



November 9, 2004

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In the past year, the Nancy R. Gelman Foundation has broadened its role in the fight against breast cancer. In the wake of the success of last year's campaign, which both raised over \$2000 for the NRGF Endowment and assisted Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) in raising a total of over \$20,000 for their Cancer Center, my brother Jason and I have spent several months planning the next steps for NRGF, particularly starting to put income from the Endowment to work. We have done extensive research and have met with medical oncologists and breast cancer surgeons across the country and at all levels of training. Now, we are excited to announce two new major initiatives for NRGF.

Our first new initiative is a partnership with the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center (UWCCC) in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition to conducting independent clinical trials and participating in the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and Radiologic Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), UWCCC has strong programs in both basic research and cancer prevention. Much of UWCCC's research is funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Grant applications to NCI undergo a rigorous peer-review process and annual re-evaluations. In order to apply for NCI funding, however, it is often important to have the results of preliminary "pilot studies" in hand, to show that the suggested research has some likelihood of success. Often natural extensions of ongoing work in the same group, these pilot studies are a way for small organizations to make a big difference by opening up fresh and promising new avenues of investigation.

The NRGF-UWCCC partnership will focus on supporting such pilot studies. Dr. H. Ian Robins, a UWCCC oncologist with 28 years' experience, will serve as the administrator of partnership grants at UWCCC. Dr. Robins is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin and is active in national and international cooperative clinical trials groups; his assistance in answering my questions and suggesting treatment alternatives during my mother's last few years were invaluable. We are proud to be working with him and with UWCCC.

Our other major initiative is the launching of a nationwide "seed grants" program. At our website, www.nrgf.org, we have posted a call for proposals for efforts to improve outcomes for women with breast cancer. This language is purposefully broad, because we hope to hear from a wide variety of individuals and organizations across the care-giving spectrum. Types of projects which these "seed grants" might fund could include:

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- A mentored summer fellowship for a medical student to work in a laboratory, gaining experience in basic research on breast cancer mechanisms or therapies.
- Community-based efforts to promote breast cancer awareness and early detection among populations at increased risk.
- Development of information materials to encourage appropriate screening and to help guide newly diagnosed patients, or those whose cancer has recurred, through the challenging maze of treatment options.
- Fledgling research studies, like those we are funding at UWCCC, to pave the way for further advances in breast cancer therapy.
- Quality initiatives in cancer or emergency department nursing units to improve care for patients with breast cancer.
- Hospice projects to improve palliative or end-of-life care for breast cancer patients.

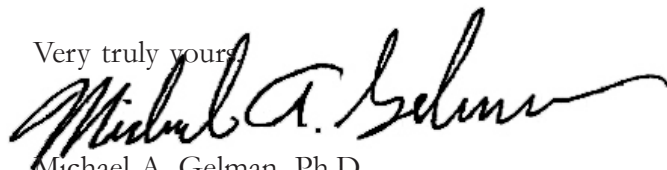
For fiscal year 2005, we will be accepting proposals for one-year grants in the amount of \$500 to \$1500. Our deadline for applications will be **January 15, 2005**; applications received by then will be considered by our Medical Advisory Board, which will make its decisions by March 1, 2005. For more details, please go to www.nrgf.org.

Some of you may be asking, "What about the Walk/Run?" As the Walk/Run has grown since the first event two years ago, and in recognition of the key support from local institutions in New Jersey, it is now run by The Gelman Foundation, Inc. (TGFI). Led by my father, Jon L. Gelman, Esq., and in partnership with HUMC and Rutgers University, TGFI (www.gelmanfoundation.org) supports breast cancer research, awareness, and clinical care in New Jersey and the metro New York area through the popular annual Walk/Run, which this past September 19 again shattered participation records. Jason and I were both thrilled to attend, along with a number of our friends, who displayed the speed for which they have become known at this event. As the Walk/Run is now run by a separate organization, there are two different mailing lists. Those who prefer to be on only one mailing list may contact the other foundation with a removal request, which will be promptly honored.

Meanwhile, led by my brother Jason and myself, NRGF (www.nrgf.org) will pursue initiatives on a nationwide scale, like those described above, to improve outcomes for women with breast cancer both by helping to develop new therapies and by enhancing the quality of care for patients at all stages of treatment. Our 2003 grant to HUMC is producing astounding results, increasing clinical trials participation from 3% to 33% over two years.

In closing, the months ahead hold new challenges and new opportunities for NRGF. We again thank you for your recent support, and we look forward to sharing our achievements with you in the year ahead.

Very truly yours



Michael A. Gelman, Ph.D

President, The Nancy R. Gelman Foundation, Inc.