Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Internal Medicine
Division of Rheumatology

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Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bevers
Energy 4 A Cure Foundation
5760 Legacy Drive, Ste. B3, #314
Plano, Texas 75024

Dear Sharon and Steve,

Congratulations on raising $36,000 via the golf tournament! A lot of labor goes into this type of event and your Energy 4 A Cure Foundation gets it done each year. Thank you!

The major research point I want to make is that there is an ever-increasing interest in TREX1 by scientists worldwide, especially those in biological chemistry and immunology. The protein's major role appears to be to facilitate the breakdown DNA/RNA of both foreign organisms such as viral DNA/RNA (viruses invade cells and get inside during an infection) as well as your own DNA/RNA that you no longer need (debris or waste, in other words). For example, last week a group of investigators came to us to discuss TREX1 and to get reagents in order to start looking at TREX1 in their laboratory where they study what happens to cells when viruses infect them.

We have contacted the Medical Alumni and Development Programs ("Director of Development for Clinical Programs") at Washington University about helping us with the video you requested and they are excited to be involved in what is a somewhat novel approach for them.

I have spoken in New York (Alliance for Lupus Research), Bethesda (National Institutes of Health), Boston (Harvard), Madrid, Spain, and several other venues the past year about TREX1 and its role in systemic lupus erythematosus and RVCL. Rheumatologists, pediatricians, neurologists and many other types of physicians are interested in the diseases associated with the TREX1 gene.

We have recently developed a mouse model to study RVCL. Mice carrying the human RVCL mutation are living and breeding well in our colony at Washington University. We are observing them for evidence of neurologic disease. We are also developing additional strains and performing laboratory tests of kidney and liver function.

A summary of the clinical and pathologic findings in 11 families is finally nearly ready to be submitted to a journal for publication. We have also identified a third St. Louis family with the disease. Physicians from the U.S. can now send DNA samples to our center and have the sample officially analyzed for a mutation in TREX1 gene. We also have available a program that determines and informs an individual over the age of 21 carries the RVCL mutation.

We are extremely grateful to see so much more interest in TREX1. The money you raised goes directly for this research and is currently our major financial support for studies. It is greatly facilitating the studies outlined above.

Sincerely,

John

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