



Welcome to the Third International Chordoma Research Workshop!

It has been nearly three years since we last gathered to exchange the latest discoveries and ideas about chordoma. Since then, the field of chordoma research has grown dramatically - by my count, to over 170 researchers – and has seen unprecedented progress.

From a purely scientific perspective, the field has produced remarkable insights into fundamental mechanisms of oncogenesis. Who would have guessed that studying chordoma would reveal the first example of a germ-line copy number variation conferring susceptibility to cancer, or that it would aid in the discovery that chromosomes can shatter and be reassembled in such a way as to cause cancer? From the standpoint of improving the treatment of chordoma, the progress has been equally exciting, as rationale for the use of targeted therapies has grown and physicians have pushed the envelope with new approaches to surgery and radiation therapy.

Without a doubt, momentum is building, and this is an exciting and opportune time to be studying chordoma. Yet, despite all the recent advances, better treatments are still urgently needed, and innumerable questions about this puzzling disease beg to be answered. Therefore, it is my hope that at this conference you will gain new information, come up with new ideas, and connect with new colleagues that will aid in your own research, and ultimately lead to further advances in the understanding and treatment of chordoma.

It bodes well for the future of chordoma research that you and nearly a hundred colleagues are taking part in this workshop. Your dedication to chordoma research is a reason to hope for patients whose lives depend on the development of effective treatments. So, on behalf of the Chordoma Foundation, the workshop Organizing Committee, and everyone affected by chordoma, I thank you for being here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Josh Sommer
Executive Director
Chordoma Foundation