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September 9, 2004

## Report of the 2003 Career Development Winner

Dear SSAT Board of Trustees:

As the 2003-2005 winner of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract Career Development Award I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my gratitude for this prestigious grant.

I have just recently been recruited to a new position as a clinician-scientist at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, which offers enormous potential for growth as a young investigator. The SSAT Award has validated my commitment to scientific research in the eyes of my new department and institution. Subsequently, Moffitt Cancer Center has allocated protected time as well as generous financial, structural and mentoring resources towards my research effort. The transition has been seamless and my new laboratory is up and running.

From a more tangible standpoint, over the past year, I have made steady progress in my study of the molecular mechanisms underlying gastrointestinal oncogenesis. This has resulted in the presentation of our findings at two major national meetings as well as the submission of 2 manuscripts for publication. We have recently submitted new data in abstract form to another national meeting. Most importantly, this award has also conferred the time and resources necessary to develop the preliminary data that culminated in the submission of a K08 Mentored Clinician-Scientist Award application in February of this year. The proposal was given a strong priority score, but will require resubmission in November citing the specifics of my new research environment. I am confident that we will be successful in obtaining NIH funding.

The SSAT Career Development Award has certainly been the first and to date, the most crucial milestone for my research career as a young investigator. I am confident that I will continue to use this award over the next year to further assist my development as a competent researcher. Thank you once again for this tremendous opportunity and I hope that the Board will continue to support this worthwhile award for future young surgeons.

Sincerely,

David Shibata, M.D.