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Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment Productions
28345 Beck Road, Suite 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your film entitled, “On the Front Lines of Cancer,” a film that seeks to tell the stories of those dealing with cancer and to provide hope for the future of cancer medicine. I am thrilled that you are creating a film that will also touch on the unique challenges faced by Veterans dealing with cancer.

I am an Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine, specializing in genitourinary malignancies and specifically prostate cancer, both at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center and at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. Research questions and projects I have tackled throughout my career thus far have focused on minimizing the harm done to patients with cancer-directed therapies by identifying those at higher risk of toxicities and identifying those less likely to benefit from a toxic treatment. In addition, I have more recently been collaborating with researchers at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, the Rogel Cancer Center, and the Ann Arbor VA to understand the factors that cause wide variation in how patients with prostate cancer are treated for the same disease, specifically those factors that are not related to their cancer, such as a patient’s income, education, where they live, and which doctor that they see.

As the population continues to age, cancer will continue to be an important problem. While we have made great strides in the treatment of patients with cancer, it is still largely an incurable disease in its metastatic form for most patients. To improve from the current status quo, funding for research to support all aspects of the disease is urgently needed, including discovery research, clinical research, and health services research. We not only need to build on our arsenal to treat this disease, but we need to ensure that treatments we already know are effective for patients are being widely implemented across the country in an equitable way, and that strategies that have already been found to reduce the risk of cancer can be widely implemented.

This film will illuminate the unique struggles faced by patients, and specifically Veteran patients with cancer and demonstrate that cancer touches every person at some point in their life, in one way or another. I am pleased to be a part of this effort and look forward to sharing this film with my patients and with my family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Megan E.V. Caram'.

Megan E.V. Caram, MD, MSc