September 02, 2015

Dear Kim, Ori and family,

I am writing this letter to thank you very much for your continued efforts in raising funds to advance research on Rhabdoid Brain Tumours, a highly fatal cancer, to which you lost your dear daughter Tali.

You and your family have been such passionate and dedicated supporters of our efforts at the Labatt’s Brain Tumour Research Centre at SickKids to learn more about these rare tumours, and ultimately to develop better treatments. Through your dedicated efforts we have made monumental steps towards our goals. As I shared with you recently, our research efforts on Rhabdoid Tumours has been advancing at an incredible speed. We now recognize that these tumours are made of more than one type of genetic make-up which means they need different types of therapy. Indeed, through funds raised by you and your family, we have now accelerated efforts to testing potential new drugs for this disease. Thus 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. All this effort within a relatively short time frame would not have been possible without the support of Tali’s fund.

As you know although Rhabdoid tumours are a rare disease, every child diagnosed with this tumour has a high chance of not surviving it. We are hopeful that our recent work, supported by your efforts, will change the way we treat the next generation of children with Rhabdoid Brain Tumours. We are immensely grateful for your efforts that has allowed us to lead these long-awaited advances in treatment of Rhabdoid Brain Tumours. We at SickKids and the global community of doctors who treat children with Rhabdoid Tumours are immensely fortunate and grateful for your continued dedication and passion that has, and will continue to have an impact on children diagnosed with Rhabdoid Tumours across the globe.

With much gratitude on behalf of all our patients

Yours sincerely,

Annie Huang MD PhD FRCP
Oncologist, Pediatric Brain Tumor Program
Division of Hematology Oncology
Senior Scientist, Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Centre
Program in Cell Biology, Hospital for Sick Children
Associate Professor, Dept of Pediatrics, Lab Medicine and Pathobiology
University of Toronto