



November 28, 2011

Christopher S. Jerry
President & CEO
Emily Jerry Foundation
7665 Mentor Ave., #343
Cleveland, OH 44060

Dear Chris,

I am writing to thank you and Eric Cropp again for presenting to our students at the Ohio State University Medical Center on November 21st. Your program was one of the most powerful events I have attended in my 40 years on campus. We are all humbled by your passion in the wake of the tragedy of Emily's death to advocate for change in our healthcare system. All medical errors are rooted in system flaws, but we must also reinforce the importance of individual vigilance among our students and practicing health professionals. Your presentations on November 21st addressed both of these needs in a personal and compelling way.

I left your program with many different thoughts racing through my head. I was deeply moved by the loving forgiveness you have granted Eric, and I'm quite sure that this was one of the most memorable messages of the evening for the pharmacy students in attendance. At a basic human level, this act of understanding is truly inspirational. As a health professional, the need for change to enhance patient safety is one of our most critical priorities. Your insights into the urgency of this need were important reminders to all of us about the importance of interprofessional communication and cooperation. No single profession can solve this problem in a vacuum. You remind us of the imperative for collaboration to prevent future tragedies.

I admire what you are doing in the Emily Jerry Foundation to advocate for medication safety. I'm sure this will result in systems and policy changes for the greater good – it already has in Ohio. But you also recognize the importance of reaching out to health profession students as a poignant reminder of the covenant they have with their patients to first do no harm. While the auditorium was nearly full on November 21st in Columbus, I wish every health profession student on campus had heard that message. I wish every future health professional in the country could have the opportunity to sit with you and Eric as they formulate their practice skills and attitudes. It is my hope that you will continue to prioritize meeting with students among the many important things you are doing, and I encourage educators to embrace your offers to do so. I would be happy to speak with anyone who may have further questions about your program if that would be helpful.

We are all so sorry about Emily's death, but we are uplifted by your reaction to this unthinkable tragedy. God bless you and keep you, and Godspeed to the Emily Jerry Foundation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Hale, R.Ph., Ph.D.
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Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration