

To: Greg Flaker MD  
From: Troy Norred

Dear Dr. Flaker;

This is a letter in follow-up to our conversation regarding my percutaneous aortic valve. I have since been in touch with a Medtronic representative and a Guidant representative. We are initiating meetings to discuss their interest and participation with the forthcoming project. Depending upon the results of the said meetings I will forward to you a protocol and time table for the project. I anticipate the need for 4 to 6 mo dedicated time to accomplish my initial goals.

The goals I have set forth to reasonably pursue this technology includes but is not limited to the following statements. First, I would like to establish the feasibility of delivering a valve and having it anchored in the ascending aorta in an animal model. Secondly, I would like to explore different designs upon this central theme to assess which device would be most generalizably effective. Thirdly, I would like to explore the different materials available and assess in these models their thrombogenicity and durability at different stress levels. Fourthly, I would like to finalize ancillary techniques to aortic debulking and assess the feasibility, generalizability, thrombogenicity and emolization of these techniques. Finally, I would like to package the results in an ambitious effort to design Phase I trials to look at the device in the most dire of patients with inoperable AS. Thus, this is an ambitious undertaking, but I have the desire and have shown the motivation and creativity to move this project to a successful completion.

I am collaborating with several well respected professors here and will continue to look for constructive collaboration with our staff. Your encouragement, guidance and mentoring has been invaluable and for this I am indebted to you.

Sincerely

Troy Norred

