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Dear Friends:

We prepare for 2006 with great anticipation! This coming year we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Celiac Research (CFCR) and the 5th Anniversary of the International Walk/Run for Celiac Disease. When we started the operation in 1996, very little was known about Celiac Disease (CD) in the U.S., and as a result, the prevalence estimate was a meager 1 out of 10,000 people. The quality of life for celiac patients was very limited and CD awareness among health care professionals and the general public was minimal. Let's fast-forward 10 years and review some of our accomplishments:

**1996 – 2006: WHAT A DECADE!**  
**Our Accomplishments Speak for Themselves**

- ❑ Dramatically improved the quality of life for celiac patients by increasing the awareness of CD among health care professionals and the general public.
- ❑ Created a sharp increase in the awareness of CD by working with media outlets and organizations. Examples include: The Today Show, The Washington Post (front-page article on CD), and the Wall Street Journal.
- ❑ In collaboration with the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, we published guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with CD.
- ❑ Together with the Children's Digestive Health & Nutrition Foundation, we produced a physician slide set, a nationwide grand rounds program, and a gluten-free diet guide for families; all of which are available online at [www.celiachealth.org](http://www.celiachealth.org).
- ❑ CFCR offers the best comprehensive clinical care for adults and children, including dietetic services.
- ❑ Spearheaded the largest epidemiology study ever performed in the US, resulting in more accurate prevalence data: instead of only 1 out 10,000, we now know the prevalence is 1 out of 133.
- ❑ Developed a diagnostic test (Ttg) for CD, which is implemented nationwide for diagnosing CD.
- ❑ Discovered Zonulin, a protein that appears to be involved in many disease states in which leakage occurs in the tight junctions including the GI tract, thus playing an important role in the treatment of CD.
- ❑ Interfaced with Alba Therapeutics to accelerate our goal to find an alternative treatment/cure for CD.
- ❑ Developed new insights on CD pathogenesis
- ❑ Completed a case-finding study involving a network of 50 primary physicians that enrolled more than 2,000 patients.
- ❑ Spearheaded the American Celiac Disease Alliance, formally American Celiac Task Force – that resulted in Congress passing a new food allergen labeling law, making it easier for patients with CD to identify safe food items.
- ❑ Worked with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop the Celiac Consensus Conference as a result of our prevalence study.
- ❑ Created a CD Fellowship Program to train the next generation of health care professionals in CD.

- ❑ Created the International Walk/Run for CD, raising over one million dollars for national and local celiac programs and research.

## OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- ❖ Implement the diagnostic tools necessary to possibly eliminate the intestinal biopsy for confirmation of CD.
- ❖ Find an alternative treatment/cure for celiac disease.
- ❖ Clone the Zonulin gene.
- ❖ Further investigate the genetics of CD.
- ❖ Continue advocating for increased awareness of CD among health care professionals, government agencies, and industry.
- ❖ Examine the psychological impact of CD on the newly diagnosed patient and his/her family.
- ❖ Continue our working relationship with Congress on the Food Allergen Labeling & Consumer Protection Act and collaborate with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in implementing the labeling law.

We are excited about our accomplishments over the past decade and look forward to meeting and exceeding our goals for the next decade. Our Annual Fund Campaign continues to be an important piece of the CFCR, as it provides unrestricted support for the operation of the CFCR and is crucial to our competitive edge. Your support will allow us to accelerate our goal of finding an alternative treatment/cure for CD, expand our reputation as the premier Center in the world, and continue to improve the quality of life for all patients with CD. Please consider making a generous end of year gift to the CFCR.

This has been a very exciting decade for the celiac community, and we would like to thank all of our friends and supporters. We value your generosity, commitment, and friendship. As we move forward in developing an alternative treatment/cure for celiac disease, we need your financial support. Remember, we are not asking you to just make a contribution, but to make an investment in the well being of every patient – now and in the future.

Lastly, we are tentatively planning our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for May 12 & 13, 2006. We hope you can join us for this celebration!!. Please check our website [www.celiaccenter.org](http://www.celiaccenter.org) for information on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, and keep an eye out for exciting improvements to the website in early 2006.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

Sincerely,



Alessio Fasano, MD  
Medical Director



Pam King  
Director of Operations