

Two Paths to Advancing Research

Traditional Research Grant	Endowed Research Chair
Solicit grant applications	Build permanent endowment
Recruit scientific reviewers	Partner with leading research institution
Conduct peer review	Recruit outstanding physician-scientist
Select one or more projects	Establish long-term research leadership
Award grant(s)	Build research team and infrastructure
Monitor progress and reporting	Conduct continuous research program
Project duration typically 1–3 years	Research program continues indefinitely
Initial findings often emerge in 1–2 years	Continuous pipeline of studies and discoveries
Publications typically follow in 2–4 years	Ongoing publications over many years
Potential influence on patient care often takes 5–10+ years	Sustained contributions to patient care over decades
Repeat the process each funding cycle	Attract additional NIH, industry, and philanthropic funding
Impact tied to individual projects	Impact grows as the research program matures

Both Models Have Merit

MVI's strategy is **not** based on the belief that project grants are ineffective. Many outstanding organizations—including the National Brain Tumor Society and the American Brain Tumor Association—have advanced brain cancer research through competitive grant programs.

The question for MVI is different:

Where can a volunteer-led organization with limited administrative resources create the greatest long-term impact?

Administering a High-Quality Grant Program

A credible research grant program involves much more than writing a check. It typically requires:

- Developing a research funding strategy and priorities.
- Soliciting qualified applications.
- Recruiting independent scientific experts to conduct peer review.

- Managing conflicts of interest.
- Selecting projects based on scientific merit and potential impact.
- Negotiating grant agreements.
- Monitoring progress throughout the grant period.
- Reviewing interim and final reports.
- Evaluating publications and outcomes.
- Determining whether future funding should be awarded.

Large research foundations often employ scientific advisory boards, program officers, and administrative staff to manage these responsibilities.

For MVI, building and maintaining this infrastructure would require substantial volunteer time, specialized expertise, and ongoing administrative support.

Why the Endowed Chair Fits MVI

Instead of recreating a research funding organization, MVI has chosen to partner with an established academic medical center that already possesses the scientific expertise, governance, laboratory infrastructure, compliance processes, and clinical research environment needed to conduct world-class brain cancer research.

Our role is different.

We help create the conditions that allow outstanding researchers to succeed over the long term.

That strategy allows MVI to remain focused on what we do best:

- Inspiring our community.
- Raising philanthropic support.
- Building strategic partnerships.
- Advocating for brain cancer research.
- Creating a lasting legacy in Melissa's name.

Looking Forward

Completing the endowed chair does not preclude MVI from funding targeted research projects in the future. As the organization grows, the Board may decide to add initiatives such as pilot grants, young investigator awards, or collaborative research opportunities.

Those programs would complement—not replace—the permanent research platform created by the Melissa Vosburg Endowed Chair.

Our Guiding Principle

We are not simply funding today's research. We are helping build tomorrow's research capability.

Our vision is to leave behind something enduring: a permanent source of leadership, innovation, and hope for families affected by brain cancer.