predict disease progression or therapeutically to limit it.

Here at The Pledge, we want to both congratulate and thank Dr. Lamar and the members of his lab for this terrific research and the exciting results being seen. We also want to say "keep going, Team-Lamar, as you and your team are making a difference!"

EHE Advocates collaborate to make greater progress

UK-Australian funding for Professor Harvey

Jonathan Granek of the EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia was delighted to post news of a funding collaboration between The EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia and the EHE Rare Cancer Charity UK. Jonathan explained:



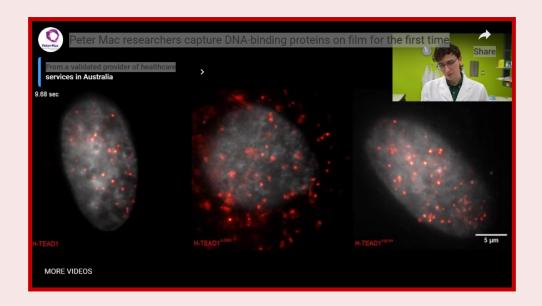
The EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia together with the EHE Rare Cancer Charity UK are thrilled to be supporting some of the excellent work by Prof Kieran Harvey and his Lab for a second year. The continuance grant being co-funded by our two sister EHE organisations will help drive an exciting second year of research into the biophysical behaviour of EHE, related proteins and therapeutics, and build on the significant discoveries and insights of the first year.

Hugh Leonard, Chair of Trustees of the EHERCC was also very excited.:



The EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia together with the EHE Rare Cancer Charity UK are thrilled to be supporting some of the excellent work by Prof Kieran Harvey and his Lab for a second year. The continuance grant being co-funded by our two sister EHE organisations will help drive an exciting second year of research into the biophysical behaviour of EHE, related proteins and therapeutics, and build on the significant discoveries and insights of the first year.

Readers are encouraged to check out the team's latest media release (see link below) to learn more about this cutting-edge research and watch an informative video where a member of the research team explains the research with actual video footage of proteins in cells.



https://www.petermac.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/details/revealingthe-hippo-pathway-s-secrets-in-hope-of-new-cancer-treatments

02 Research

EHE Advocates Join Forces to Fund Multi-National Research Expansion

As partners in EHE research, seeking to find better treatments for people with EHE, the EHE Rare Cancer Charity (UK), the EHE Foundation, and EHE ITALIA Associazione Non Solo Laura ODV were excited to share the expansion of the multi-national collaborative research project "The generation and characterization of patient-derived models of EHE to assess the activity of anticancer agents and identify/validate novel therapeutic targets." With continued progress and clear potential to improve lives, the EHE entities agreed that the project continued to produce exciting results and is likely to unlock answers for EHE, leading to better disease understanding and improved treatments.

The project was initiated in 2022 as a multi-year translational collaboration between the Instituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT) in Milan, Italy; The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) and the Royal Marsden Hospital (RMH), both in London. The project encompasses multiple objectives, including:

- identification of novel prognostic and predictive biomarkers,
- assessment of the natural history of the disease.
- assessment of the activity of systemic therapies utilized for EHE,

- development of EHE disease models using tumor tissue donated by patients under study, and
- assessment of the activity of novel and repurposed drugs in preclinical disease models.

Hugh Leonard, Chair of Trustees, EHERCC (UK), commented on behalf of patients' advocates:



We are incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity to fund some of the most passionate and brilliant doctors and researchers leading the fight against EHE. The collaboration among these institutions and partnership across patient organizations is the model of how we will make progress in rare and ultra-rare cancers.



Andrei Ivanescu (Italy), Denise Robinson (USA) and Hugh Leonard (UK)

A sizable grant for Dr Pobbati from SFA

The EHE Foundation were thrilled to confirm a sizable new grant for Dr Pobbati. Denise Robinson. Executive Director and Director of Research at the EHE Foundation, said:



Congratulations to Ajaybabu Pobbati, PhD, Cleveland Clinic, on receiving a \$70,000 research grant from the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) for his project, "Evaluation of a Cdk9 inhibitor for aggressive epithelioid hemangioendothelioma (EHE). This award expands on the multi-year funding provided by the EHE Foundation, expanding Dr. Pobbati's promising work to uncover new treatment strategies for people living with EHE. We are grateful to the SFA for their partnership in advocacy and commitment to advancing research for ultra-rare sarcomas like EHE and congratulate Dr. Pobbati on this important grant!



You can read the SFA's press release at:

https://www.einpresswire.com/article/84157031 8/sarcoma-foundation-of-america-announces-2025-research-grant-awards.

The Pledge also sends its congratulations to Dr Pobbati and thanks to the SFA

Navigating the Complexities of Drug Development

The EHE Group have not only been collaborating on research funding. They were also thrilled to share a new publication that they contributed to, entitled 'How to foster new treatment development in ultra-rare tumours? Joint EMA-EORTC multistakeholder workshops on ultra-rare sarcomas as a model for rare cancers.'



How to foster new treatment development in ultra-rare tumours? Joint EMA-EORTC multi-stakeholder workshops on ultra-rare sarcomas as a model for rare cancers

Silvia Stacchiotti ° 📯 , Pan Pantziarka ^{b c}, Hugh Leonard ^d, Caroline Voltz °, Laura Abatedaga ^{f g}, Gauthier Bouche ^b, Christelle Bouygues ^f, Judith V.M.G. Bovee ^h, Winette T.A. Van der Graaf ^{i j}, Teresa De Rojas ^k, Lorenzo D'Ambrosio ^l, Martha Donoghue ^m, Harald Enzmann ^e, Gerry Feeney ⁿ, Paolo Foggi ^o, Anna Maria Frezza ^a, Ralf Herold ^e, Robin L. Jones ^P, Bernd Kasper ^q, Kit Roes ^r...Pierre Demolis ^{ak}

Leaders of the EHE Rare Cancer Charity (UK), the EHE Foundation, and EHE ITALIA Associazione Non Solo Laura ODV wanted to offer their sincere thanks to Dr. Silvia Stacchiotti for her vision, tenacity, and leadership throughout these workshops.

Alongside Dr. Stacchiotti, numerous leading clinician-scientists, researchers, advocates, and regulators have dedicated countless hours to collaboratively defining a framework that supports the development of new treatments for patients with ultra-rare sarcomas, serving as a model for rare cancers. During these workshops, EHE was used as an example of the enormous unmet medical needs and unrealistic regulatory challenges facing the development of treatments for rare and ultrarare diseases—challenges that are not typically experienced by common, larger population cancers.

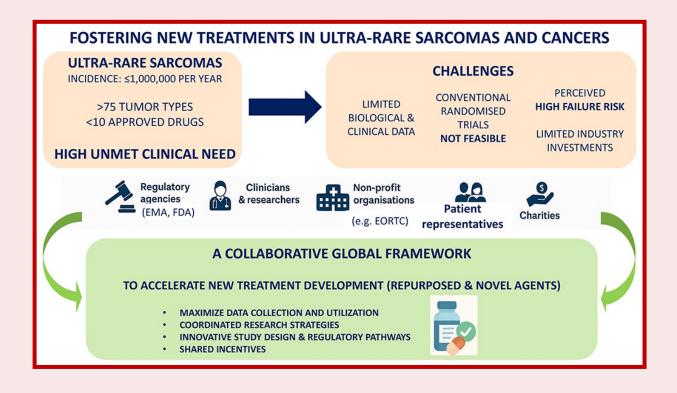
02 Research

Hugh Leonard, Denise Robinson and Andrei Ivanescu all agreed:



This publication marks the beginning of an impressive and enlightening process, demonstrating to us, as advocates, the extraordinary challenges involved in developing a drug for an ultra-rare disease. It will undoubtedly take all of us working together - clinicians, researchers, patients, advocates, regulators, and industry partners - to make a difference. The process is far from easy, but we are making progress. Together, we will continue moving forward with the shared goal of improving the lives of people with EHE and other rare tumors.

As advocates, the EHE Group look forward to continued dialogue with regulators while working with clinician-scientists and industry to bring new and repurposed treatments to EHE patients.



Biobanking is critical

In the Patient Support and Advocacy section of this edition of The Pledge, we reported on the importance of EHE patients sharing their data by joining the Global EHE Patient Registry. Equally important resources that patients can support are the EHE Biobanks that have been established by the EHE Group foundations in the US and UK.

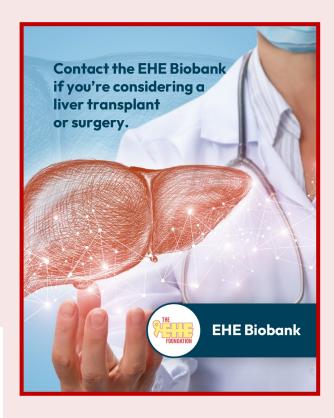
The EHE Foundation posted messages explaining the importance of tissue and fluid donations to research progress in EHE.

Seth Haddix, PhD, EHE Biobank Coordinator for the EHE Foundation, explained why working together to bank biospecimens is so important:



When patients are thinking about surgery, a new biopsy, or other procedure, their minds are filled with decisions and worry. Tissue donation isn't usually top of mind, and for more common cancers, it is not something we think about as a priority. For an ultra-rare cancer like EHE, every single EHE surgery or procedure is an opportunity to advance science and ultimately improve lives. When only 1 in a million people have the disease, and only a fraction of those people have a procedure that could provide EHE cells to study, it takes everyone working together to make progress.

At The Pledge, we want to thank the EHE Foundation for reminding us all of the importance of biobanking. If surgery is being considered or planned as part of your treatment, please contact your nearest EHE biobank to coordinate collection.





For biobank information:

In the U.S. contact biobank@fightehe.org

In the UK contact either the EHE Rare Cancer Charity (hleonard@ehercc.co.uk) or the EHE Tissue Manager at the Royal Marsden Hospital (rmh-tr.ehebiobank@nhs.net).

In Australia contact the EHE Rare Cancer Foundation Australia (info@ehefoundation.com.au)

And Lust live

Clinical trial update

The EHE Foundation provided an important update relating to the clinical trial of VT3989, a novel TEAD inhibitor from Vivace Therapeutics.



For patients with metastatic or advanced EHE who are considering treatment, the Phase I/2 clinical trial of VT3989, a novel TEAD inhibitor, is enrolling in the following locations:

- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center -New York, NY
- UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center - San Francisco, CA
- Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, MA
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Boston, MA
- MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston. TX
- Peter MacCullum Cancer Center -Melbourne. Australia

This is an early-stage trial that will evaluate the safety and assess preliminary antitumor activity of an investigational medication. To be connected with a study center, contact research@fightehe.org or speak with your treating physician. Details of the trial can be found on The EHE Foundation's website or using the following link:

https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCTO4665206?s pons=Vivace%20Therapeutics,%20Inc&aggFilte rs=funderType:industry.phase:1&rank=1

More variants to note...

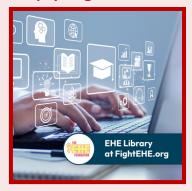
The EHE community has seen extraordinary progress with regard to the knowledge and understanding of the disease, and its management and treatment, over the last ten years. But that same community also understands how much more work and research is in front of us if we are to defeat this ultra-rare sarcoma. They were not therefore surprised when Jonathan Granek posted news of a new scientific paper identifying a new fusion that appears to also result in EHE.

The paper, 'An epithelioid hemangioendothelioma with a novel RREB1::TFE3 gene fusion' was published by Thomas Schmacher et al in Springer Nature, and described an RREB1::TFE3 gene fusion, which, to the authors' knowledge, has not previously been described.

Thank you Jonathan for posting this news. If any readers are interested in reading this paper, it can be found at:

An epithelioid hemangioendothelioma with a novel RREB1::TFE3 gene fusion

EHE Library Spotlight



The EHE Library (link below) is a resource made possible by the EHE Foundation through generous donations. Visit this extensive collection of more than 225 published research papers and case reports about EHE. Bonus - it's searchable by title and keyword.

Visit: www.FightEHE.org/ehe-library

03 Fundraising

One of the most critical objectives of the EHE Group, and for ultra-rare diseases in general, is fundraising. Without it, other activities such as advocacy and research would not be possible. So once again we want to say a huge thank you for every single one of the amazing donations that the EHE Group receives from the the extraordinary effort, organisation and generosity of so many people. The following pages contain highlights of some of the fundraising undertaken by our EHE patient community and their supporters. We hope you enjoy them, and if you should want to organise a fundraiser then please contact your local EHE foundation who will be thrilled to assist you.

03 Fundraising

EHERCC 10 for 10 events continued

2025 is the tenth anniversary of the EHE entities in the UK, the USA and Australia. In the UK, over 100 EHERCC supporters signed up to different 10k runs around the country, collectively running 1,000,000m to raise funds for EHE research, a 1 in a million sarcoma.

The third quarter saw the Great North Run half marathon and 10k events in Newcastle and the Saucony 10k in London take place. The EHERCC had great support in all these events. Here are just a few photos.

The Saucony 10k saw a huge group running from Ginger's Fitness from south London, and lots of other individuals and small groups also participating, as Hugh Leonard explained:



The next of the runs in our '10 for 10' celebrations this year in the UK is the Saucony 10k in Central London. We have over 50 runners taking part, all raising funds for EHE research and in support of EHE patients everywhere. We could not be more grateful. Here is the GINGER'S FITNESS group from south London on their way in, and group photos taken prior to the start. Love all these guys. Just Live and Just Run!



And here are the Gingers Fitness team spreading awareness of EHE before the start.





But it was not only Ginger's Fitness running. Here are some of our other wonderful supporters running for EHE research::









The Great North Run saw Lorraine Faulds taking part, with her friend Lynne, running in memory of Lorraine's mother. Lorraine had been training, including perfecting her EHE ribbon nails which can be seen on our front cover. Lorriane said:



The nails are race ready even if the body isn't! All done, great event! Hope you don't get too wet.

Lorraine was also thrilled to meet up with fellow EHE supporter Sam Eeles, who has taken up running as part of his health and fitness programme.





Lynne runs again!

Having run with Lorriane in the Newcastle 10k, Lynne was not finished. She and her son Ben decided to run again for EHE research, as Lorrine explained:



Hi everyone hope you are all well. My friend Lynne (who ran with me in Newcastle) ran the Scottish 10k today in our home town of Musselburgh. She was joined by her 21 year old son Ben, both raising money/awareness for EHE.

Only 7 weeks until I take on the Great Scottish 10k in Glasgow with my two boys and 5 nieces, better get back.



Hugh Leonard from the EHERCC in the UK wanted to thank Lorraine, Lynne and Ben again for their fantastic support:



Supporters like this are why we are able to drive a dynamic research programme. It is their tremendous energy and drive that raises critical research funding. We are so grateful to them for all that they have done.

03 Fundraising

2025 EHE Fun Run and Walk

In the last edition of The Pledge, we were delighted to report on the fantastic turnout from so many people supporting EHE patients they knew, as well as the EHE Foundation, which raised critical funding for EHE research.

Maggie Cameron, Director of Development & Communications for the EHE Foundation, wanted to showcase some of those who had taken part and asked them to share photos of their local events. Maggie said:



We love to see your smiling faces and share your event photos. It is so inspiring to see so many people joining forces to raise funds for EHE research. We could not be more grateful. And 2025 was an exceptional year with over 1,000 supporters raising more than \$90,000 for research. That is just amazing.

Denise Robinson also wanted to express her thanks and shared a video message of deep gratitude to all who had participated. We want to join Maggie and Denise in thanking all who took part and contributed to the funds raised.





Judith keeps climbing for EHE

In our previous editions this year, we included news of Judith Gordon and her 10 for 10 campaign, celebrating EHERCC's 10th anniversary. Judith is not a runner or cyclist, but is a very keen walker, and decided that she would climb 10 different peaks.



I know how important this is but in raising money and awareness ,believe me I'm not super fit, but I'm just bloody determined.

This quarter saw Judith climbing her final four peaks, starting with Ben Lomond. Judith was once again boldly supported by Leo, her trusty 12-year-old dog who only last year had major surgery.



Seventh peak climbed, Ben Lomond, so three more to go. Leo's still with me, brave boy, ACL operation last year and he's nearly 12, he's a trooper!





And then we got news that Judith had finished her climbs:



Leo and I climbed the first three mountains on our own ,had company in between and climbed these last three on our own again .As you can see it was very windy and a storm was coming in later so we were so glad to bump into a couple who helped us navigate in the clouds, apart from disturbing a couple of grouse it was very quiet, so that's me completed ten mountains on, it's certainly been an adventure, and my next scan results come out on Thursday so all happening at once.

Judith was not the only one climbing however, as her soon to be son-in-law had just completed the three peaks challenge (Ben Nevis ,Scafell Pike and Snowdon) in 22hours 22mins, raising funds for EHE, an amazing feat.

Judith finished with a message for 2026:



Thanks for all the support, and with all the research I've done I've found a few other mountains I would like to do so it's inspired me to carry on but not over the winter ,think I'll leave it till next year!

03 Fundraising

2025 Just Live Fun Run another huge success

Michelle Hughes, EHE patient, resident of Prince Edward Island in Canada, and phenomenal advocate for EHE, was delighted to organise and hold her 2025 Just Live Fun Run. This event, held in her local community, has participants from far afield, either traveling to PEI to take part in person, or joining her Fun Run virtually. News of the upcoming event was shared on the EHE Patient Support Facebook page:



We are gearing up for our Just Live Fun Run this August 24th here in PEI, Canada. Last year we had thousands come together to raise \$108,000 thanks to Sarcoma Foundation of Canada matching each donation.

Planning for this huge event continued and on 20th August, Michelle announced that registration was closed as all places had been filled. Michelle also took a moment to model photos of the 2025 running vests, as shown below!











Then on 24th August, all the planning and all the preparation was done. It was time to run, and what a turn out:



Today, Cornwall's Michelle Hughes, the founder of the Just Live Fun Run, and her team put together another first class event. She inspires people by telling her story about living with EHE Sarcoma cancer and blogs her story on Instagram, FB, podcast and website: My Journey to Just Live, which now has over 100,000 followers. We cannot thank everybody who took part enough for their contributions, and of course everybody who donated to the cause. Thank you

Michelle was also thrilled to have Minister for Health, Mark McLane; Minister of Tourism. Sport and Culture, Zack Bell; Councillor Cory Stevenson; and Mayor Minerva McCourt handing out medals as runners crossed the finish line.

The Pledge also wants to thank everybody who took part and helped make the 2025 Just Live Fun Run such a wonderful and inspiring event. And of course, we want to thank Michelle for continuing to advocate and spread awareness of EHE with such enthusiasm, joy and compassion. You are indeed Just Live personified!









03 Fundraising

3rd Annual Big Steve Day

The Steve Walsh Jr. EHE Foundation was set up to honor the life of Steve Walsh, who at 35 lost his courageous fight with EHE. This year, they held their third annual 'Big Steve Day' to celebrate Steve's memory and raise awareness of EHE. Jessica James, Steve's sister, explained:



We started as a GoFundMe to help relieve some medical expenses as my brother fought this terrible disease. We lost him within 10 months, so following his wishes we donated all of the funds raised after medical expenses to The EHE Foundation. We continued to hold our flagship fundraising event, last year we became an official foundation, and together we have donated roughly \$20,000 to the EHE Foundation.

Jessica wanted to share news about the 2025 Big Steve Day, which was another huge success:



One of the greatest things about life is the people we meet as we pass through. We truly feel like Steve left us with the best of the best. This group, for three years now have gotten together in Steve's memory not only to raise money for EHE- an ultra-rare sarcoma cancer, but they raise awareness, and together we keep Steve's memory alive. BIG STEVE DAY keeps Steve's memory alive. A day of golf, fun, games, laughing, singing, dancing, and a few Miller Lites.

Jessica also wanted to say thank you to many of the people who had made the day such a success:



This day could not go off every year without our own Holy Trinity here at the SW Foundation and that's Rich Lewandowski (and all of Breaker Press), Dan Reilly, and Luke Mullaney. Steve would be so damn proud of you men. We also want to say thank you to all our hole sponsors, raffle donors, volunteers, and of course The Band with No Name. Thank you to every single one of you for sticking with us. Every year this thing gets bigger and better and it is 100% because of this group of people. We love you all!

that Big Steve Day had raised an amazing \$5.000 for The EHE Foundation.





The Pledge wants to say a huge thanks to all involved in making the 3rd Annual Big Steve Day such a success.

EHE Foundation Circle of Friends

The EHE Foundation's Circle of Friends initiative was launched to encourage and promote regular giving. Sustained giving, often on a monthly or yearly basis, is so valuable to small foundations, providing a steady and reliable income stream.

Jenni Kovach, President of the EHE Foundation, said:



We want to honor and thank these supporters who have joined the EHE Circle of Friends, the Foundation's recurring giving program. They are steadfast partners in our mission, fuelling hope, accelerating research, and empowering those affected by EHE.

The EHE Foundation would, of course, love to welcome more people to its Circle of Friends program. Jenni Kovach continued:



Every person diagnosed with EHE deserves hope for a brighter tomorrow. Regular monthly gifts, no matter the amount, provide a steady foundation for scientific progress and better outcomes. It's simple to join, and your impact is profound. Will you become a beacon of hope in the EHE Circle of Friends?





O4 And in other news...

The motto of our global patient community is "Just Live" because patients are determined not to let their EHE define who they are or what they can do. Here are some photos from the EHE patient community sharing stories not all about EHE, and indeed, Just Living.

We thank them for sharing these with us.

Stephanie Kennedy is regular contributor to the EHE Patient Support Facebook page, and this quarter she posted this lovely selfie with a simple message of hope:



Still standing and thriving with 4th stage cancer all over my body. God is why I am still here.

Keep thriving, Stephanie. You are looking fantastic.



A special graduation!

Fiona Louise shared life-related good news:



When I was diagnosed with EHE my youngest was only 10 years old and this was a milestone I was desperate to see, and I did. Now I want to see their university convocation too. So here is Kyla, Kid #3, the last Mayfield/ RAP grad from this family. (Mayfield is the high school, RAP is a regional arts focused program). Ontario Scholar. Honour Roll. Music Letter. 93% average.

So incredibly proud of how they matured and grew over the course of these 4 years. It was not an easy journey to be honest, but we got there. This young person is the kindest and most compassionate of people and I love them with all my heart. They are heading to Laurier University to study contemporary voice and go into their music therapy program.

We know how important these milestones are! Congratulations to Kyla. You should all be very proud.



04 And in other news...

Pets are the best!

We hear from many of our patients how important pets are in terms of their mental health, providing a permanent pool of love and a source of powerful, consistent therapy. We could not help but notice that in the EHE Italia patient stories shared in the Patient Support section of this edition, there were further examples of animal love and support. We wanted to be able to give their gorgeous pets names and so reached out to those patients for help. Here they are...









The EHE Foundation (USA)

www.fightehe.org

The EHE Rare Cancer Charity (UK)

www.ehercc.org.uk

The EHE Rare Cancer Foundation (Australia)

www.ehefoundation.com.au

EHE Italia-Associazione Non Solo Laura ODV

www.ehe-italia.it

EHE Canada

website not yet available

And tust live