

September 28, 2015

Heidi Feyerherm-Smith  
The Cure Starts Now Foundation  
1280 Chester Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

Dear Ms. Feyerherm-Smith,

On behalf of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, I would like to thank you and The Cure Starts Now Foundation for your support of Dr. Michelle Monje, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Stanford University School of Medicine. Your generous gift of \$50,000 toward Dr. Monje's research on diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) is deeply appreciated.

DIPG is a devastating disease that strikes at the heart of childhood. Dr. Monje and her lab have made great strides toward unlocking the mysteries of this disease in order to provide the first glimmers of hope for patients. One recent discovery revealed that brain tumor growth is actually stimulated by nerve activity in the cortex. Alongside this breakthrough, Dr. Monje's team also identified a specific protein, called neuroligin-3, that is largely responsible for the increase in tumor growth associated with neuronal activity in the cerebral cortex. According to Dr. Monje, this discovery could provide a path to develop therapies that specifically block the tumor-stimulating activities of neuroligin-3.

In addition, Dr. Monje and an international research coalition have identified a new type of cancer drug called Panobinostat which works by blocking an enzyme responsible for modifying DNA at the epigenetic level. Panobinostat shows some promise in restoring proper functioning of cells' chemical tagging systems and represents a first step toward effective, life-extending treatments for children with DIPG

Once again, on behalf of Dr. Monje and Stanford University School of Medicine, thank you for everything that you have done to provide hope for children with DIPG. It is a privilege to partner with you in our shared mission to end pediatric cancer.

Sincerely,



Brian Perronne