September 2013

Dear Friend,

What causes interstitial cystitis (IC)?
When will IC be easier to diagnose?
When will there be more effective treatments for IC?
Will there ever be a cure for IC?

The Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA) wants the answers to these questions as much as you do. With our dedication, and your support, together we can find definitive answers through research and put an end to this insidious and life-altering condition.

ICA works to empower those suffering with IC with the knowledge they need to understand and manage their condition and the hope for a better tomorrow and an end to their disease. But without research, there is no hope.

A generous donor has presented ICA with a $50,000 matching challenge grant. With this unique opportunity, every contribution to the ICA Pilot Research Program up to $10,000 per individual or organization will be matched by our donor. Research projects funded with this grant will further enhance our quest for answers and focus on identifying the causes of IC and exploring broadly applicable treatments.

The ICA Pilot Research Program is the only IC-dedicated research program funded by a non-profit, charitable organization. Having funded nearly 100 research projects since its inception, the ICA Pilot Research Program has enabled many researchers to obtain large government grants to further pursue their explorations into the answers all those suffering with IC need now. Here’s a sample of ICA’s most-recently funded researchers and their work:

- Dr. Jayoung Kim and her team at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA discovered how Antiproliferative factor (APF), a protein
found in about 95% of IC patients’ urine, may damage the bladder. This breakthrough discovery may help make IC easier to diagnose and treatments for IC more effective.

- Dr. Kristina Allen-Brady and her team at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT analyzed 15 million records in the Utah Population Database to study the genetic risk of IC. Dr. Allen-Brady found a significant genetic risk of IC extending all the way out to third-cousins, showing genetics may contribute to the cause of IC.

- Dr. Matthew Fraser at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC is assessing how pelvic organs, when injured by infection or trauma, may influence the sensitivity and function of neighboring organs. This study will give insight into the cause of IC as well as other chronic pelvic pain conditions that often coexist with IC.

ICA tirelessly advocates to protect and ensure the continued investment in IC research at the federal level, at both the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense through its Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program. ICA’s efforts ensure that together, these agencies invest nearly $10 million annually in IC-specific research. But in order to carry on ICA’s advocacy work, your continued support is essential.

Make your gift in support of all this important work by supporting both the ICA Pilot Research Program and ICA’s Annual Fund. The generosity of donors like you can help push the science forward and move us closer to finding the answers to IC we all want and need.

Together, we can make a difference.

Best regards,

Lee Bryan Claassen, CAE
Executive Director

P.S. September 30 marks the end of ICA’s fiscal year. Help support ICA’s continued efforts in the coming year by making a contribution today.