

October 25, 2010

Ms. Chelle Zulick
Ms. Donna Schmack-Rose
644 Westminster Reach
Smithfield, VA 23430

Dear Chelle and the Yorkie Angel Patrol:

We wanted to send you an update regarding the CREATE fund, and to thank you for the development and continued support of the fund at North Carolina State University-College of Veterinary Medicine.

We have continued to use the fund to assist owners of dogs with GME, with the last case receiving assistance being "Mia", a Yorkshire terrier. I have included a photo on the attached page of "Mia" and her owner. As a part of this stipend assistance, we have continued to bank serum and cerebral spinal fluid from affected patients as we explore options for researching this disease and potential treatments.

Also, we have recently completed a study evaluating the pharmacokinetics of the drug cytarabine (Cytosar), used in GME management, so that we may more fully understand the ideal treatment for patients in our care. This project, conducted by Neurologists Drs. Peter Early and Karen Munana, and Neurology Residents Drs. Katherine Crook and Ryan Gallagher, along with our clinical pharmacologist Dr. Mark Papich and neurology research support Tonya Harris and Julie Nettifee Osborne, took place in the fall of 2010. We are currently waiting on the pharmacological assay from this study, which will help us in efforts to provide the best mode of treatment for GME patients.

A spin-off study related to this is currently being planned by Dr. Mariani, investigating the ability of cytarabine to suppress canine lymphocyte function. Additional work currently underway in Dr. Mariani's laboratory includes continued characterization of the immune response in GME dogs as well as evaluations of blood, urine, and spinal fluid markers of disease before and after therapy. We will keep you posted as results become available from these studies.

Other speaking opportunities have also come from this work with GME at NCSU-CVM. In 2010, Dr. Mariani presented a talk at the ACVIM forum titled: Inflammatory Brain and Spinal Cord Diseases, 28th Annual Forum of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Technician Program), Anaheim, CA. This was a review of the multitude of inflammatory diseases but with a real emphasis on GME/NME related material.

In addition, another presentation to the Petit Griffon Vendeen National Specialty group is being planned for March, 2011, and will focus more on Steroid-responsive meningitis-

arteritis (SRMA), also called aseptic meningitis. This will be given to the breeders at their national specialty.

Although the primary financial support for the Cytosar pharmacokinetic study came from an internal college grant, the support of the CREATE fund helped us to be awarded this grant by demonstrating the need to the greater veterinary community - from the support already shown to study this disease, causes and treatments by the Yorkie Angel Patrol!

In addition, the interest shown to the project by our current residents is also exciting, as we hope to continue to instill into the next generation of Neurologists the goals of finding the causes and treatments to some of the diseases such as GME that are currently unknown.

The funding also helps us to support continued production of the CREATE brochure which we have available in our exam rooms at the college. This educational piece also has proven to be a great asset to hand out to owners potentially facing GME in their pets. Without your assistance in developing the funding, we would not have this resource!

We will keep you posted as our neurology group looks into additional research projects related to GME. Again, having the resource available will help to reduce the time that it takes to secure funding for such projects. You're most recent donation of \$850.00 towards the fund sent in May, 2010, was so greatly appreciated!

Please contact us if you have any questions whatsoever. Let us know if you are coming back to the Raleigh area any time soon!

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation,

Drs. Munana, Mariani and Julie Nettifee Osborne, RVT, BS

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***“Mia” CREATE Fund Recipient
North Carolina State University
College of Veterinary Medicine***