

June 18, 2019

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis W. Stein
 6617 Myrtle Beach Drive
 Plano, TX 75093-6301

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stein:

The discovery of safe and effective treatments for life-threatening diseases is a tremendous undertaking. **For the families racing against time to save their children, it's why generosity like yours matters.**

Scientists at UT Southwestern are developing an innovative gene therapy program to stop the progression of fatal, incurable brain disorders in children. **Until now, there have been no treatments or cures for these rare diseases** – including Batten disease, Rett syndrome, and certain forms of epilepsy – and **tragically, children die within a few years of diagnosis.**

As a pediatric neurologist, Dr. Berge Minassian spent more than 20 years diagnosing children with rare brain diseases and delivering the heartbreaking news to families that their child would not survive. In 2017, Dr. Minassian joined the faculty at UT Southwestern, where he plans to spend the remainder of his career offering children a different option – gene therapy, which involves replacing faulty genes with healthy genes – that gives them the opportunity to live and pursue their dreams.



“In pediatric neurology, we now know that the cause of many rare diseases is a single gene that’s missing,” said Dr. Minassian. “As doctors, we can diagnose the disease easily and identify the missing gene function, but until now, we had nothing to offer these children and families in terms of treatment or cure.”

Dr. Minassian works closely with his scientific partner, Dr. Steven Gray, an innovator in gene therapy who joined him at UT Southwestern in 2018 to help build a gene therapy center. **Together they are on a mission of hope to develop clinical trials for hundreds of single-gene brain diseases in children – one child at a time.**

(over)

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- In honor of _____
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- Please send me information about how I can include UTSW in my will.
 I have included UTSW in my will. Please enroll me in the Heritage Society.
 A matching gift form from my company is enclosed.
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By giving to UT Southwestern, you can help transform the lives of patients experiencing health challenges in a multitude of areas, including rare brain disorders. The pace of scientific discovery is moving quickly on our campus where scientists like Dr. Gray are working tirelessly to understand the underlying causes of disease and develop ways to improve health and extend life. **Your gift could move scientists closer to groundbreaking discoveries.**

“Traditional, public funding grant cycles often make scientists sit on good ideas while we wait months and months for reviews and award decisions,” said Dr. Gray. “Philanthropic gifts allow us to pursue new scientific leads more quickly and to take more calculated risks by testing promising ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas.”

Cutting-edge research generates new leading-edge treatments, life-saving drugs, and the promise, hope, and cure of diseases of every kind. **With a gift today, you can accelerate research progress at UT Southwestern that could transform the way physicians like Dr. Minassian provide care to patients.**

Please join us on our mission to promote health and a healthy society. Your investment today paves the way for a brighter tomorrow for people everywhere.

Sincerely,



Daniel Podolsky, M.D.

DKP:sr

P.S. Becoming a sustaining donor and strengthening the impact of your gift is simple and much appreciated. Select the option for “Recurring gift” when you donate online at engage.utsouthwestern.edu/annualfund.

If you do not want to receive future fundraising requests supporting UT Southwestern Medical Center, please write to UT Southwestern Medical Center, Office of Development, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390-9009 or go to utsouthwestern.edu/giving-optout to opt out.

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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis W. Stein
6617 Myrtle Beach Drive
Plano, TX 75093-6301

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