

Recognition • News

Businessman from Southern Brazil Honored as Leader of the Year in the U.S. for His Fight Against Cancer

Fernando Goldsztein founded a nonprofit organization that supports research into treatments for an aggressive brain tumor affecting children.

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ZERO HORA



The presentation took place in Washington.

Credits: The Medulloblastoma Initiative

A businessman from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, has been recognized in the United States for his efforts to develop **new treatments for an aggressive form of cancer**. **Fernando Goldsztein** who heads the nonprofit organization The Medulloblastoma Initiative (MBI), founded in 2021 to fund research into the disease, was honored last Thursday (September 24) with the **Advocacy Leader of the Year award** from the Washington Business Journal, one of the leading business publications in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

The award recognizes leaders working to drive **progress in healthcare**. Although rare, medulloblastoma is the most common type of brain tumor in children.

MBI grew out of Goldsztein's **personal experience**: in 2015, his son Frederico, then nine years old, was diagnosed with the disease. After undergoing conventional treatment, the tumor returned, and doctors said there was nothing more they could do.

“Giving up on my son was not an option. We needed to create a path forward, so I began speaking with many researchers and eventually created this initiative. It started with a personal donation of my own to get the research underway. Then I brought together supporters and donors, and today we have a project that funds research and has even developed new treatments for these children, which are now being tested in the United States,” Goldsztein said in an interview with Rádio Gaúcha.

The work involves **16 institutions** in the United States, Canada, and Germany. In less than three years, two clinical trials supported by the organization were **approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**.

For Goldsztein, the award he received in Washington strengthens the nonprofit's work and brings greater visibility to the cause.