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Mark E. Hatley, MD, PhD, is an Associate Member and Director of the Molecular Oncology Division of the Department of Oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dr. Hatley is a graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern's Medical Scientist Training Program. Following the completion of his MD and PhD degrees, Dr. Hatley remained at UTSW completing pediatric residency and then pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship. Dr. Hatley started his own research program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to study how the cell of origin of rhabdomyosarcoma affects pathogenesis. The cell of origin is typically inferred from characteristics of the tumor cell. Dr. Hatley's work illustrated that this can be dangerous assumption. Through genetic fate mapping in a genetically engineered mouse model of rhabdomyosarcoma, Dr. Hatley revealed that rhabdomyosarcoma, a tumor of presumed skeletal muscle origin, can originate from an endothelial progenitor cell. This work identified cell reprogramming or developmental transdifferentiation as a mechanism of transformation in pediatric sarcoma. His laboratory investigates how normal developmental processes are corrupted during transformation and establishes new rhabdomyosarcoma model systems to elucidate novel therapeutic vulnerabilities. He is a member of the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.