



WHITTEMORE PETERSON  
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE

December 10, 2010

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us at the Whittemore Peterson Institute, I want to wish you a holiday season filled with happiness and hope. While 2010 has been a year of challenges for many, it has also been a year of important developments and a time of hope for all who are suffering from neuro-immune diseases.

In August of this year, the WPI joined with the University of Nevada School of Medicine in celebrating the grand opening of our new home at the Center for Molecular Medicine. Congressional leaders, state legislators, university regents—and perhaps most touchingly, patients from around the country—helped us launch a new beginning for translational medicine and research at the University of Nevada.

Thanks to the continued support of friends like you we are able to create new collaborations with well respected University researchers such as Dr. Sanford Barsky, Chair of the Pathology Department at the University of Nevada. Dr. Barsky recently joined WPI as Director of Cancer Biology. His work will focus on the numerous cancers found in patients who suffer from chronic neuro-immune diseases.

The month of August also brought a group of talented and experienced doctors and scientists to the University campus for our first translational medical research symposium. Our conference resulted in the creation of the WPI Clinical Advisory Board with Dr. Jamie Deckoff-Jones as its first Chair. In addition to returning to the practice of medicine, Dr. Deckoff-Jones is sharing her medical knowledge of neuro-immune disease with many others who are ill.

WPI researchers continue the study of the retrovirus, XMRV in human disease with a major focus on the impact it has on the human immune system. This vital work will help lead the way to novel diagnostic tools as biomarkers of disease and to future medications that can impact the underlying causes of disease.

Our 6th annual I Hope You Dance Gala fundraiser was a great success, honoring Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre and Leslie Parraguirre for their untiring commitment to community service. During the program, individuals from our community who have been helped by the WPI's scientific advances shared their stories of hope and gratitude with all those who attended.

To answer the many pleas for help from around the world, WPI researchers have made a commitment to sharing research knowledge and testing techniques with scientists in such countries as Belgium, Norway, England, Israel, Norway, Sweden and Spain. Patients from all over the world who have been helped by WPI frequently write to express their deepest thanks such as Darlene, who recently wrote:

*I would like to say thank you, although that doesn't begin to cover what I feel, to everyone involved in CFS research. The first thing I thought when I heard about XMRV was "finally the smart, funny, bubbly, pretty girl who used to live in this body can come home soon!" I'm looking forward to that day! Please don't ever stop the work you're doing.*

*- Darlene C.*

The WPI continues to be the focus of hope for so many patients who have longed for the proper diagnosis and care of their conditions. Your support is making this possible!

Despite these recent advances there is still much more work to be done. There are millions of Americans suffering from neuro-immune diseases, such as ME/CFS, a debilitating acquired disease that can leave its sufferers seriously ill, financially devastated, isolated from their former lives and fearing that a better tomorrow will never arrive. Countless others around the world suffer from similar diseases which have few options for effective treatment. The WPI is literally changing the field of neuro-immune science and expanding the network of researchers and clinicians who want to help further this work. Now the critical work of opening a medical practice to serve these patients is underway. But we need your support to continue.

You can join me in this vital and groundbreaking work. Doctors and patients the world over are watching and waiting. Please consider making a gift to WPI today so that together we can make this vision come true for the countless who suffer.

Thank you for thinking of us as we celebrate a truly productive and thrilling year, and prepare for the challenges to come. I wish you and yours peace, health and happiness today, and as we look to the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Annette Whittemore  
Founder and President

P.S. If you have received this letter in your email, please click on the link and email your donation today. For those with a paper copy, we've enclosed a reply form and envelope to make it easy for you to donate through the mail. Won't you take a moment now to send in your contribution?

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