



WHITTEMORE PETERSON
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE

December 9, 2011

Dear Friends of WPI,

On behalf of all of us at the Whittemore Peterson Institute, I want to wish you a holiday season filled with happiness and much hope. This has been a year of celebration and great challenges for WPI as we opened the Center for Translational Medicine, continued our research investigations into the mysteries of neuro-immune disease (NID) and made a critical change in the scientific leadership of WPI.

Our medical clinic within the Center for Translational Medicine opened its doors August 1st under the experienced leadership of Dr. Robert Fredericks and Dr. Cyrus Pourzan and their capable staff. Together they bring many years of compassionate experience to the field of NID. The Center is the first of its kind to be dedicated to systemic diseases such as ME, Gulf War Illness, fibromyalgia and other similarly presenting illnesses. This year the institute reached one of its most important goals of bringing researchers, doctors, clinical technicians, and the entire administration under one roof, to share their knowledge and passion for helping those who suffer. Welcoming our first patient was a dream come true since we began this journey over five years ago. With every patient we welcome, however, comes the realization of how many more are waiting for help.

We launched our first annual May Awareness campaign on May 1st. The goal of May Awareness is to engage patients, our families and friends to help spread the word about NID and to support the work of the institute. We launched www.anida.co, a website specifically designed to provide the tools necessary to help our supporters accomplish this goal. On Saturday, May 28th we held our first annual walk to support May Awareness. Despite the unusually cold temperatures members of our community showed up to support our efforts. Next year we are planning a one mile walk and 5k run to launch May Awareness 2012.

On August 15th we held our third WPI Symposium with guest speaker Dr. Ian Lipkin from The Center for Infection and Immunity, at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Lipkin spoke to an eager audience of medical students, researchers and patients, anxious to hear about his experience in virus hunting. Dr. Lipkin followed his public talk with a round table discussion for physicians and researchers collaborating with WPI, concerning his upcoming study and the challenges of viral hunting in chronic disease.

Our talented team of researchers, led by Dr. Vincent Lombardi, continues the institute's ground breaking work on major projects including the role of pathogens in this disease and their potential effects of the susceptible human immune system. Retroviral studies continue to be both exciting and challenging. Our work brings with it new knowledge and continues to inspire Dr. Lombardi, Dr. Khaiboullina and the rest of the team as they move the science forward. Our commitment to finding the answers to debilitating

disease is stronger than ever. Your generous support has been critical to funding this research, and to helping WPI bring additional funding by the NIH and other policy makers to NID research.

Our 7th annual I Hope You Dance Gala was held at the Atlantis Hotel Casino and Spa on September 15, 2011. This year we honored our great friends, and tireless supporters, R&R Partners Foundation with the Lifetime Achievement award for their many years of hard work. R&R Partners has been dedicated to helping the institute bring NID out of the shadows by donating their talented staff, financial contributions and priceless advice and expertise. Chris Cairns, was honored as the Outstanding Advocate of 2011 for his endless efforts to bring awareness of, and a voice to, the patients most in need. Chris in turn honored WPI by presenting a donation of \$10,000 he personally raised to support the efforts of WPI.

John Farahi, owner of the Atlantis, graciously announced during the event that all of the evening's proceeds would be donated back to WPI. Our guests danced to country music by Rick Hays and American Steel with a special guest appearance by Nashville recording artist Suzi Oravec. Suzi's story is close to our hearts. Her aunt suffers from Lyme disease and her mother passed away from pancreatic cancer. Suzi donated her talent and WPI supporters raised the money to bring her here. Many people have commented this was our best event yet, and we thank the Atlantis, our sponsors, WPI staff and volunteers for helping to make that happen.

Through online community giving contests sponsored by Vivint and Chase Community Giving, patients around the world helped us become the recipient of significant donations from these two great companies. This effort was spearheaded by our Donor Relations department and our social media volunteer who together helped us reach our goals in these difficult economic times.

Won't you join me in supporting this important work? Your donation will help us see new patients, support critical research, and provide a voice for the millions of people around the world who suffer from these frightening diseases. WPI exists to bring answers, treatments and hope to these patients- but we can only do that through your support.

Sincerely,



Annette Whittemore
President and CEO

P.S. We've enclosed a reply form and envelope to make it easy for you to donate today. Won't you take a moment now to send in your contribution?



ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

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Card number _____

Name on card _____

Expiration _____ Signature _____

WPI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are deductible as provided by law, but since individual circumstances vary, please contact your tax professional about the deductibility of your gift.

Please visit www.wpinstitute.org/help to donate, or mail your donation (with the above information enclosed) to
1664 N. Virginia Street, University of Nevada MS 0552, Reno, NV 89557.