



13 March 2019  
Dr. Kevin Smith Health Network  
President & CEO, University  
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Dr. Brian D. Hodges  
EVP and Chief Medical Officer  
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Dear Dr. Smith and Dr. Hodges,

The Toronto Star (February 27, 2019: "UHN patients given unlicensed drug that led to diabetes, liver dysfunction and one death, study finds") quotes unnamed "UHN officials" as having "potential quality concerns" [in our PLoS study] which prompted UHN to "review the cases involved in the research and UHN has requested that the investigators provide this patient data as soon as possible".

We are dismayed by this public implication that the quality of the data in our extensively peer-reviewed manuscript in this open journal are questionable. We had sought in good faith to warn the UHN at its highest levels of authority, repeatedly, of this impending firestorm, not only in the last two years (as "UHN officials" also communicated to the Star) but since 2009.

We are also disappointed by the "directive" of the UHN lawyer (who is not our lawyer) to provide the relevant names and MRN numbers of the patients in our study. First, we need legal opinion of our own lawyer and perhaps the Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, to breach the confidentiality of our REB approved research patients.

However, Dr. Smith indicated on January 7, 2019, that the UHN can obtain all relevant details at source within the UHN when there is an issue of safety. We urged this approach in February 2017 to Dr. Peter Pisters, Charles Chan and Brad Wouters.

Simply, UHN officials can request today of Drs. Richard Ward and Erik Yeo: "Could you please provide to us the names and MRN numbers of all patients in the UHN Red Cell Program who were switched from (licensed) first-line, proven, effective therapies to any regimen involving (unlicensed) deferiprone between March 2009 and February 2015?"

This will ensure that you obtain all the names (and not just those who consented to our study) whose therapy was altered as above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda L. Gallie".

Brenda L. Gallie, MD, FRCSC, CM, OOnt  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Olivieri".

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CC: Dr. Michael Baker