



Division of Radiation & Cancer Biology

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December 14, 2016

Dear Sue,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude to you and My Blue Dots for your generous gift in support of my cancer research.

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Stanford University, where my research is focused on developing therapies to increase overall survival rates in women with breast and ovarian cancer. Metastatic disease, or the spread of cancer from one region of the body to another, is the primary cause of cancer related deaths. Therefore, in order to have the greatest impact on patient survival, my research is focused on developing therapies to prevent and treat tumor metastasis.

My research goals are to develop new treatments that target unique features of the tumor environment that allow tumor cells to grow and survive at distant organs. The funding that you have provided allows my research team to work towards these research goals and are critical to the success and growth of our research.

Your gift this year has provided my laboratory the opportunity to start a new area of investigation aimed at understanding how ovarian cancer cells communicate with key cells at the metastatic tissue site to support their growth and survival. We have used your funds to generate exciting new data that has allowed us to receive additional funding from The Mary Kay Foundation and The Marsha Rivkin Foundation. We will then develop therapies to inhibit the key signals that are required for metastatic ovarian cancer growth and survival. The successful completion of our work has the potential to 1) identify new therapeutic targets to treat ovarian cancer and 2) provide novel insights into how ovarian cancer cells communicate with cells in the metastatic tissue environment to promote metastatic growth and survival. The results from this study will also serve as a foundation for my laboratory to apply for major additional funding from the National Institutes of Health to further investigate the mechanisms and therapeutic potential of targeting the metastatic environment for ovarian cancer therapy.

Thank you very much for your generous gift in support of our ovarian cancer research. We are very grateful for your generous support and look forward to the great discoveries that will be made possible through your support.

With kind regards,

Erinn B. Rankin, Ph.D.
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