

October 2, 2007

Dear SSAT Board of Trustees:

As the 2005-2007 recipient of the SSAT Career Development Award I would like to again express my gratitude for this prestigious award.

The generosity of the SSAT continues to be invaluable in my goal to develop an independent research program. The award allowed me to increased dedicated time allotted to basic science research and hire a full time laboratory research technician.

The data generated from this project has begun to answer basic questions concerning the role of the intestinal mucosa in the acute inflammatory response as well as the interplay between Toll-like receptors, luminal contents, and pro-inflammatory transcription factor cascades in the intestinal mucosa.

As a result of the Career Development Award, I was able to develop data that led to successful funding of a research proposal by the Shriners Hospitals for Children. This 3 year grant is providing significant funding to allow continuation of this project and investigation of additional interactions between the gut and its contents, as well as the effect of critical illness on this relationship.

In summary, I would like to thank the membership of the SSAT for their generosity. This award has been essential in my career development and I will remain forever in your debt.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Pritts, M.D., Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
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