



**UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital**  
Oakland

February 27, 2017

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

Dear Rob,

Our relationship with Swim Across America began in 2009 when we were named a beneficiary of the SAA—San Francisco swim. SAA has granted \$1.2M to fund pediatric cancer research at UC San Francisco the past eight years.

The first half of my career was in pediatric cancer patient care. I was so motivated to find new cures to help our children that I transitioned the second half of my career to bench research. What is so frustrating and disheartening is how difficult it is to find dollars for pediatric cancer research. SAA funding is literally necessary to keeping our research going, and what I appreciate is that 100% of the SAA grant funds our research.

We have been able to translate SAA grants into more than \$3.6M in R01 and R03 NIH grants. We have also been able to invest in the next generation of researchers providing six fellowships and we've published eight papers with credit to Swim Across America.

I am such a believer in SAA that I recruit teams, speak at events, submit stories for their website, give tours of our lab, and of course undertake my own swim fundraiser every year and volunteer at the swims. SAA is more than a foundation. It is a community. Thank you so much for your unwavering support of cancer research.

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