

## How to Reach Us

Meningioma Mommas

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“Softening the shock as we guide you through your brain tumor journey.”

Meningioma Mommas is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is fully tax deductible.

## Praise for *Curveball: When Life Throws You a Brain Tumor*

*“This is a winning book about baseball, babies, and a brain tumor...This book demonstrates the reason that Liz has been given many awards for her courage and optimistic approach to life. Liz Holzemer has done a great service to doctors and patients alike in writing this book. As a journalist, she has been able to capture the agony and joy of living through a brain tumor with sensitivity and humor. Read it to understand how an intelligent, gifted, life-loving woman survives hard medical times.”*—Dr. Peter McLaren Black, Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston; the Franc D. Ingraham Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School; the Chief Neurosurgical Oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute; and Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital, Boston.

*“A fast-paced account of one young woman’s ‘take no prisoners’ effort against her meningioma tumor. Her straightforward account, told with honesty and humor, will inspire readers while her list of “Questions to ask your doctor” will help guide patients and their families in search of information.”*—Dr. Elizabeth B. Claus, M.D., PhD., Associate Professor, Yale University School of Medicine and Associate Neurosurgeon, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

*“Liz Holzemer is a journalist and survivor of brain tumor surgeries who is now giving back to the community. She has written a very readable, down-to-earth, humorous and personal account of her ordeal and has established a support-group website that other patients will find very useful. As the wife of a professional baseball pitcher, the sports analogies she injects throughout the book are quite clever and help to maintain an upbeat tone, which is important to any patient who is facing such a serious diagnosis. The descriptions of the patient experience of a craniotomy are accurate, detailed and sobering. I commend her for this effort and congratulate her for this timely and important contribution.”*—Dr. Eric L. Zager, Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania

*“What a heartfelt book. Something I think everyone should read to have a better handle on what the doctor does not tell you about a brain tumor and the effects on both the patient and their caretakers.”*—John Vukovich, former Major League Player and coach who lost his battle to brain cancer in 2007

**\*\*\*Liz donates a percentage of all proceeds from the sale of *Curveball* to meningioma research.**



**Frightened?  
Overwhelmed!  
Confused?**



***“You have a meningioma.”***

These four words forever changed me when I received a life-altering phone call before the sun had even risen one February morning. I was only 32 at the time and had dreams of becoming a mother. My dreams were put on hold by this devastating diagnosis.

I had a baseball-size meningioma brain tumor and needed surgery immediately. Even after my successful surgery doctors remained skeptical that I'd ever become pregnant. But I did, and today I've been blessed with two healthy, miracle children.

When two of my neighbors were diagnosed with meningiomas shortly after my recovery I knew I had to act.

I founded Meningioma Mommas to soften the shock of what I call the “brain tumor journey.” When you first hear you have a brain tumor, you may fear it is a death sentence, but for me it was a life sentence.

Meningioma Mommas is an innovative 24/7 online non-profit support group for everyone affected by meningioma brain tumors. Our “second family” of “mommas” and “poppas” as we affectionately call each other, spans across the globe as well. We're here for family members and caregivers too.

I assure you that you will not be alone in this often frightening, lonely and empowering journey. Whether you were recently diagnosed or are a long-term survivor, we welcome you.

Liz Holzemer  
Founder, Meningioma Mommas

## Meningioma Facts



- **Meningiomas are a type of brain tumor that develop from the meninges, the membrane that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.**
- **Meningiomas account for 30.1% of all primary brain tumors, making them the most prevalent.**
- **Of those diagnosed, 65% are women**
- **Although the majority are considered ‘benign’ they are not without their deficits**



## Our Mission

Meningioma Mommas is dedicated to providing support and valuable resources, while increasing meningioma awareness. We are committed to funding meningioma specific research and have raised **\$180,000** to date funding The Meningioma Lab at UCSF, Dr. Elizabeth Claus' epidemiology project at Yale and most recently, Dr. Gregory Riggins at Johns Hopkins.

## What others are saying about Meningioma Mommas

*I will never forget the first night that I clicked onto the MM website at 2 a.m. I read a few threads and realized that these brain tumor survivors were expressing the same fear, frustration and depression that I experienced. I no longer feel alone or crazy when fear creeps into my sleep. I simply click onto the MM website and know that no matter what time of night it is, there is someone out there to listen to me. I now realize that “normal is just a cycle on the washing machine.” The Meningioma Mommas (my new friends) walked into my life, when I felt completely alone in the world. I now travel the “journey of a lifetime” with a little help from my friends. **Carol Vittoria, Cape Coral, FL***

*How would you describe Meningioma Mommas in one word? Powerful, friendship, life changing, understanding, refuge, unity, comfort, relief, hope, awesome and family. Whether it's about the different therapies, what to expect, how to handle job situations, insurance issues or just how to cope, there is so much to learn. I cannot think of just one word to describe Meningioma Mommas. To me, it is about “not” walking alone in my meningioma journey. It offers me hope, comfort, support and so much more! **Jeanne Tagawa; Walnut, CA***

*Meningioma Mommas has been a place of comfort and joy ever since I was diagnosed. I am not certain how I would have coped if I had not found this site. **Stuart Gilkison; Madison, WI***

*On behalf of the Brain Science Foundation, I want to express our deepest gratitude for Meningioma Mommas and Poppas continued support of our initiatives, particularly with regard to the work of Dr. Elizabeth Claus. We are very appreciative of your membership's support in a disease that has so profoundly touched so many of our lives. I am personally thankful to be in collaboration with you and Meningioma Mommas membership. **Steven Haley, BSF Founder and meningioma survivor***