

9 March 2020

Dr. Kevin Smith
President & CEO
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Dr. Brian D. Hodges
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Dr. Amit Oza
Head of Hematology/Oncology
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Dear Drs. Smith, Hodges and Oza,

We join Drs. Nancy Olivieri and Brenda Gallie to urge you to ensure that they are able to disclose to patients at The University Health Network (UHN) the harms identified in the progress of their study, approved by UHN Research Ethics Board and published in PLOS One in February 2019 at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0211942>

We agree with Drs. Gallie and Olivieri that is their duty to inform patients whose clinical harms were revealed and exposed as a result of their research, and that UHN has an ethical obligation to allow them to do so, as reflected in Canada's Tri-Council Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans: https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html, The Canadian Medical Protective Association guidelines and policy: <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/advice-publications/browse-articles/2015/disclosing-harm-from-healthcare-delivery-open-and-honest-communication-with-patients>, The Canadian Patient Safety Institute guidelines: <https://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/toolsResources/disclosure/Pages/default.aspx>, The Canadian Medical Association's Code of Ethics: <https://www.cma.ca/cma-code-ethics-and-professionalism> and the guidelines of The Professional Standards Authority: <https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/news-and-blog/latest-news/detail/2019/01/08/telling-patients-the-truth-when-something-has-gone-wrong-how-have-professional-regulators-encouraged-professionals-to-be-candid-to-patients>.

It is essential that UHN act promptly to allow Drs. Olivieri and Gallie to fulfill their professional and ethical obligations to the patients consented in their study.

Sincerely,

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