



## Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



February 27, 2017

Swim Across America  
11600 N. Community House Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277

Dear Rob,

In the 1980s, Memorial Sloan Kettering was seeking to expand our efforts and innovate in the area of cancer immunotherapy. This now widely accepted standard approach to cancer treatment was then considered to be unconventional and speculative. Swim Across America recognized the high risk/high reward nature of our efforts and quickly became the largest non-government organization to financially support our immunotherapy research.

Over the past two decades, SAA has awarded more than \$15 million dollars to MSK, allowing us to conduct immunotherapy clinical trials and cutting-edge translational research. In fact, SAA funding has played a major role in clinically developing the four FDA approved immunotherapy medicines ipilimumab, nivolumab, pembrolizumab and atezolizumab.

We have been able to leverage SAAs financial support into millions of dollars of NIH grant support as well as other private donations we might not otherwise have received. Our lab at MSK is designated as the Swim Across America lab, signifying the importance of our partnership with Swim Across America.

Personally, I've volunteered at many SAA swims and helped their loved ones who have been affected by cancer. The community of supporters is one of the most generous and committed to the cause that I have ever had the privilege to be associated with. We very much appreciate our partnership with SAA and share a mutual commitment to fighting cancer.

Sincerely,

**Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD**

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Head, Swim Across America Laboratory  
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NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center