



Van Andel Institute®

Founded by Jay and Betty Van Andel

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Dear friends and family of Dwight Reed,

I would like to thank you once again for coming out to play golf in support of sarcoma research at the Van Andel Research Institute. I am grateful for the continuous help you provide us. The financial contributions of the Dwight Reed Memorial Foundation play an important role in helping to support our research and have helped us to generate preliminary results that have convinced the National Cancer Institute to fund us further.

This has been an exciting year for us. With an influx of Federal funding we have established the Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium to study spontaneous cancer in dogs. Why are we doing this with dogs? It turns out that sarcomas such as osteosarcoma, angiosarcoma, and other soft-tissue sarcomas are 100 to 1000X more common in dogs. Also, particular breeds of dogs seem to be more at risk to these cancers than other dogs. So we plan to study the genetic and biochemical causes of sarcoma in dogs and then translate these discoveries in to new treatments for dogs and humans. In the past year we have identified a major biochemical pathway that promotes growth of angiosarcoma. We hope to publish these results soon and are optimistic this discovery will lead to new clinical treatments for this disease. To find other potential therapies for sarcomas we have begun a large scale screening of canine cancers with more than 200 FDA approved drugs as well as experimental therapies. Funding from you has been instrumental in this project since it helped to purchase a robotic drug dispenser that has accelerated the pace of our research.

On behalf of my lab and the Van Andel Institute, I would like to thank you for your continued support and dedication to this cause.

Best Regards,

Nick Duesbery