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Blazeman Foundation for ALS
PMB 121
18 Maple Avenue
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Blais,

I want to thank you and the Blazeman Foundation for your continued support of Carol Milligan's research at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Dr. Milligan's investigation seeks to learn if recombinant heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) may be an effective therapeutic for ALS.

Following up on earlier research, Dr. Milligan's lab has developed a protocol to reliably produce Hsp70, and is currently testing the protein in a mouse model of ALS. Over the next 15 months, Dr. Milligan and her team will be completing dose response studies in mice. Once that optimal dose is determined, this amount will be investigated in an independently conducted trial of Hsp70 in the ALS mouse model. Dr. Milligan's lab will also be developing a reliable detection assay for recombinant Hsp70 that will confirm protein delivery to the site of action.

This project is an example of the extraordinary translational research that Wake Forest School of Medicine is committed to conducting and supporting. With positive results in hand, Dr. Milligan and her colleague Dr. James Caress will be able to apply for an IND with the FDA so that we can move forward to initial human studies of Hsp70.

I sincerely admire the dedication and work of your foundation. What you do is critical for ALS research because you allow investigators to explore new avenues that may lead to novel treatments for this devastating condition. By funding innovative projects such as Dr. Milligan's you help move us toward a day when patients can say, "I survived ALS." I am very proud that Wake Forest School of Medicine is partnering with the Blazeman Foundation to move us closer to that day.

Sincerely,

Edward Abraham, MD
Professor and Dean
Wake Forest School of Medicine