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## *A Letter from Dr. Vipul Patel*

Dear Friends,

Thank you, for taking the time to learn about the mission of our International Prostate Cancer Foundation. Please join us as we start our journey in the fight against this formidable disease. The spirit of the foundation is a culmination of the inspirational ideas and motivation provided to us by our colleagues and patients over the last decade of clinical practice.

Our organization was founded from the vast experience that we have accumulated and from the experiences of our patients and their families. As a urologic cancer physician that treats prostate cancer, I am faced with the daily challenge of educating and treating men with prostate cancer. I have now treated thousands of men with this fate and have learned from their own self-reflection and ordeals. These men have come to me from all over the world with varied questions seeking inspiration, comfort, compassion and care. Confusion, frustration and fear are often predominant in their thoughts. Their suffering and that of their families and friends has given us a unique perspective of this disease and of what needs to be done to lessen its toll or to eradicate it completely.

Our team has traveled globally over the last decade and has been dedicated to the clear mission of education. We have expounded the virtues of screening for early diagnosis, improved treatment modalities and education to doctors and patients alike. This has allowed us to appreciate the magnitude of the global impact of the disease and the drastic variations in diagnostic practices, stages at detection and levels of available treatment. Due to the inconsistency in screening, education and treatment in different societies, I have teamed up with my patients and colleagues to join the fight against this common yet elusive foe. We are hopeful that you will join us in the battle to eradicate prostate cancer on a global level.

Our mission has been established by the demands of our men afflicted with prostate cancer. Their voice has been clear and unwavering while asking us all to join them and to help others who may become affected in the future. Our mission is to take a direct and clinical approach to the prevention, early diagnosis and education of patients with prostate cancer. Our patients have teamed with out experienced leadership of surgeons, oncologists and researchers. Our charter has three major facets:

### Genetic Testing

Prostate cancer is genetically inherited and it is one of the main contributing factors in developing the disease. Our goal is to promote clinical and basic science research in genetic testing for the patients; their relatives and their descendants. The aim is to help the scientific world find the genetic signatures that predispose to the development of prostate cancer and use this to clinically impact those afflicted with and those predisposed based upon genetic heritage.

### Education for Patients and Physicians

The global impact of lack of education about prostate cancer is staggering. In the United States, most men diagnosed early with prostate cancer have a greater than 90% chance of cure. The majority of this is based upon early diagnosis from screening. This survival rate is not reflected worldwide. Educating patients on the virtues of regular prostate cancer screening along with their treatment options is one of our key missions. In addition, we support the education of physicians on the optimal treatment modalities.

### Global Screening

Promoting the global screening for prostate cancer is a monumental task for any foundation. One of our key missions is to work with governments, organizations and programs worldwide and support their efforts in screening and education in their local environment.

What makes our foundation unique is that it is lead by doctors that work with these patients on a daily basis. Our mission is very direct and clinically clear in its nature. A foundation led by doctors and their patients, a fight for the cure. Please join us in our journey.

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