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The Brett Tashman Foundation
1723 Brentwood Avenue
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Dear Brett Tashman friends and family,

Thank you so, so, much for the most generous gift for DSRCT research. The support for the desmoplastic small round cell tumor research by your friends and family is truly remarkable. I know it was a lot of hard work to raise these monies and I know it was done with a ton of love, so thank you very much. Brett will always remain a very special patient in my heart.

As you know, DSRCT is a rare form of disseminated abdominal sarcoma and we are studying new forms of treatment that have been found to significantly extend the life of these patients. Our goal is to find a cure for this disease. To update you on what we have been doing in the laboratory, as a first step we have established a new mouse model of DSRCT, the first model that duplicates the disease seen in humans. A publication on a new treatment for DSRCT in our mouse model will be published shortly in the Journal called Neoplasia. We are also planning to write the manuscript and publish the genetic abnormalities we have identified in a panel of 24 DSRCT patients. This will be the first time anyone has access to this much genetic information on DSRCT.

We have seen and managed over 150 patients with DSRCT, the most in the world. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is the nation's top cancer hospital according to U.S. News & World Report, and has been for 13 of the past 15 years. Since 1944, more than 1 million patients from around the world have sought treatment at MD Anderson and benefited from our standards of care, which have been emulated worldwide. In the 12 years I have been studying DSRCT, the five-year survival rate has surged from 15% to 60%.

I do want to thank you very much for all of your incredible support. Your more than generous donations will help move the research forward even faster. Myself and my team are extremely grateful for your gift. As this is such a rare disease, we are not able to compete for national funding and rely on generous donors such as yourselves.

Thank you again,

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD, FAAP, FACS