



September 2004

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to let you know about a Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) Awareness Campaign that will take place over the next several months to raise awareness about PI. Because these events may result in questions from your patients, I wanted you to have sufficient advance notice.

The purpose of the PI Awareness Campaign is to alert physicians, other health professionals, and parents to the warning signs of PI so that affected children and adolescents receive appropriate and timely care and treatment. Unfortunately, a significant number of cases are still undiagnosed until those affected are very sick or chronically debilitated.

The PI Awareness Campaign is sponsored by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation (JMF), in collaboration with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other federal agencies and several private partners.

As part of this campaign, the JMF is sponsoring a series of national public service announcements created by the Ad Council about the common warning signs of PI. In addition, the JMF is:

- Sponsoring a series of accredited Continuing Medical Education symposia
- Distributing the 10 Warning Signs and Physician Algorithm poster to physician groups (copy enclosed)
- Mailing a new illustrated information poster to 38,000 school nurses
- Collaborating with the PBS program *Healthy Mind, Healthy Body* in producing a 30-minute TV program on primary immunodeficiency to be aired nationally

You can obtain detailed information about these activities at the JMF Web site www.info4pi.org or by contacting the JMF at 1-866-INFO-4-PI. You can also view and download the NICHD booklet *Primary Immunodeficiency: When the Body's Defenses are Missing* or order this booklet from the NICHD (1-800-370-2943).

Through this multi-faceted education program, the JMF, the NICHD, and partners hope to significantly raise awareness of PI. Early diagnosis of PI can help people receive appropriate treatment, and may prevent them from becoming seriously ill. I hope you will join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Duane Alexander".

Duane Alexander, M.D.
Director, NICHD