Daniel Gomez, M.D. Associate Professor, Section Chief



Making Cancer History

To the Rexanna Foundation Committee,

We would like to sincerely thank you for the research funding to support our research on oligometastatic lung cancer. Oligometastatic lung cancer is a disease entity in which the cancer has only spread to a limited number of sites. Historically, these patients have only been treated with chemotherapy, and virtually all succumb to the disease. However, our previous phase II randomized clinical trial has shown that it may be possible to cure a percentage of these patients through a combination of systemic therapy (e.g. chemotherapy, targeted agents, immunotherapy), radiation, and/or surgery.

The award from the Rexanna Foundation will be used to analyze tumor and blood samples, in an attempt to identify patients that may benefit the most from aggressive treatment. Our goal is to ultimately be able to determine which patients should receive surgery/radiation to try to cure their disease, versus those that should primarily receive systemic therapy. Achieving this goal could not only lead to longer overall survival, but it could spare some patients the toxicity of an aggressive treatment such as surgery if other treatment is warranted.

We look forward to pursuing these questions with the funding from Rexanna, and we greatly appreciate all that the foundation has done in the fight against lung cancer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gomez, M.D.

Jianjun Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, TX