

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer



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Wampanoag Race

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of *Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer*. Your belief in our lifesaving mission has helped us raise more than \$1.1 billion as of March 30, 2010. This vital support has been key in opening up incredible new avenues of discovery that are leading to more effective treatments for our patients. These efforts are bringing us closer toward Dana-Farber's overall goal of personalized medicine: delivering the right drug, to the right patient, at the right time.

One important example of how your support has fueled the *Mission Possible* Campaign is the creation of OncoMap technology. The OncoMap is a groundbreaking tool that allows researchers to identify whether a cancer patient's tumor harbors genetic mutations that could serve as good targets for drugs. With this technology, researchers can also examine tumor samples for mutations that already may be treated by existing therapies.

I am happy to report that Institute scientists are already making exciting headway in OncoMap technology. Recently, they discovered that a certain form of pediatric low grade astrocytoma (PLGA), a brain tumor, carries a mutation of the *BRAF* gene. We know that this gene had already been identified in certain forms of melanoma, and there are drugs in development to target this mutation. Scientists are now planning clinical trials that test the efficacy of these same drugs in PLGA patients. And this is just one powerful example of the crossover treatment potential created by the OncoMap.

I am also pleased to share some exciting news about another Campaign priority: the construction of our Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. The Yawkey Center

has undergone a complete physical transformation. What used to be a structure of steel beams is now a beautiful façade that has transformed not only Dana-Farber's front entrance, but the entire Longwood Medical Area. Driving down Brookline Avenue, you are immediately struck by its strong presence within the neighborhood. Nearly 1,500 terra cotta panels comprise the building's exterior, and, inside the building, 8,650 lights are being installed along with 15 miles of plumbing pipes. Meanwhile, approximately 250 workmen are working tirelessly to ensure we remain on schedule to open in February 2011.

I hope these examples demonstrate the amazing progress made possible by your contributions to the *Mission Possible* Campaign. If you would like to learn more about the advancements we are making in the Campaign, please contact Berenice Ronthal, associate vice president, Individual Giving and Campaign, at 617-632-3051 or berenice_ronthal@dfci.harvard.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward J. Benz Jr." The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Edward J. Benz Jr., MD