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Professor Carlos Eduardo Cardoso
Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies at Universidade de Vassouras

Professor Eduardo Tavares Lima Trajano
Coordinator of the Postgraduation Program in Applied Health Sciences at Universidade de Vassouras

Dear Professors Cardoso and Tavares Lima Trajano,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write a description of the highly productive and successful collaboration between the Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Reference Centers in Brazil under the leadership of Dr. Antonio Braga at the Rio de Janeiro Trophoblastic Disease Center at the Maternity School of Rio de Janeiro Federal University, Antonio Pedro University Hospital of Fluminense Federal University and Universidade de Vassouras and myself at the New England Trophoblastic Disease Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Braga has been the leader organizing the collaboration in Brazil with multiple Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Reference Centers and I am the Director of the New England Trophoblastic Disease Center, Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Gynecology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and serve as the William H. Baker Professor of Gynecology at Harvard Medical School.

Since the beginning of this collaboration which was initiated by Dr. Braga 12 years ago, 44 original research reports have been published in highly respected journals including Lancet Oncology, British Journal of Cancer, British Medical Journal, British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Reproductive Sciences, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Gynecologic Oncology, and International Journal of Gynecologic Oncology. We also have coauthored 5 review

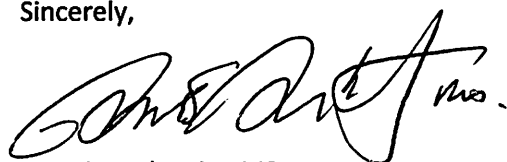
articles. The research activity continues to be highly active, and we currently have 5 research paper under review at respected journals.

There is a very active exchange of researchers between Brazil and the New England Trophoblastic Disease Center and yearly investigators from Brazil work with us in both clinical and basic science research. Furthermore, our faculty has also gone to Brazil to work with Brazilian investigators in both laboratory and clinical research. We have learned a great deal from each other. Dozens of young investigators from Brazil who are working on their Masters and Doctorates have pursued their research with us at the New England Trophoblastic Disease Center and many have worked with us coming to Boston. Furthermore, we have monthly zoom research meetings reviewing the plans for future research, reviewing the data for ongoing studies, and working on manuscript for publications. These meetings are attended by senior faculty, junior faculty, and trainees.

I believe that it is fair to say that in the area of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease the collaboration between the Brazilian Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Centers under the leadership of Dr. Braga and the investigators at the New England Trophoblastic Disease Center is the strongest international collaboration that has ever been done on the subject. This collaboration has achieved tremendous strength due to the commitment and passion of the investigators to advance understanding of gestational trophoblastic disease with the goal of reducing suffering in patients, and growth in mutual respect, trust, and friendship between the 2 groups.

We are strongly committed to further strengthening our collaboration with Dr. Braga and the group in Brazil and we are convinced that we can further advance understanding to improve the management in gestational trophoblastic disease and at the same time train young investigators in both clinical and laboratory research who are committed to advancing women's health. It has been a wonderful privilege and pleasure to work with our Brazilian colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross S. Berkowitz, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "RSB" being prominent.

Ross S. Berkowitz, MD