



## **A Tribute to Dr. Vincent “Vic” Riccardi**

The Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation (TNFF) is saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Vincent “Vic” Riccardi. Dr. Riccardi transformed the landscape of NF research and support with his vision, collaboration and the power of human partnership in the fight against Neurofibromatosis (NF).

Dr. Vincent Riccardi developed the Baylor NF Program (BNFP), the first of its kind in the world. Dr. Riccardi arrived at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) with the specific mission of establishing an NF program. Despite initial challenges, his unwavering commitment led to the creation of a Friday afternoon clinic specifically for NF patients, entirely free of charge. This marked a significant step forward for the NF community.



The Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation (TNFF) was co-founded by Dr. Riccardi, alongside a dedicated NF family, the Kraft Family, in 1980. The TNFF provided crucial support for the Baylor NF Clinic endeavors, fostering patient engagement and fundraising activities.

Together, the BNFP and TNFF not only served patients, but also raised awareness about NF. Their combined efforts transcended state borders, influencing research and advocacy on a national and global scale. Dr. Riccardi acknowledged the instrumental role of the TNFF in his own achievements, including the publication of his book on NF and the prestigious Von Recklinghausen Award he received from the Children’s Tumor Foundation in 2008.

Dr. Riccardi authored & co-authored many publications and books. His contribution to NF and his research played a significant role in where we are today.

Dr. Riccardi emphasized the importance of human partnership and collaboration in driving progress. His story of the BNFP and TNFF serves as an inspiration for those working to improve the lives of people affected by NF.

The Texas NF Foundation is grateful for everything that Dr. Riccardi has contributed to building the Texas NF Foundation and NF Community. Dr. Riccardi will be greatly missed.