



DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

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October 17, 2013

Dear Ms. Saunders,

My name is Dr. Faisal Rehman. I am a Nephrologist and Internal Medicine Specialist at The London Health Sciences Centre. I am also the Chair of a charitable organization called "Showdown in the Downtown – Knock Out Kidney Disease". We are applying to lease the Budweiser Gardens on a rent free basis for our next event on October 18, 2014.

Our committee runs an annual charity event called Showdown in the Downtown that raises money for supporting research to find better treatments for patients undergoing heart, kidney, pancreas and liver transplants as well as better options for patients with kidney failure undergoing dialysis. We have two major charities that benefit from our event; The Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies and The Kidney Clinical Research Unit. Government Grants for supporting medical research have dropped to an all time low. We feel it is imperative that the community help support our researchers in their goals to find better treatments for our neighbors, friends and families.

The numbers of Canadians awaiting solid organ transplantation far outweighs the number of available organs. Many of our patients die while on the waiting list for a solid organ transplant. We need to support research that improves accessibility for our patients on the wait list. Also, once transplanted, these organs do not last forever and many of our patients require a second or even a third organ transplant. We need to support research to find treatments that prevent acute and chronic rejection of these organs. Matthew Mailing was a young man who passed away soon after receiving a heart transplant in London. When the situation was dire and his heart transplant was not working as planned, he wanted to make sure that other patients in his situation would not go through this difficult time. When Matthew Mailing passed away in 2003 at the age of 34 from complications related to heart transplant surgery, he bequeathed one-third of his estate to support our Multi-Organ Transplant Program. Matthew's gift became the catalyst for establishing a world-class facility in transplant studies - The Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies. Led by lead investigator Dr. Anthony Jevnikar, the nearly 9,000-square-foot Mailing Centre is promoting accelerated translation of basic research in transplantation to improve patient care. Scientists and clinician-scientists have a primary interest in transplantation such as novel immunotherapy, tissue protection and advanced microsurgical techniques.

More than 2 million Canadians suffer from kidney failure or some form of kidney-related disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney stones. Many patients with kidney disease end up requiring hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. These treatments have improved significantly over the last several years but still negatively impact the quality of life of our patients. The Kidney Clinical Research Unit (KCRU) is a 4000 square foot facility located at London Health Sciences Centre. This facility is dedicated to clinical research in the quantitative health sciences. The KCRU consists of a diverse research community with people from many different academic and occupational backgrounds. Currently the KCRU coordinates over 70 local, national and international studies (clinical trials, observational studies, research synthesis, administrative database analyses, and economic evaluation). As well as having a strong local research community, the KCRU has developed an ever growing network of national and international research and healthcare connections to collaborate and share information with in order to increase knowledge of kidney health issues. The KCRU continues to move forward and grow with the hope that the efforts of research will improve the lives and health of people with kidney health issues.

The Showdown in the Downtown is an annual black tie gala event that showcases combat sports at its best. The previous 5 events have showcased boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing. We have had International Competitions between Canada and Ireland as well as Canada at The United States. One year we also featured two World Title Kickboxing matches. We have raised over \$800,000 for our charities over the last 5 years.

On October 18, 2014, we will hold a professional mixed martial arts gala event at Budweiser

Garden. This year we will also add tickets at a modest \$25 for the sports only and we hope to have several thousand people from the community attend. This will be an outstanding event featuring some of the great athletes from London Ontario battling other athletes from North America. By partnering with this event and leasing Budweiser Gardens on a “rent free basis”, you would be supporting all of our patients in London who suffer from kidney disease or who are awaiting a solid organ transplant.

Thank you for considering our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faisal Rehman", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Faisal Rehman MD, FRCPC
Site Chief Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine
Western University
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

