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Dear Friends:

Thank you for your past contributions to the Center for Celiac Research (CFCR). As many of you know, the Annual Fund Campaign provides unrestricted support for the operation of the Center and allows us to accelerate our goal of finding an alternative treatment /cure for celiac disease (CD), and continue to improve the quality of life for all patients with CD.

**2006 ANOTHER BANNER YEAR!!!!!!!**  
**OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES**

**CRFR Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The CFCR celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the oldest celiac center in the United States in May 2006 with a weekend of events. The CFCR includes a comprehensive multidisciplinary program covering clinical care (treating both adults and children), support services, education and state-of-the-art scientific research laboratories.

**Dr. Fasano Honored As Entrepreneur of the Year**

Dr. Fasano has been named the University of Maryland's first Entrepreneur of the Year for his research on CD.

**Dr. Robert Anderson Joins CFCR**

Dr. Robert Anderson joined the CFCR's list of faculty members. Dr. Anderson's research focuses on developing a vaccine for celiac disease. We are delighted to incorporate Dr. Anderson's expertise in the CFCR's efforts to develop alternative treatments for a definitive cure for CD.

**Dr. Fasano's Discoveries Lead To Alba Therapeutics Beginning Clinical Trials**

As many of you already know, Alba Therapeutics has successfully completed a Phase I clinical trial for celiac disease and Phase II has already begun. This multicenter, double blind, placebo controlled, dose ranging study will evaluate the safety, tolerability and efficacy of AT-1001 (a zonulin receptor antagonist) in 79 subjects with CD during a gluten challenge. The CFCR continues our close partnership with Alba Therapeutics. Through the donations from our supporters, the Center is able to provide crucial research to optimize the effort of the ongoing clinical trial.

**National Institute of Health Kicks Off Awareness Campaign**

Since the publication of our Celiac Prevalence Study in March 2003, our study has been quoted and used worldwide. The NIH Awareness Campaign <http://www.celiac.nih.gov/> is the result of the combined ideas and efforts of the professional and voluntary organizations that focus on celiac disease, along with the NIDDK, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Natural History of Celiac Disease**

The CFCR has been working on a major project, a better understanding of the natural history of undiagnosed celiac disease in the US., that we plan to continue in 2007.

**Case-Finding Study of Celiac Disease in North America**

With this study, the CFCR established new guidelines for a more cost-effective way to diagnose patients with celiac disease. This study will be published in the American Journal of Gastroenterology in 2007.

**Gluten Threshold Research Study**

This study in conjunction with the University of Ancona (Italy) was aimed at establishing the maximum amount of gluten tolerated by celiac patients. The results of this study will be published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 2007. The FDA is using this study in establishing the guidelines for the term "gluten-free" as proposed in the new food labeling law information. Visit our website frequently to obtain updates on research and the latest information on celiac disease.

### **American Celiac Disease Alliance**

The American Celiac Disease Alliance is alive and well as a result of the CFCR's vision to establish a working group that represents the entire celiac community. For more information on the Alliance, please visit their link on our homepage [www.celiaccenter.org](http://www.celiaccenter.org)

### **5<sup>th</sup> International Walk/Run- Making Tracks for Celiacs**

Cities and countries continue to join our efforts to increase the awareness of CD and to raise funds for local and national initiatives and research. More than 1 million dollars has been raised from the walk/runs. Log onto [www.celiacwalk.org](http://www.celiacwalk.org) for more information on how to join our efforts.

### **Increasing Awareness through Educational Initiatives**

CFCR continues working to increase the awareness of celiac disease through our educational initiatives with the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). A continuing medical education series on CD has just been completed.

### **Potential Animal Model for CD**

Celiac disease could provide a unique opportunity to tackle the pathogenic basis of the autoimmune process. However, the lack of an animal model for the disease represents a major limitation in reaching this goal. The CFCR has been working with a pedigreed colony of baboons with heredity chronic diarrhea of unknown cause to determine if they could be a possible non-human primate model for CD. Previously these animals had been euthanized; however, now the baboons are thriving on a gluten-free diet.

### **CD Fellowship Program Flourishing**

Our fellowship program that began in 2004 to train the next generation of health care professionals in CD is doing just that. We are happy to report that Dr. Kolpuru's research abstract was selected for presentation at the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) meeting in Orlando Florida.

### **Infant Nutrition And Risk Of Celiac Disease: Proposal For An Intervention, Prospective, Multicenter Study**

Dr. Kolpuru is also working on a major intervention study to establish whether the timing of gluten introduction in the diet of infants, genetically at risk for celiac disease, may affect the chance to develop the disease. To enroll in this study, please email [glutenproject@peds.umaryland.edu](mailto:glutenproject@peds.umaryland.edu) or go to our website <http://www.celiaccenter.org/research.asp> for more information

### **Celiac Awareness Bracelets Making Tracks for Celiacs**

The celiac awareness bracelets are a great way to increase the awareness of celiac disease and raise funds for research. The CFCR has distributed more than 36,000 Making Tracks for Celiacs bracelets worldwide. To order, please visit our website.

### **[WWW.CELIACCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.CELIACCENTER.ORG) - New and Improved**

Our new website will feature a bright new appearance, testimonials from patients with celiac disease, useful links, and current research information. Visit our website frequently to obtain updates on research and the latest information on celiac disease.

### **OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE**

- To implement the diagnostic tools necessary to eliminate the intestinal biopsy for confirmation of CD
- To validate a new genetic test that is faster and more cost effective for screening purposes
- To better understand the genetics of CD
- To develop innovative strategies for the treatment and prevention of CD
- To continue to increase the awareness of CD among health care professionals, government agencies and industry
- To study the psychological impact on the newly diagnosed patient and his/her family
- To continue our study on the natural history of celiac disease.

We are excited about our accomplishments over the past year and look forward to meeting and exceeding our goals for the coming year. Our Annual Fund Campaign continues to be an important piece of the CFCR, as it provides unrestricted support for the operation of the Center. Your support will allow us to accelerate our goal of finding an alternative treatment/cure for CD, and continue to improve the quality of life for all patients with CD. Please consider making a generous end of year gift to the CFCR.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!**

Sincerely,

Alessio Fasano, MD  
Medical Director

Pam King  
Director of Operations