



Brandeis University

Ronald D. Liebowitz, President

September 28, 2018

Mr. Robert Blais
Ms. Mary Ann Blais
Blazeman Foundation for ALS
PMB 121
18 Maple Avenue
Barrington, RI 02806

Dear Mr. and Ms. Blais,

I wanted to thank you personally for supporting Blazeman Foundation for ALS Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Mugdha Deshpande and the work of Dr. Avi Rodal over the last five years. Dr. Deshpande and Dr. Rodal have shared with me some of the remarkable research and professional development opportunities that you made possible.

We are grateful that you reached out five years ago and connected with Dr. Rodal. I know that both she and Dr. Deshpande have felt privileged to take part in such an important partnership. I am particularly glad you chose to support a postdoctoral fellowship, which will pay itself forward in research and teaching for many years, and will have a lasting impact on the search for a cure for ALS and other devastating neurodegenerative diseases. By recognizing the need to develop scientific talent, you have encouraged innovation in a field of medicine that has been so long in making significant progress. I was moved to hear how many Brandeis scientists and students were drawn into this important research over the last five years.

Your strength and conviction as you continue to uphold Jon's legacy is an inspiration. The Blazeman Foundation's efforts have put a human face to this struggle, and I thank you again for inviting Brandeis to join you on the front lines. We cherish your friendship and hope we may continue to work together toward a world no longer afflicted by ALS.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Liebowitz".

Ronald D. Liebowitz

RDL/srw