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Ms. Vera Taylor  
PJ Aldridge Foundation  
P.O Box 97  
Ocean City, Maryland 21842  
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Dear Ms. Taylor,

This letter is to provide a brief description of my research activities at the University of Maryland and how we intend to utilize the support provided by the PJ Aldridge Foundation. The overall goal of my program is to develop new therapeutics for lung and other thoracic cancers. In collaboration with a number of scientists as well as with the Translational Research Core at the UMGCC, I investigate novel therapeutic strategies including new systemic agents as well as combination of novel agents with radiation. In addition, I am interested in new approaches to personalizing therapy with existing agents as well as monitoring the effects of treatment. We deliberately are focusing on pathways, agents and other approaches that are not currently “popular”. For example, relatively few programs are evaluating anti-telomerase agents in lung cancer, despite ample evidence that this is an excellent target. In addition, we have (in collaboration with industry and the phase I program at UMGCC) evaluated a group of agents that target the folate receptor and have significant promise in a range of malignancies, including lung cancer. We are particularly interested in multimodality therapy (chemotherapy, radiation and/or surgery) in lung cancer.

My belief is that the goal of these efforts is not to simply publish the results, but to bring them into clinical practice. In the past decade, preliminary studies in thoracic cancers done at UMGCC have led to at least six multicenter trials, four supported by the National Cancer Institute. These trials have the potential to alter the standard of care in these diseases.

Once again, I thank you for the very generous support of the Foundation. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Edelman".

Martin J. Edelman, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine

