University of Michigan
Health System

C. S. Mott Children's Hospital
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology
Room D1205 Medical Professional Building
1500 E. Medical Center Dr., SPC 5718
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-5718
New Patients (734) 764-5175
Return Visits (734) 936-4185
Fax (734) 615-3353

October 6, 2010

Mrs. Peri Kramer and Mr. Evan Kramer
2944 Remington Oaks
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kramer,

The gift by the D.R.E.A.M. Foundation provided invaluable support for the following research activities:

Dr. Peter Dempsey utilized the monies to support research that investigated the actions of a protein molecule (Betacellulin) with implications for use in islet regeneration protocols. Studies supported by the D.R.E.A.M. Foundation monies also allowed Dr. Dempsey to characterize mouse genetic models to get information that will be particularly useful to investigators using such models for their research in diabetes and pancreatic beta cell physiology.

My laboratory used the monies to support our studies that discovered a novel role for growth hormone in the causation of kidney disease associated with diabetes mellitus. The promise of such findings is they could allow for formulation of new therapeutic approaches to alleviate kidney disease associated with diabetes mellitus. I am enclosing a copy of the manuscript reporting these findings and which acknowledges support from the D.R.E.A.M. Foundation (stated on the bottom portion of the first page of the manuscript).

List of manuscripts reporting work supported by the Foundation:

Conditional gene targeting in mouse pancreatic beta-cells: Analysis of ectopic Cre transgene expression in the brain.
Wicksteed B, Brissova M, Yan W, Opland DM, Plank JL, Reinert RB, Dickson LM, Tamarina NA, Philipson LH, Shostak A, Bernal-Mizrachi E, Elghazi L, Roe MW, Labosky PA, Myers MM Jr, Gannon M, Powers AC, Dempsey PJ.
Diabetes. 2010 Aug 29. [Epub ahead of print]

Sequential and gamma-secretase-dependent processing of the betacellulin precursor generates a palmitoylated intracellular-domain fragment that inhibits cell growth.
Stoeck A, Shang L, Dempsey PJ.
J Cell Sci. 2010 Jul 1;123(Pt 13):2319-31. Epub 2010 Jun 8.

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Growth hormone (GH)-dependent expression of a natural antisense transcript induces zinc finger E-box-binding homeobox 2 (ZEB2) in the glomerular podocyte: a novel action of GH with implications for the pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy.
Kumar PA, Kotlyarevska K, Dejkhmaron P, Reddy GR, Lu C, Bhojani MS, Menon RK.
J Biol Chem. 2010 Oct 8;285(41):31148-56. Epub 2010 Aug 3.

For the coming year we propose to use the funds to extend our investigations in the above mentioned areas of diabetes research. Please accept my personal gratitude and the appreciation of the entire Division of Endocrinology for the continued support of the Foundation. Please let me know if I can provide you with more information or clarifications regarding our research activities.

Sincerely,

Ram K. Menon, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Director, Division of Endocrinology
Department of Pediatrics
University of Michigan Medical School

Cc: Robert Anderson, Director of Development for Children's and Women's Health