

August 15, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the ILC Foundation's Pediatric Chronic Pain Care Model of Excellence. I am excited to have the opportunity to personally support this initiative and to contribute to the outstanding work that has already been done to found this critical project.

I am confident that the ILC Foundation has the vision, expertise, and leadership required to successfully complete their care model and thereby dramatically improve the situation of many children who suffer tremendously due to complex pain problems. I also believe that the results of this initiative will go far beyond what is currently being proposed and that it has the potential to result in the development of regional centres of excellence across Canada that will fill the huge gap in clinical care that currently exists. These centres, once developed, will have the ability to become models of best practice for the rest of the world.

The ILC Foundation has recognized the importance of chronic pain in children and the devastating effects that it can have on children and their families. These negative effects are seen in the form of physical disability, a high rate of school absences, significant sleep disruption, distress and other psychological difficulties, tremendous strain on families, high financial costs to families and the health care system, and, perhaps most importantly, very poor quality of life in these children. While chronic pain is often considered a symptom of many pediatric diseases, most experts now agree that it is a medical entity worthy of discussion as a disease on its own. It therefore deserves the recognition and priority commensurate with the seriousness of this problem.

Chronic pain in children is a prevalent medical problem that affects more than one in five children. Complex chronic pain problems are being noted across the world as unique medical disorders that require specialty care. The good news is that when chronic pain is appropriately treated, the prognosis for affected children can be very positive. As one of the most prevalent and expensive medical disorders that exists in North America, it is crucial that we develop centres of excellence where outstanding staff come together to provide the best treatments available to children afflicted with these complex problems.

I have had the privilege to work with children with chronic pain and their families across Canada and in the UK. During that time I have been very fortunate to work and collaborate with international experts in world class clinical and research programs. These experts have led the

way in the development of outstanding pediatric chronic pain programs. I have also enjoyed being able to develop and share new programs locally and with other medical centres across North America with the hope of improving the health and well being of children with chronic pain and their families. I have pledged my full support to the ILC Foundation and hope that you will seriously consider supporting this excellent cause and the children and families that it will serve.

Should you care to discuss this letter or anything related to its contents with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BD', is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. Dick, PhD

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