



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

October 25, 2024

Prelude to a Cure

Claire Mattern  
140 Central Ave  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006-7745

Dear Ms. Mattern,

I am a third-year medical oncology fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Kris in the Thoracic Oncology Service. I am writing to thank you for your generous support of our lung cancer research efforts.

With this support, we are conducting a study to characterize a molecular subset of non-small cell lung cancers that harbor genetic mutations in two important tumor suppressor genes, RB1 and p53. Concurrent mutations in RB1 and p53 is a genetic feature most associated with small cell lung cancer and lung cancer with neuroendocrine features. However, we have identified a subset of patients with non-small cell lung cancer without neuroendocrine features whose tumors exhibit mutations in both RB1 and p53. We are conducting a study to understand the clinical features and outcomes of such patients and to better characterize the molecular and genomic landscape of their tumors. This study will provide important insights about a subgroup of patients with lung cancers who have not been previously studied before. By better understanding the natural history of their cancers, we hope to ultimately improve treatments and outcomes for these patients.

In addition to helping fund this important study, your support has been critical to my career development as it has given me the opportunity to attend important workshops and conferences, such as the 2023 ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop and the 2024 IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer. These experiences have taught me important skills in clinical trial design, grant writing, protocol development, and multi-disciplinary collaboration which will allow me to pursue the next step in my career as a clinician-scientist leading translational oncology research and clinical trials of targeted treatments in lung cancers.

Thank you again for your generous support and commitment to lung cancer research.

Best regards,

Prashasti Agrawal, MD  
Medical Oncology Fellow  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Mark G. Kris, MD  
Attending Physician, Thoracic Oncology Service,  
Department of Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center