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Sharonne N. Hayes, M.D.
Cardiovascular Diseases

November 20, 2017

Dear SCAD Research Inc. Board, supporters, volunteers, funders, and friends,

As 2017 draws to a close, members of our Mayo Clinic SCAD Research Program team are humbled and honored to send this heartfelt message of gratitude to all of you. We realize we can't reach out to each and every one of you individually because there are literally thousands of men and women, families and friends and organizations who have supported our important work this year.

There are the SCAD survivors, many of whom we've met at SCADaddles, in clinic and other events and who drive our work by participating in research and sharing their stories. Our team feels the gravity of your hopes and dreams that our work will find the answers you need and want. There are SCAD survivors' families and friends, deeply affected by SCAD in ways they often cannot express, who are depending on us to help their loved ones. And among those for whom SCAD has taken a loved one from them, leaving a devastating hole in their hearts, we feel the weight of responsibility to do our part to help create healing and meaning after this loss, by advancing the science. You all inspire our team to do more and better.

This past year has been one of great progress and impact from our Mayo Clinic Team. Teamwork is a core value at Mayo Clinic and that is one of the strengths we bring to this research. In addition to the cardiologists, our dedicated multidisciplinary collaborative Mayo Clinic SCAD research team includes radiologists, psychologists, neurologists, Ob/Gyns, and geneticists as well as trainees in internal medicine, women's health, genetics and cardiology.

Support from SCAD Research Inc. has funded new genetic investigations in Dr. Timothy Olson's lab. We have performed genome wide association testing on hundreds of SCAD survivor DNA samples and are in the process of analyzing the results. We validated the experiences of many premenopausal women after SCAD who get chest pain related to their menstrual period and published the association of SCAD and migraine headaches. We continue active recruitment of patients with SCAD to our registries (almost 900!) and have expanded several areas of prospective research. We are recruiting patients to studies that involve echocardiography (ultrasound of the heart), CT scans of the heart, metabolomics, migraine headache evaluations and mental health connections to SCAD. Members of our team have shared our science and best practices in SCAD care to many other health care providers, scientists and patients, and continue to "spread the word" to anyone who will listen.

Thank you, SCAD Research Inc., for joining us on this important journey and providing an unmatched level of support for our work with your time, influence, and passion.

With gratitude on behalf of the entire Mayo Clinic SCAD Research Program team members,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharonne N. Hayes M.D." in a cursive script.

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