 **Research Units**

Pathobiology Unit

Patient Oriented Research Unit

Developmental Biology and Genetics Unit

April 17, 2013

To the Wilson Family,

I’ve had the distinct privilege to be associated with the Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation for almost three years and am honored to have my laboratory’s research supported through the Foundation. I bELIeve we have a lot more to understand about how children develop cancer. It is simply not adult cancer in small bodies. Children’s cancer is a unique collection of diseases that arise and respond to treatment in very different and individualized ways. My lab is working to apply some of the latest in genetic technology to better understand, not only how these children get these awful diseases, but also how we can better treat them. Our work is starting to identify inherited genetic changes that may predispose to leukemia formation. We are working hard to bring the knowledge and the technology into direct pediatric treatment.

With that said, it is truly inspiring to see families pick up the cause and find new, creative and exciting ways to support pediatric cancer research. As I’m sure you’re aware, the current funding climate for medical research is the worst it has been since the inception of the National Institutes of Health. Fewer and fewer researchers are able to obtain the funding necessary to continue their work. Pediatric research has always lagged behind in terms of funding, so it does my heart good to see the pictures of your hot rods on the Foundation website with the logo proudly displayed on the side. While this may seem a simply act to you, it will undoubtedly continue to bring awareness and support for pediatric cancer research that is so desperately needed. Of course, I wish you all the luck in the world on the racing circuit, and I want to sincerely thank you for your willingness to support the Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation.

With sincere thanks,

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