



University of Pittsburgh

School of Medicine

Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine

UPMC Montefiore NW 628
3459 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-692-2139
Fax: 412-605-1999

March 25, 2014

Re: Stephen Gaudet
DOB: 9-12-54

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as Director of the University of Pittsburgh Asthma Institute and a pulmonary physician who specializes in the care of the most severe asthma patients. In my 20 years of specializing in this area, I can honestly say that Mr. Gaudet is one of the most severe asthmatic patients I have seen. He came to the University of Pittsburgh to participate in our Severe Asthma Research Program (SARP) which extensively studies the reasons for severe asthma and to improve our ability to treat it. Mr. Gaudet has extremely poor lung function (about 30-40% of what he should have for his age). His lungs are scarred and remodeled such that even with new attempts at treatment, the chances that any "drug" would be effective are small. He is not a candidate for thermoplasty. He exacerbates very frequently and has rather severe decreases in his oxygen saturations. Most importantly, he has been on mechanical ventilation (respirator) over 20 times and these are not brief intubations. In each case, had he not gotten to the hospital in time, he likely would have died. One of these times he may not get there in time.

While I do not typically suggest lung transplant for asthma patients, in the case of Mr. Daudet, I began the conversation with him during our first visit in 2010. The University of Pittsburgh is among the top transplant centers in the country, both by volume and in outcomes. I believe that it would be highly advantageous for Mr. Gaudet to undergo transplant here in Pittsburgh for these reasons, as well as the fact that I would be able to better oversee the process. I would strongly encourage you to allow him to undergo evaluation here in Pittsburgh.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 412.802.6859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Wenzel".

Sally Wenzel, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director, University of Pittsburgh Asthma Institute @UPMC/UPSOM
Subsection Chief of Allergy
Chair of Immunology and Airway Biology
Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine