



SECTION ON HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

*Comprehensive Cancer Center  
of Wake Forest University*

13 January 2008

Barbara MacKay Vinson  
President  
The MacKay Foundation for Cancer Research  
7 Thimbleberry Square  
Greensboro, NC 27455

Barbara:

I will take this opportunity to thank you and the MacKay Foundation for your most generous support this year. The money will be put to good use pursuing our goals in two main areas.

In the TTP field, we continue to develop new and ever more facile systems for measuring the level of ADAMTS13 in blood. These measurements have proved to be invaluable in making treatment decisions. Our plans are to continue to develop even more rapid and simple assay systems, ones which can be implemented in even the smallest of hospital laboratories. In parallel, we are developing assays for inhibitors of ADAMTS13 function. Once these become routine the treatment of TTP will be able to be based on objective criteria rather than subjective experience.

We have recently expanded our interests to the myeloproliferative disorders, and specifically to the utility of different detection systems for the V617F mutation in the JAK2 gene. Many studies have shown a clear linkage between the V617F mutation and the development of disease. Our research is targeting the question of early detection. Such a screening test might allow the use of specific JAK2 inhibitors to prevent disease emergence.

In both of these areas we continue to involve our Fellows in Training. In so doing we multiply the value of your support by combining education and scholarship with discovery.

I thank you again for your support and indeed for all of your efforts through The MacKay Foundation.

Regards

John Owen MD MBA FRCPC FIBMS FACP  
Professor of Medicine

*Wake Forest University Health Sciences*