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November 1, 2016

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tashman:

I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you, your family and friends for your most generous donations to the research of desmoplastic small round cell tumor (DSRCT) in memory of Brett Tashman. The thousands of dollars in donations are overwhelming. And of course, quite a testimony to the fantastic life he led. I remember your family the first time we met, and during the postoperative recovery period, as being thoughtful, fastidious, very very pleasant and a pleasure to be around. I assure you that these funds will be used to further the knowledge through research in the basic science laboratory of desmoplastic small round cell tumor.

DSRCT, as you know, is a rare disease and as such, funding from national sources is not possible. Donations from your family and friends are critical to allow the research to continue. We have made some very exciting discoveries in the last few months. We have completed development of mouse model of DSRCT. We have also began writing a human protocol for a new drug that might be affective in DSRCT. We have found it to be very effective in the petri dish in the laboratory and hope to duplicate that success in humans.

In addition, we have identified some genes that are actually expressed in prostate cancer, but appear to be important in DSRCT. This is new information that will require quite a bit of time and effort to investigate to identify which are the most important genes to DSRCT tumor growth and which are the ones we can target for novel therapies.

Again, I thank you so much for your generous donations. I will continue to use these monies to fund laboratory supplies and personnel in my laboratory that exclusively focuses on desmoplastic small round cell tumor.

All my best and all my prayers to you, your family and your friends.

Thank you,

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD, FAAP, FACS