



A Letter From the Executive Director October 2018

Dear Friends,

As the Guthy-Jackson Foundation enters an exhilarating new phase of work and global outreach, I am happy to write to you as the first Executive Director of the Foundation. I accepted this appointment because it is clear to me that the GJCF has already made a significant impact, and stands to do so much more for NMO patients, researchers and the entire NMO community.

Please know that my past experience is aligned with the mission of the GJCF. From my engagement with the health care initiatives at the Carter Center, working closely with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to successfully combat river blindness, to leading the The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, guiding development efforts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), to most recently, working to forge an historic partnership between the Doheny Eye Institute and UCLA Stein Eye Institute.



My interest is in pursuing and expanding excellence in high-impact nonprofit organizations. In each case, I carefully evaluated the potential of the organization and deployed my experience leading towards an increasingly meaningful impact. With breakthroughs both behind and ahead, I believe GJCF is poised to have more impact than ever.

In the coming month, I will be on hand as we host an NMO Symposium in Berlin alongside Industry Council members Alexion and VielaBio. I'm also happy to say I will travel to Moscow as we host the first-ever NMO conference in Russia, dedicated to supporting researchers and clinicians on the front lines of advancing diagnosis and treatments.

Fortunately, the leadership team in place which so skillfully guided GJCF through the first decade of groundbreaking progress will continue to support the new direction with passion. Our commitment to scientific research in NMO has not changed. As always, 100% of all donations go directly toward scientific research to solve and eventually cure NMO.



As Bill and Victoria move GJCF's work into the next phase, the foundation team has moved up to Los Angeles to open a brand new office. We'd like to welcome Claire Dodds, our outstanding new Executive Coordinator. Dan Behne, Derek Blackway, and Renee Rodriguez, all instrumental to our early successes have left the foundation. Our profound thanks to them each for dedicating many years and expertise to our critical work.

Finally, please note the dates for our 2019 Roundtable Conference Patient Day in Los Angeles, March 30 - April 1, 2019. My deepest thanks to the NMO community for a very warm welcome and I look forward to sharing more progress with you as The Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation launches into a second decade of revolutionary work in NMO.



Warmest regards,

Christopher Clinton Conway
Executive Director

P.S. Check out our website at guthyjacksonfoundation.org, which continues to evolve as an excellent resource for patients, clinicians and families.



Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation
Beverly Hills, CA
(310) 620-3074
info@guthyjacksonfoundation.org

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