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Research Director
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I would like to brief you and the members of the Board of Directors of the Moran Foundation on the progress of the project entitled: " Renal Tissue Loss in Chronic Obstructive Uropathy is Mediated by Apoptosis of Tubular Cells". This project was funded by the Moran Foundation under the number 96-0085 ending December 31, 1997.

The following studies have been completed:

1. Treatment of Sprague-Dawley rats with Enalapril to see whether renal lesion is improved. This is part B in the "plan of study". This part of the study has been submitted as an abstract presented in the Meetings of American Society of Nephrology in December, 1996 and published in Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (Truong, L., Yang, G., Nguyen, A., Shappell, S., Rouse, D., Jost, L., Gonzalez, J., Suki, W. Improvement of renal lesions in chronic obstructive uropathy (COU) by Enalapril is associated with a decrease in tubular cell apoptosis (AP). Journal of the American Society of Nephrology 7:A3005, 1996.).

2. Ligation of ureters in mice was already completed.

3. Immunohistochemical staining for P53 protein in mouse kidney tissue was already completed.

4. Creation of the cDNA probe of P53 was already completed.

5. Inflammatory cell phenotyping for the mouse kidney tissue was already completed.

6. Colonies of P53 "knock-out" mice were already established with 5 homozygous male mice, 5 female heterozygous mice, 5 male heterozygous mice, and 15 littermate controls. We are waiting for another 10 homozygous mice to complete the study.

   The steps 2-6 mentioned above are related to the A1 portion of the plan of study.

7. Aurintricarboxylic acid was already injected into the peritoneal cavity of several normal rats and the maximum tolerable dose was already established (50mg/kg/day). It takes another 40 days to complete the comparative study.

As you can see, all phases of this project are alive and well. One abstract was already completed, and the pertinent manuscript is being prepared. The other parts of the project are well on the way and should provide very fascinating and novel data.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Research Director and Board Members of the Moran Foundation for their interest in my ideas and their support of my scientific efforts.

Sincerely,

Luan Truong, M.D.

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