

## UCSD Press Release - October 2007

### **The Sean Lewis Robins Endowed Research Fund for Pediatric Sarcoma**

When their son, Sean, died last November at the age of 22 after a long battle with Ewing's sarcoma, Amy and Mitch Robins made a decision to make a difference for children that would be fighting the battle against cancer in the future. Sean had been diagnosed with Ewing's, a rare pediatric cancer of the bone, at the age of 16 and battled the disease with courage for almost seven years. During those years, Amy and Mitch looked for information on the latest research available and discovered that there was very little. What they learned was that a very small amount of money is allocated to pediatric cancer research and even less to rare forms such as Ewing's.

The Robins were committed to ensuring that there would always be monies available for pediatric cancer research. To that end, they established the Sean Lewis Robins Endowed Research Fund for Pediatric Sarcoma at the Moores UCSD Cancer Center with a gift of \$500,000 which will exist in perpetuity. To help jumpstart interest in Ewing sarcoma research, they also donated \$20,000 to set up a pilot grant, to be competitively awarded. Dr. Michael Rosenfeld was awarded the grant in May, for his project that looks at molecular mechanisms of the disease. He hypothesizes that this work will provide additional therapeutic targets for Ewing's sarcoma.

The Robins' goal is to raise a total of \$2 millions so that the Endowed Research Fun can become an Endowed Chair for Pediatric Sarcoma at the Moores Cancer Center. Endowed chairs provide perpetual, annual funding to support the research and programs of exceptional faculty members, and are key to UCSD's ability to recruit and retain the most stella physician-scientists. With the memory of their son, Sean, lending their efforts, they have committed their time and energy to help fund the research of pediatric cancers and provide hope to children of tomorrow.