

January 24, 2011

Ms. Ellyn Kodroff  
President  
C.U.R.E.D.  
P.O. Box 32  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-0032

Dear Ellyn and C.U.R.E.D. Board members,

We are writing to provide you with an update regarding our research activities supported by recent funding from C.U.R.E.D.

Since our last meeting with you and the C.U.R.E.D. board members, we have continued to expand our research efforts on eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE). The Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine group delivered 8 research presentations at the national gastroenterology meeting in May 2010 (Digestive Disease Week). Our studies included an examination of the responsiveness of gene expression profiles in EoE to dietary and medical therapy that was directly supported by funds donated from C.U.R.E.D. We have had several publications accepted to medical journals in the past 6 months including a study examining mast cell gene activation in EoE in collaboration with our allergy colleagues at Northwestern (publications enclosed). This year, our group has again submitted 8 research abstracts to Digestive Disease Week, which will be held in Chicago the first week in May.

Presently, we are also both participating in a new Consensus Recommendation on the diagnosis and treatment of EoE in children and adults that will be published in the Journal of Clinical Allergy and Immunology this year. We have also been invited as speakers on EoE at the national meeting for the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in March. Moreover, Northwestern has continued to increase strong investigative collaborations with colleagues from Bern University in Switzerland, University of Cincinnati, Mayo Clinic, University of Colorado and Childrens Memorial Hospital. We believe that collaborative research efforts are essential in furthering our understanding about eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders. We have also developed novel methods to improve our ability to diagnose and treat EoE in our patients that we believe will facilitate the continued search for better treatments.

Our efforts would not have been possible without the generous support from C.U.R.E.D. With the past grant, we have hired a research coordinator, Anita Fareeduddin, who has become an integral part of our team. With Anita's help, we have continued to collect an increasing number of samples for gene analysis and developed our research database to allow ongoing studies. We have also used the funding for necessary reagents and supplies that are essential for the gene analysis study.

We are both excited to be able to attend the C.U.R.E.D. fundraiser in May. We would also be delighted to meet with you and the rest of the board members in the near future to personally provide you with more detailed information regarding our exciting projects and ongoing research efforts.

Thank you again for your generous support of our EoE research program at Northwestern!

Sincerely,

Ikuo Hirano, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine

Nirmala Gonsalves, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Medicine