

A Letter from the VP and Medical Director of the Myocarditis Foundation

January 2017

I would like to thank the donors who have made it possible to accomplish our Foundation's mission of support, education and research in the past year. Through your generous gifts of time, money and in-kind donations we were able to achieve a great number of wonderful accomplishments.

First, we were able to fund a new Fellowship Research Grant to a well deserving candidate dedicated to myocarditis research. This recipient is especially important to us as he is the mentor of our first Fellowship Grant Recipient, Dr. Daniela Cihakova. We continue to work on our alumni network of past grant awardees and sponsors to encourage mutual support and to help mentor new grant recipients.

We were able to increase our utilization of social media to increase our awareness of myocarditis. We have observed a robust growth in visitors to our website, especially in our male 20-34-year-old age category. Through the efforts of our social media campaign, we have hosted over 50,000 unique visitors to our website per month. We have been able to provide continued support to physicians and families and offer them up to date information on myocarditis by contacting our office and board members through email. We had a very successful Family Support Meeting where physicians and researchers, who are specialists in the field of myocarditis, met with patients and families and were able to interact with them on a personal level.

The Myocarditis Foundation relies entirely on your gifts for our day-to-day operations. Ours is the only organization dedicated entirely for the benefit of myocarditis patients and their families. A gift to the Myocarditis Foundation goes directly to help support and educate myocarditis patients, their families and caregivers. Please consider a gift this year, either as an unrestricted donation to support our current programs or in support of the Foundation endowment that we hope will sustain our mission in future years. In these challenging economic times, a planned gift in the form of appreciated assets, a life-income annuity, or a tax-exempt bequest can allow for a larger gift without affecting your current income.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank each of you who have given to the Myocarditis Foundation and tell you how much your generosity has helped the worldwide community we serve.

Gratefully,

Leslie T. Cooper, M.D. VP and Medical Director