

January 31, 2012

Dick Bagley, President  
Ziopharm Oncology, Inc  
P.O. Box 791988  
Paia, HI 96779

Dear Mr. Bagley,

The Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine located in St. Louis, Missouri, had the pleasure of having the “Musical HOPE Campaign” starring Charlie Lustman visit our cancer center January 16-18.

In corresponding with Charlie the last few years via phone and e-mail, I was immediately taken by his charming personality and his passion for sharing his story. I was pleased when he met one of our sarcoma specialists, Dr. Brian Van Tine, who was instrumental in bringing Charlie to Siteman.

Charlie’s enthusiasm is palpable. His ability to transcend his experience to help others is truly a gift. He is able to disarm them with his music while simultaneously giving them hope and opening up dialogue for others to share their own experiences. In anticipation of Charlie’s arrival, we were able to secure several media placements, which allowed us to bring awareness to clinical trials, our cancer center and survivorship.

One television appearance caught the eye of one of our patient’s wife. Her husband, a father of two, is currently undergoing treatment for sarcoma. She heard Charlie’s story and immediately phoned her husband, saying, “we have a luncheon we need to go to today.” The young couple thoroughly enjoyed the performance and had the opportunity to talk at length with Charlie. The wife, with tears in her eyes, thanked me for bringing Charlie to St. Louis “at just the right time.” She talked about their discovery that there are few survivors of osteosarcoma. She said her husband felt empowered “for the first time in a long time.” He smiled and stated that Charlie’s visit was just the boost he needed to get him through his upcoming treatments.

Making a difference to one would have been enough, but Charlie made a difference to all, whether singing to nursing staff or meeting patients one-on-one or in a group setting. The response from our patients and staff was overwhelming. As Charlie shared his story and sang to patients in our infusion center, his voice carried over to other infusion pods. Slowly, other patients and nurses from other areas asked who was singing the uplifting “cancer songs,” inquiring if he would be coming to sing to them.

Being a bystander in watching Charlie perform—hearing people share their stories, seeing their tears of joy, watching the transformation as the songs invigorated them and gave them a new sense of hope—is something I will always treasure being a part of.

I have heard many staff praise Charlie and say they hope he will return to visit Siteman soon. Thank you for allowing Siteman to be a part of the “Musical HOPE Campaign.”

Best Wishes,

Denise Bizenberger  
Marketing Specialist  
Siteman Cancer Center

Cc: Charlie Lustman

Enclosure (1)