



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

October 14, 2007

Dear Colleen,

Now that the run is completed, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the members of Kate's Team for yet another job well done. I hope all of you are recuperating well and that no serious injuries were sustained.

As you know, cancer remains a very difficult disease to treat, and unfortunately many with the disease cannot be cured using current therapies. For this reason, new innovations are needed to develop novel strategies to treat cancer. Unfortunately, these innovations are costly to develop and investigators like myself depend not just on funding from the government, but also on assistance from philanthropic organizations such as Kate's Team to push innovation from the laboratory to clinical application.

For the last 8 years, in the laboratory we have developed a novel strategy to treat cancer, wherein we use gene therapy techniques to reeducate patient immune cells to recognize and kill their tumor cells. I am happy to announce that this work, supported by your efforts, has recently moved from the pre-clinical laboratory stage to the clinical trial stage as we test this promising approach in patients with leukemia.

The contributions raised by Kate's Team and the Terry Fox Run over the last 5 years have been instrumental in making this current gene therapy trial a reality. For this reason, I am grateful for the opportunity to directly thank all of you for your efforts. I furthermore assure you that these efforts are translating into meaningful and promising clinical studies which I hope will one day soon result in our ability to ultimately cure cancer.

So as some of you wake up tomorrow morning with aching muscles and tender joints, take 2 aspirin, call me in the morning (if you wish), but most importantly remember that your pain will ultimately be a cancer patient's gain.

Please keep up the good work, and once more, thank you,

Renier

Dr. Renier Brentjens
Medical Oncologist
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