

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUDC Foundation Awards \$508,668 Boost Grant to Robert’s Program on Sudden Unexpected Death in Pediatrics (SUDP), Boston Children’s Hospital to Support Neuropathological Assessment in Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood

Five-Year Award Supports Critical Research from 2026–2030

[Roseland, NJ, February 10, 2026] The SUDC Foundation announced the award of a \$508,668 Boost Grant to support *Supporting Neuropathological Assessment in Robert’s Program*, a five-year initiative from 2026 through 2030. This funding will strengthen and sustain essential neuropathological expertise within the Robert’s Program on Sudden Unexpected Death in Pediatrics, Boston Children’s Hospital one of the leading programs conducting multidisciplinary medical assessments of children whose deaths are attributed to Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC).

The project is led by [Dr. Richard Goldstein](#), Principal Investigator, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Director of the Robert’s Program and with [Dr. Sanda Alexandrescu, MD, PhD](#), Co-Principal Investigator and pediatric neuropathologist, whose expertise is central to the program’s comprehensive neuropathological assessments.

Robert’s Program is widely recognized for its rigorous case reviews and contributions to cohort-based research in pediatric sudden death. As demand for evaluations continues to grow and expectations for longitudinal research increase, specialized assessment by an experienced pediatric neuropathologist is a critical component of this work, and sustained access to this expertise is essential to advancing the field.

“This investment reflects The SUDC Foundation’s commitment to advancing research that is both scientifically rigorous and deeply responsive to the needs of families,” said Tina Yun Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the SUDC Foundation. “By supporting sustained neuropathological expertise within Robert’s Program, we are also ensuring families access trauma-informed clinical support while laying the groundwork for discoveries that may shape prevention efforts in the future.”

Through this Boost Grant, the SUDC Foundation is ensuring a five-year commitment to the highest level of neuropathological capability within the Robert’s Program. This includes sustained support for Dr. Alexandrescu’s leadership in pediatric neuropathology, enabling uniquely detailed neuropathological assessments for every child enrolled in the program. These evaluations include direct examination of both established and exploratory markers of underlying neurological vulnerability. This support will also strengthen the program’s capacity to provide families with a thorough and responsive case review, an urgent need consistently expressed by parents.

“This support from the SUDC Foundation is transformative for the Robert’s Program,” said Dr. Richard Goldstein. “Sustaining dedicated pediatric neuropathological expertise over five years allows us to ensure consistency across evaluations, recognize and support the program’s

longstanding commitment to communicating findings to families with care and timeliness, and strengthen the program’s ability to advance discovery while keeping families at the center of this work.”

In addition, the work supported by this grant will contribute to greater definition and clarity of neuropathological phenotypes present in SUDC and strengthen correlations between observed brain findings and pathogenic or likely pathogenic genetic variants that are highly expressed in the brain. Together, these advances will help build a more precise scientific understanding of the biological mechanisms that may underlie sudden and unexplained death in childhood.

“Comprehensive neuropathological evaluation is a foundational component in our efforts to understand sudden and unexplained deaths in children,” said Dr. Sanda Alexandrescu. “This sustained support enables the application of methodologically robust, in-depth analysis across cases, helping identify meaningful patterns and generate critical insights into neurological vulnerabilities associated with SUDC, while ensuring each evaluation is grounded in the highest scientific standards.”

Looking ahead, the research made possible through this funding will contribute to the validation of neuropathological subsets for future adoption in forensic settings and support expanded investigation into regions of the brain beyond the hippocampus, which may reveal new disease markers and mechanisms. Findings from this work are also expected to inform mechanistic research emerging from the identification of genetic variants associated with neurologically based diseases. Importantly, this grant ensures the continued availability of the Robert’s Program to help families gain answers while researchers explore new hypotheses related to pediatric disease and mortality.

About the SUDC Foundation

The SUDC Foundation is the only nonprofit organization in the world dedicated to raising awareness of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood and funding research to uncover its causes. The Foundation supports families through trauma-informed programs, professional education, advocacy, and strategic research investments, with the goal of propelling the field toward a world without SUDC. For more information, please visit: www.sudc.org.

About the Robert’s Program

Robert’s Program on Sudden Unexpected Death in Pediatrics (SUDP) is one of the premier clinical services offered to families who have lost a child suddenly and unexpectedly, without apparent cause. Their efforts help a family understand the reasons for their child’s death, while supporting them through a very difficult time. Their interdisciplinary team uses the most current medical knowledge and methods to find answers for bereaved families while being leaders in research and discovery.

Their program focuses on sudden unexpected death in pediatrics (SUDP), which encompasses [sudden infant death syndrome \(SIDS\)](#) and [Sudden Unexpected death in Childhood](#)

(SUDC). For more information, please visit: <https://www.childrenshospital.org/services/roberts-program>.

Media Contact:

Tina Lee
Chief Executive Officer
SUDC Foundation
Tina.Lee@sudc.org
(973) 795-1267 (Office)
(408) 206-0760 (Mobile)

###