



BLAZEMAN FOUNDATION FOR ALS
So Others May Live



Blazeman Foundation for ALS
172 Marnoch Drive
Seekonk, Ma. 02771
January 11, 2014

Dear Dr. Zielke,

Our formal relationship with you at the University of Maryland's Brain and Tissue Bank started at the end of November 2011 when we submitted a proposal to you to establish the **Blazeman ALS Tissue Collection** in memory of our son Jonathan Seth Blais who had passed away at age 35 from ALS. This relationship was actually formed in a more personal way a few months before Jon passed when he agreed to donate his postmortem tissue to your facility for ALS tissue research. At that time Jon had a special relationship with a former employee at the bank, Robert Vigorito, who actually preformed the harvesting of Jon's tissue.

We are pleased to see that this much needed ALS tissue has been sought to study not only ALS but also other neurological diseases that may in some way be related. We have created a [Brochure](#) describing the program that has been sent out to over 30 major ALS clinics throughout the country. To date we have had 7 donors and we feel that the momentum is increasing due to the fact in the past 9 years since Jon's diagnosis we have seen more ALS awareness. We firmly believe Jon started a momentum and today's ALS patients are becoming more active in continuing education of this horrific disease to both medical and lay persons.

The University of Maryland's (NICHD) Brain and Tissue Bank uniqueness is that their tissue is available to any researcher in any country doing research...it does not limit the availability to a select group. Dr. Zielke, you and your team have been extremely easy to work with and we admire your commitment to the Blazeman Foundation for ALS' program and we look forward to continuing our funding to find at minimum an effective treatment and eventual cure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our heartfelt support...

In Strength, Honor and Commitment,

Mary Ann and Bob Blais
Jon's mom and dad