

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS



Making Cancer History®

Development Office

T 713-792-3450
Unit 0705
P.O. Box 301439
Houston, Texas 77230-1439

<Date>

<Name>
<Title>
<Company>
<Address>
<City, State Zip>

Dear <Name>:

Physicians and researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital are redefining standards of care with their commitment to discover and refine treatment options that are more effective and less toxic. These achievements are made possible thanks to private support from foundations and community members.

Here at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, we believe our institution's talent and resources uniquely position us to lead the charge in ending pediatric cancer. Children and families from all over the world count on our groundbreaking research and patient-centered model of care. Every child deserves a chance to grow up cancer free — our pediatric cancer experts are committed to making sure that is a reality for these kids.

We respectfully ask you to join us in the fight against childhood cancer by making a gift of \$<AMOUNT> to support <PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR>. As you will see from the enclosed proposal, the discovery and advances led by <PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR> help our pediatric patients to <IMPACT OF PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR>.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me at <NUMBER> or <EMAIL>. Thank you again for your interest in the <PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR's work> and for your thoughtful consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

<Name>
<Title>

<Initials>:eok
Enclosure
cc: <Name>

If you do not want to receive certain fundraising communications from MD Anderson Cancer Center, please visit our website at www.mdanderson.org/FundraisingOptOut or contact us at 855-344-5272.

MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center focuses on delivering world-class patient care through clinical breakthroughs and multidisciplinary approaches. Although we are the leaders in adult oncology care, we also strive to use the power of our research and expertise to transform the lives of our pediatric cancer patients. Caring for the future generation enables us to think towards tomorrow and the breakthroughs that lie ahead.

An estimated 10,270 new cancer cases will be diagnosed among children under 14 years of age in the U.S. in 2017, according to the American Cancer Society. Every year, more than 3,500 pediatric and young adult patients are treated here at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Every day, our doctors, nurses and researchers bring new ideas to life for the benefit of these kids during treatment.

Success on these fronts of care and research are made possible by the guidance and philanthropy of MD Anderson's many supporters. Recent breakthroughs against pediatric brain tumors and sarcomas owe their accomplishment to our supporters' vision and financial backing of our faculty investigators. But we will not stop the fight — we must continue to work harder to discover and refine new options for our pediatric patients. With the arrival of Dr. Richard Gorlick, chair and division head of Pediatrics, the following projects were identified as top institutional priorities. Support would allow us to proceed immediately with this critical work.

Adolescent and Young Adult Program

When oncology care focuses on adult and pediatric patients, the adolescent and young adult (AYA) patients often get left behind, leading to worse clinical outcomes than cancer patients who are younger or older. The reasons for this outcome disparity in AYA patients — defined at MD Anderson as between 15-29 years old — are complicated. AYA patients are less compliant than younger patients who benefit from the supervision of a parent or guardian, and they may lack access to care because they are uninsured. Because of age and developmental changes occurring in their bodies, fewer AYA patients enroll in clinical trials. Concerns regarding survivorship-related needs, such as fertility function, post-treatment cognitive ability and the exploration of vocational options, are often unmet.

MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital plans to develop the first dedicated AYA Program in Texas. The AYA Program will offer a more robust clinical trials portfolio specifically for AYA patients and CLIA-compliant genetic testing, which will help researchers learn of genetic expressions unique to specific types of cancer and develop future therapies. Improved survivorship monitoring will help AYA patients plan for the future with services such as onco-fertility support, which



The Texas Cancer Registry reports approximately 1,700 newly diagnosed AYA cancer patients in the Houston region each year, not including the growing cohort of young adult survivors of childhood cancer who continue to require unique services from our institution.

Psycho-social support is key to better clinical results, especially in AYA cancer patients, where the prevalence of psychological distress is estimated at 41 percent, but may be much higher due to underreporting. MD Anderson's AYA Program will address the needs of this special group of patients.

patients can utilize when faced with a potential lack of fertility after treatment. Staff in the AYA Program can help patients address depression and other factors that negatively impact their academic, professional and social settings during and after treatment. Beyond treating these patients as young adults, they need to feel like young adults. Updated mature-feeling clinical spaces and exam rooms separate from the pediatric “playroom” theme areas can help AYA patients feel more comfortable.

Neuroblastoma Immunotherapy Trials

Neuroblastoma is the most common pediatric solid tumor outside of the central nervous system. Derived from the sympathetic nervous system, the tumor consistently expresses several surface antigens that cause the body to produce an immune response. One of these antigens, GD2, has been successfully targeted with a therapeutic antibody in randomized clinical trials demonstrating significant clinical benefit. For patients with relapsed neuroblastoma, our faculty propose to develop a clinical trial targeting the GD2 antigen with converted T cells — white blood cells that can be activated to help fight cancer. Funding will contribute to the engineering costs of modifying T cells for clinical use, genetic sequencing in patients and research staff salary costs.

Pediatric Education and Creative Arts

MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital prioritizes the educational and creative support of its pediatric patients. To provide meaningful academic instruction to our patients, our accredited school would like to hire a certified early childhood teacher position and a part-time math/science teacher for older students. In addition, it is critical that we give these instructors the right tools, with upgraded modern classroom technology and bedside mobile learning labs for

patients who cannot come to the classroom. Many pediatric patients do not always have the freedom to explore the world around them. Our teachers would like to bring academic content to life through a Virtual Field-Trip Google Expedition Program kit. The VR-driven technology allows students to visit all corners of the globe with a smart phone app and a VR headset. To help creativity flourish, MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital would like to continue our partnership with the Writers in the Schools program, which explores the literacy potential of patients through creative storytelling activities. These resources could benefit our patients immensely, allowing them to grow, learn and build towards their future.

The Impact of Your Support

We hope to instill confidence and optimism in our pediatric patients. We are grateful for continued interest in ensuring discovery and development of new solutions for future generations who will walk through our doors.

As stewards of these funds, MD Anderson faculty members take our care and research responsibilities seriously, striving to innovate on accelerated timelines without ever compromising quality of care. As we work for tomorrow’s children, we also strive to provide the best care possible for the patients of today. We are committed to Making Cancer History®.

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<City, State Zip>

Dear <Name>:

Thank you so much for your inspiring support of <PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR> at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Your gift to this program brings meaningful change for children with cancer — change that can save lives. Advancements in pediatric care are possible because of dedication from people like you.

Cancer shouldn't get in the way of a happy childhood. Your gift will support the important work of our doctors, scientists and support staff <OR SPECIFIC PROGRAM/RESEARCH/DOCTOR> who strive daily to make worry-free and healthy childhood a reality for all children who walk through our doors.

<NAME>, your active and ongoing involvement with MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital reflects a deep-rooted trust in this institution and an earnest care for the welfare of future generations. You have my greatest appreciation for your compassion, generosity and commitment to furthering the fight against childhood cancer. This support is crucial to helping us close in on our goal of Making Cancer History®.

Thank you again for believing in MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, for supporting our efforts and for creating hope for tomorrow by helping our children today.

Sincerely,

<NAME>
<TITLE>

<Initials>:eok

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