

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY &
BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCES

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To,
Keith Famie
Executive Producer
Visionalist Entertainment

Dear Keith,

I could not be more pleased to express my support and gratitude to you for embarking on your production of "Death is not the Answer." People like you are crucial and often un-acknowledged partners of researchers like us. It is your drive and determination, that enhances our efforts to explain to the public the goals and motivations behind medical research, and how we are attempting to unravel the devastating intricacies of mental illnesses like depression. These illnesses exact terrible personal tolls yet an understanding of their basic brain and biological mechanisms has eluded medical science for decades. Without such an understanding, hopes for treatment are diminished. I cannot say for certain that medical research will find reliable and enduring cures for these conditions. Nevertheless the goal of researchers is to try intelligently and try hard.

I am honored that you chose to cover our neuroimaging related attempts to solve these problems. In many ways as an organ system, the brain is the final frontier in medical science. In its intricate workings are locked both our ability to do amazing things, as well as the vulnerabilities of the human condition such as depression and schizophrenia. The work we are doing at Wayne State University is a drop in the bucket, yet to paraphrase an ancient saying, it is many drops that make an ocean. We are privileged to work in such a pressing field, and honored to help you enhance our publics understanding of what illnesses such as depression are.

With my kindest regards,



Vaibhav A. Diwadkar, PhD
Associate Professor



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