

December 7, 2015

Ms. Sarah Lifton  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sarah,

This is the time of year when most of us stop to think about the things that really matter—and to appreciate all that truly makes a difference in our lives.

For many, good health (along with family and good friends) tops that list.



To me, “good health” is another way of saying “the immune system.” It’s the immune system that fights infectious diseases on our behalf and helps keep cancer and the conditions associated with chronic inflammation at bay. And even though most people tend to take it for granted unless something goes wrong, **the immune system lies at the heart of virtually every aspect of human health.**

With its unique power and extraordinary complexity, the immune system offers unparalleled opportunities to mitigate a staggering number of diseases. That’s why it is the sole focus of our research here at the La Jolla Institute. Whether our scientists are studying allergies or asthma, autoimmune conditions such as type 1 diabetes and lupus, or inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, heart disease or cancer, to name just a few conditions, we fervently believe that learning the immune system’s inner workings is the best way to ultimately overcome disease.

**I’m writing today to ask you to join us in our life-changing work by making a generous year-end gift to the La Jolla Institute to help support our research in the coming year.**

Your tax-deductible contribution, of any amount, will help provide the resources our world-class scientists need to continue the remarkable momentum of discovery they have set in motion.



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Two years ago, for example, **Richard Hanna**, a researcher in the lab of LJI's Catherine "Lynn" Hedrick, was studying how white blood cells called "patrolling" monocytes might be manipulated to treat atherosclerosis. To his surprise, he saw the monocytes attacking and destroying cancer cells in the blood vessels. The therapy that resulted, recently published in *Science*, has the potential to enter human clinical trials in the next few years and may yield a powerful new treatment to extend the lives of patients with metastatic lung cancer.

LJI professor **Stephen Schoenberger** is using a new personalized approach to head and neck cancer based on identifying an individual patient's tumor-specific mutations. This strategy, which is specific for a given patient's tumor and immune system, can attack existing tumors as well as provide future protection against their recurrence.

**Joel Linden** is striking at cancer's ability to suppress the immune system. Tumors produce immunosuppressive molecules, and one, called adenosine, can actually shut off the immune system. Blocking adenosine's immunosuppressive effect in tumors, Dr. Linden's group found, unleashed such a powerful immune response in mice that they began to see melanomas shrink and in some cases disappear entirely. This approach also enabled T cells to track down and destroy cancer cells anywhere in the mouse, which means the therapy could be invaluable in treating metastatic cancer. Early next year, several companies will begin clinical trials based on blocking adenosine signaling in tumors.

These are just a few examples of the kinds of breakthroughs the La Jolla Institute has fostered. And because we are committed to arming our investigators with the latest and most powerful tools for discovery, moving forward, they will be gathering data at a level that would have been inconceivable even a handful of years ago. That means our scientists can do more and do it faster than ever before, accelerating the pace of innovation.

This holiday season, I hope you'll think about all your loved ones and what our research will mean to each of them. **And then I hope you'll invest in the La Jolla Institute—and in the health of future generations—by making an especially generous gift to advance our work.**

Thank you for your friendship and consideration. Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Kronenberg, Ph.D.

President and Chief Scientific Officer

