



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

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RE: Letter of Support for IPPF Patient Speakers at Dental Schools

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 28, 2013 an International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation (IPPF) Patient Educator presented to my second year Oral Pathology dental students at The University of Michigan. The Patient Educator's honest portrayal of her long journey to obtain a diagnosis for her pemphigus vulgaris was an exceptional learning experience for my students, and one I highly recommend for other dental schools.

I was so pleased with the presentation that I invited the same Patient Educator to present again on March 31, 2014 to my second year dental students, now at Indiana University School of Dentistry. Once again, I found this to be a phenomenal way to enhance current lectures on pemphigus vulgaris and mucous membrane pemphigoid (PV/MMP). This was a very memorable experience for my students that put a face to a disease. Students described how this presentation will impact their future clinical decision making process, highlighting the importance of addressing their patients' concerns, developing a thorough differential diagnosis, and, in the scenario presented, performing a biopsy. Many commented on how much they gained from this patient testimonial compared to standard lectures and textbooks.

It is critically important to provide our students with a variety of learning experiences and to remind them that behind every disease they study are real patients with those diseases. I am very fortunate to have been able to provide my students with this type of experience. I strongly encourage every dental school to consider inviting an IPPF Patient Educator into their classroom.

The IPPF is a wonderful organization to work with. You are sure to find a reliable and professional staff to answer questions about Patient Educators or PV/MMP.

Please feel free to follow up with me if you have any further questions about my experience.

Sincerely,

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