

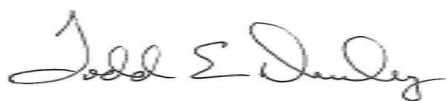
**Research Units**  
Pathobiology Unit  
Patient Oriented Research Unit  
Developmental Biology and Genetics Unit

April 24, 2012

To the family, members and friends of the Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation:

My lab has recently identified two genes, important for energy and chemotherapy metabolism, that show a high rate of mutation in about 15% of children with high-risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) who pass away early in their treatment course due to exceptionally aggressive ALL. With the generous support of the Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation, we have extended our genetic analysis of high-risk ALL to study over 1,750 genes and are beginning a similar study on infant leukemia. Knowing these genetic signatures at the time of a child's diagnosis will eventually enable oncologists to tailor an individual treatment program specific to a child's personal genetics. In the meantime, children with genetic signatures for aggressive disease could be referred for bone marrow transplant sooner to allow for the greatest chance of a cure. Our goal through studies such as this, which has been made possible through the generosity of the Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation, is to save children's lives through a deeper understanding of how leukemia attacks these innocent kids so early in life. We share Eli's wishing to find a cure, and we bELieve our work will help us get one step closer to making that wish a reality.

Sincerely,



Todd E. Druley, M.D., Ph.D.

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