

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.

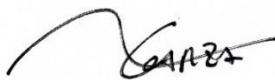
As you know, we are aiming to biologically alter the skin at the stump site of veteran amputees by changing that skin into specialized volar skin, which is found on healthy palms and soles. This "tough" skin is naturally resistant to mechanical (weight bearing) and chemical (contact dermatitis) stress. 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.

We have initiated the next phase of the study. FDA-approved trials are underway and test whether fibroblast stem cells can create new volar skin in healthy individuals. The team has induced into healthy non-volar skin a structural protein called Keratin 9 that is unique to the palms and soles. The initial results are promising. There is still much to be done to translate these latest discoveries into clinical strategies that will truly help veteran amputees. As you know, there are gaps in federal funding cycles, so private support is critical. Two of our largest federal grants end in 2018. While we are applying for new grants, without private funding, our clinical study could be delayed. Generous philanthropy from Alliance for Veteran Support will allow us to sustain and grow the program, and continue on the road to implementing positive change for wounded veterans.

With the successes we have achieved so far, and the expansion of our program, we hope you will consider making a new commitment of \$100,000 to support the *Veteran/Amputee Skin Regeneration Program*. A gift of that amount will fund the cost of two technicians whose vital work in the laboratory and clinical trials will enhance the project timeline. It will also allow us to enroll more subjects in the study.

Thank you for your consideration of this investment and for your continued meaningful partnership.

Best regards,



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