

University of California San Francisco



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San Francisco

Laboratory for Molecular Epidemiology

Division of Cancer Epidemiology Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

June 26, 2006

Dear Friends of Allie,

Thank you again! I am extremely gratified by your continued support of my research projects through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

As you know, I am a researcher at the University of California in San Francisco. Here, we are trying to answer the question: what causes childhood leukemia? We are using a combined approach of the best epidemiology and molecular biology techniques available. Your support means that I will have more time to devote to this project and less time writing grants to keep the laboratory studies afloat. I have devoted my career to the prevention of childhood leukemia and brain cancer. I believe that our studies here at UCSF and with our colleagues at UC Berkeley and other institutions are uniquely innovative in epidemiology today.

My current project, which you are sponsoring, involves dissecting the genetic aberrations that occur in a common type of childhood leukemia, and determining when in the disease process these aberrations occur. Since I wrote to you last year there is one new focus to my research – early detection. We have received additional funding from the Canary Fund for developing assays for early detection of leukemia, to identify children at the time of birth who have a higher risk for subsequent leukemia. By identification of these children early and also knowing what genetic changes have occurred, we will be able to develop prophylaxis such as a leukemia vaccine. Certainly a leukemia screening program must include something to do about it! In addition to this project we continue to explore what causes leukemia so that future generations can live without these causes.

Thank you again for your tremendous efforts and generous contribution that provides myself and my laboratory with funding we need to assist us in this project. I hope the research will have a substantive impact on progress toward prevention and cures of leukemia. I invite your communication in the future and any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph L. Wiemels'.

Joseph L. Wiemels, Ph.D. Associate Professor