

About The Life Raft Group

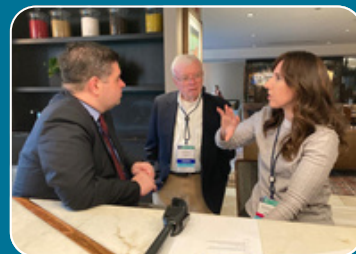
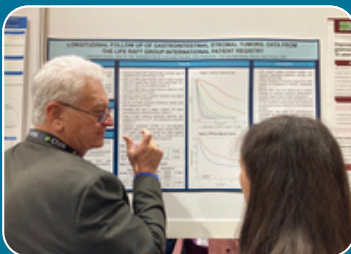


Our Mission

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, pediatric, and familial (hereditary) forms.



What We Do

Patient Support

Education & Training Programs

On our website, we share resources that include educational materials, virtual seminars, and events like GIST Days of Learning (GDOLs), so that patients can take an active and meaningful role in their own GIST education.

Patient & Caregiver Support Groups

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

GIST Mentor Program

A program in which patients and caregivers offer support to others living with the disease and their loved ones, accompanying them through diagnosis, treatment, and everyday 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.

Personal Patient Coordinator

Provides personalized support, helps organize and understand your medical information, facilitates access to specialists, clinical trials, and key resources ensuring every patient feels supported and empowered.

Advocacy

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

Learn More:
liferaftgroup.org

email: liferaft@liferaftgroup.org



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 2800 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, guaranteeing that the patient voice is present at every stage of the process.

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

In this forum, specialists from around the world review complex clinical cases in order to provide an action plan for each patient.

Global Surveillance Team

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