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OFFICE OF THE
DEAN, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

10/9/2025

Dear Trustees of The Brett Tashman Foundation,

Thank you so much for the generous gift of $23,500. I recognize the tremendous effort and sacrifice it took from your donors to raise this amount, and I am deeply grateful.

Desmoplastic small round cell tumor continues to be an understudied malignancy. Very few researchers across the country have invested time and energy in understanding how this tumor grows and spreads. Our laboratory has demonstrated through published reports that the tumor is driven partially by testosterone and responds to androgen receptor inhibition. My collaborator Dr. Joe Ludwig continues to work on the translation of what we have found in mouse experiments to human drugs.

A strategy for the management of the dozens to hundreds of malignant tumors inside the abdomen is still needed. The current surgical techniques of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) after removal of 100% of the tumors is an operation I have championed. This usually 12 hour or more surgery, is complex and requires specific technical expertise. Alternatively, we could develop an intra-abdominal, locally released chemotherapy that may supplant the need for hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC).

These funds will be used to initiate our first round of mouse experiments with a new slow-release chemotherapy product for DSRCT, delivered via a mesh implant. Our hope is that this approach will help us avoid the need for HIPEC and/or radiation.

I remain incredibly appreciative of your continued generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hayes Dixon, MD, FACS
Dean, Howard University College of Medicine
Sr. Vice President of Health Affairs

520 W Street, NW, Suite 512 ● Washington, DC 20059
Office: (202) 806-5677 | Fax: (202) 806-7934

Howard.edu