



## Meet Dr. Kim Nichols

*Pediatric Oncologist, St. Jude, Memphis, TN • Director, Cancer Predisposition Division*

### Why did you choose pediatric oncology as your profession?

*My father, who I loved dearly, passed away from cancer when I was 13. I knew at that time that I needed to work in the area of oncology. I chose pediatrics because I really like working with children – they are so resilient and fun. My mother was a strong but stubborn individual and I thought it would be hard to work with adults who don't always listen to what you recommend as a doctor!*

### What is your favorite part of your job?

*That is a difficult question because I like many different parts of my work. I work in the hospital seeing patients, plus I work in the laboratory doing basic science research. Each brings its own kind of satisfaction and happiness. For example, when I am working in the hospital with patients, it brings me a great sense of meaning to be helping children and their families—whether it is explaining an illness or the treatment that is needed to treat it. When I am in the lab, I love the excitement of a new research finding and trying to figure out what it means.*



### How did you get involved with genetics?

*When I was a pediatric hematology oncology trainee, I worked in a cancer genetics laboratory. This was a very exciting time because the Li-Fraumeni gene had just been discovered. Other hereditary cancer genes were also being identified, like BRCA1 and BRCA2. These discoveries were just so exciting to me – to be able to predict who might be at risk for cancer so you could try to detect it earlier or even prevent it. As a result of these discoveries, cancer genetics became my true passion.*

### Where is your favorite place you've traveled to so far, and where would you like to visit next?

*I recently went to Hawaii and fell in love with it. It was so warm and beautiful and the people were very friendly. We stayed in small bed and breakfasts that were off the beaten path. It was peaceful and the beaches, cliffs and nature so overwhelming. I would go back there in an instant. Another trip on my bucket list is to drive from coast to coast in the United States so I can explore all of the different cities and natural wonders that surround us here at home in America.*

### What do you like to do on your days off for fun?

*There are lots of things that I like to do on my days off – first, I like to sleep in. 😊 I love exploring parts of Memphis that I am less familiar with and trying new restaurants. When the weather is nice, I love to go on long bike rides with my family. I like being outdoors and getting a little exercise all at the same time. Oh yes, I love planning parties and dancing at them. Last year, my son had his bar mitzvah and it was a really fun time for everyone!*

# OLÁ DE SÃO PAULO!

Olivia Naves de Andrade, São Paulo, Brazil



## Where do you live?

I live in São Paulo, Brazil

## What is one way that your LFS diagnosis has made you #LFSstrong?

Knowing about LFS made me value my life more. Everyday is a new opportunity to live. And even though my body is more vulnerable to cancer, I don't feel fragile or vulnerable at all because I'm doing everything I can to protect myself and life has it's own time.

## Can you tell us a little bit about your involvement with the LFSA?

When I saw what doctors are doing for us, I decided that this is the path I'm taking to help our community. I wanted to do something big for LFS and with my love for biology, medicine school was my answer. But studying medicine is very expensive in Brazil, so I'm working hard to be accepted in a public college and accomplish my dream to become an oncologist.

## What is one piece of advice you would give to another teen who has LFS?

My advice for a teen who also has LFS is don't be afraid because you're not alone. You've got doctors by your side, you've got your family and you've got us. We are with you. LFS brought me a new family and I couldn't be more grateful for all the love they brought me.



## Farm. Fun. Fundraiser!

Fundraisers can come in any shape or size, and when it comes to raising money for this year's LFSA Youth Workshop, ours was proof that no concept can be too unique! Enter the 2019 LFSA Cow Pie Contest, hosted by the Westfield Riding Club in Westfield, MA, on June 23rd.

The Cow Pie Contest consisted of letting two cows (named Twisted and Shugar) roam freely within a horse ring marked off with a grid consisting 14' X 14' squares. Depending on the type of ticket someone bought (Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, or Yellow Ribbon) for the square of their choice, that person would win a certain portion of the total proceeds collected from all the squares if one of the cows "placed a cow pie" on their square. The remaining proceeds benefitted the Youth Workshop! Participants also had the opportunity to purchase "First Plop" tickets with their guess of which cow would be the first to plop a cow pie in the ring, and were entered to win a prize basket. The day was then finished with a home-baked pie contest.

It was a wonderful success, and we raised enough funds to sponsor another teen to attend the Youth Workshop! That was one more teen given the opportunity to create new friendships and memories with other teens with LFS, learn more about their condition and the research being done for it, and give them the confidence to take responsibility for their health during their transition into adulthood. In other words, these teens got to experience what many of you experienced at the Youth Workshop in 2017, and we are so

honored to help make this happen. In addition to this, we are thrilled to announce that we have two official sponsors of the LFSA Youth Program: Westfield Riding Club and Hampden County 4-H Clubs, who not only provided their support for the fundraiser, but will be supporting the endeavors of our Youth Program both now and in the future!

Many thanks to our additional supporters, without whom none of this would have been possible: Sarah Bonini from Westfield Riding Club, Maureen Freniere from Prospect Valley Farms, Caitlin Small from Silver Lane Farms, and Tom Waskiewicz from Hampden County 4-H Clubs! A very special thanks goes to Meghan O'Keefe, for her hard work in planning and overseeing the entire fundraiser. And, above all, thank YOU for your generous donations and continual support of our Youth Program. Our hope and desire was to make this year's workshop as life-changing for our new teens as our first workshop was for many of you.

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