

# About The Life Raft Group

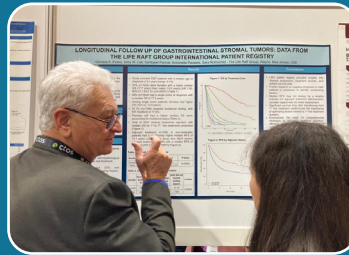


## Our Mission

The Life Raft Group is committed to enhancing the survival and quality of life for people living with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST), and other rare diseases, through patient-powered research, education & empowerment, and global advocacy efforts.

## What is GIST?

Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST), usually found in the gastrointestinal tract, belong to a rare group of cancers called soft-tissue sarcomas. Although GIST is often spoken of in the singular, it is actually a family of cancers that encompasses "adult", SDH/pediatric, and familial (hereditary) forms.



## What We Do

### Patient Support

#### Education & Training Programs

Through our website, educational materials, webinars, and GIST Days of Learning (GDOLs), we empower patients with resources to have meaningful involvement in their own care.

#### GIST Mentor Program

A program to support people with GIST and their loved ones as they navigate through diagnosis, treatment and life with GIST.

#### GIST Chat

In our closed online community, GIST patients and caregivers are free to discuss their concerns and thoughts, and share information privately.

### Research

We advance GIST research through a dual approach, combining traditional lab studies and clinical trials with patient-powered real-world data.

*Our initiatives include:*

#### LRG GIST Patient Registry

With over 2700 records from our global GIST community, our registry tracks patients across institutions, offering centralized record-keeping and personalized support. Our rigorous quality control ensures that this valuable data is an asset for research criteria.

### Patient & Caregiver Support Groups

These virtual & in-person groups meet to encourage and support each other through their cancer journey.

#### Advocacy

From facilitating access to treatment to affecting change in legislation and treatment guidelines, the LRG has a global footprint.

**Learn More:**  
[lifteraftgroup.org](https://lifteraftgroup.org)



**email:** [lifteraft@lifteraftgroup.org](mailto:lifteraft@lifteraftgroup.org)

### GIST Collaborative Tissue Bank

This bank holds 800+ tissue samples that are tied to clinical data facilitating the understanding and the acceleration of GIST research.

### Virtual Tumor Boards

These case reviews aid physicians worldwide in treating challenging cases.

### Global Surveillance Team

A network of global physicians and researchers who collaborate regularly on topics related to patient survival.