April 19, 2015

Dear Kim, Ori, Lisa, Jarrod, Nancy and Owen,

I hope you are all well. I am writing this letter to thank you all and to share with you a paper on molecular studies of rhabdoid brain tumours/ATRTs that our group has just published in the journal Lancet Oncology. It is the largest study published to date on ATRTs – which as you know is a rare disease. This very important work which was made possible by your initial seed funds has allowed a small project to develop into one that promises to have significant impact on the way we will treat the next generation of children with Rhabdoid Brain Tumours. We have moved from many unknowns to having a better idea of how to predict treatment response in children with ATRTs, and are well on our way to designing better treatments.

As some of you are aware, your seed funds allowed us to attract additional funds from public funding agencies that have enabled the scope of studies that includes this first publication which is one of the first to show using molecular tools that Rhabdoid Brain Tumours are made up of at least 2 different genetic sub-types that require different types of therapies. Thus your initial seed money has been very instrumental and has enabled the continuation of work in my lab and that of Dr Rutka to develop disease models and new drugs, and the work of Dr Bouffet to develop new clinical trials for Rhabdoid Brain Tumours. We have only been able to undertake these advances with your encouragement and commitment.

So, on behalf of all our patients, Drs Bouffet and Rutka – thank you very much for your passion and generosity that has enabled us to make long awaited progress in the treatment of Rhabdoid Brain Tumours.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

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