

August 10, 2016

Mr. Omar Itum
Chair of the Board
Alliance for Veteran Support, Inc.
784 Columbus Avenue, Apt. 17F
New York, NY 10025

Dear Mr. Itum,

I would like to express my gratitude for your support of the *Veteran/Amputee Skin Regeneration Program* in the Department of Dermatology at Johns Hopkins Medicine. We are truly grateful for your organization's investment of \$50,000 received in October, 2014 to support our mission of helping wounded veterans.

As you know, we are aiming to biologically alter the skin at the stump site of veteran amputees by changing that skin into specialized volar skin, which is found on healthy palms and soles. This "tough" skin is naturally resistant to mechanical (weight bearing) and chemical (contact dermatitis) stress. In the same way humans do not develop skin breakdown on the soles of their feet, wearing a prosthetic should be no different than wearing a shoe.

In late 2014, we received FDA approval to begin clinical trials in 2015 using fibroblast stem cells on human subjects to see if we could create new volar skin. The initial results look very promising, and provide exciting molecular proof that could lead to an entirely new therapy for amputees. Eleven more volunteers are now taking part in the trials and the team is currently processing their tissue and hoping to see similar results.

The Department of Dermatology is proud of the progress being made in the *Veteran/Amputee Skin Regeneration* trials, however, there is still much to be done to translate the latest discoveries into clinical strategies that will improve the lives of veteran amputees in a meaningful way. These initial discoveries would not be possible without the generous philanthropy provided by the Alliance for Veteran Support.

Thank you for your meaningful partnership.

Best regards,



Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology