

Dr. Tak Mak Letter

June 2, 2004

Dear Walkers:

Every year more than 21,000 Canadians are diagnosed with breast cancer. Yet every year, thanks to events such as the Weekend to End Breast Cancer, we step closer to finding a cure for this devastating disease. It is with a warm heart and a bright hope for the future that I let you know that your dollars and dedication are helping to establish a new research institute dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. As the Director for the new Institute for Breast Cancer Research at Princess Margaret Hospital, I wanted to say how proud I am to take on this important new role.

As a participant in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer, you are well aware of the dedication and drive it takes to combat a deadly disease like breast cancer. We all have strong personal reasons that motivate us in this cause. Yet, whether it is for a lost loved one or friend, for someone we know involved in their own personal battle with breast cancer, we have joined together to chart a new course. A course that may appear daunting individually, but which together we draw the strength we need to reach that finish line – which ends with a cure.

This is an exciting time to be a cancer researcher. Not only for myself, but also for everyone involved in decades of research into understanding the basics of cancer and the mechanisms that fuel its growth. This basic research is beginning to pay off and I believe we are entering a new age of discovery. The millions of dollars that you have helped raise, through your tremendous contributions to the Weekend to End Breast Cancer and Princess Margaret Hospital, will fuel the innovative research my colleagues and I will conduct in the new Institute.

You and all of your “Weekend” friends are an inspiration to millions of Canadians across

the country. With similar “Weekends” starting in various other cities, I’m confident that breast cancer will meet its end sooner rather than later. I’m so pleased and honoured to join you in this inspirational journey to find an end to the disease that effects so many of us. Again, we at the Institute for Breast Cancer Research at Princess Margaret Hospital and all across the country thank you for your incredible dedication to end breast cancer. I am confident that together, we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of Canadian men and women.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tak Mak

Director,

Institute for Breast Cancer Research

Princess Margaret Hospital