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Michael Whitfield, PhD—Principal Investigator
Kate Brennan—Administrative Director

September 26, 2011

American Society for Scleroderma Research
31 Patmar Terrace
Monroe, CT 06468

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Scleroderma Center at Boston University School of Medicine, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to our research program. The \$125,000 that you have contributed since 2005 has been instrumental in helping us to make important early discoveries in scleroderma that allowed us to compete nationally for our recently awarded NIH P50 and P30 grants. As these grants amount to about \$11.5 million in new funding for exciting projects that have been spawned by your support and that will help us discover new medicines to treat scleroderma, we think that it is particularly fitting to recognize your contribution to our success. We literally couldn't have done it without your support over the years through our very lean times.

With the establishment of the Scleroderma Center of Research Translation at Boston University, we anticipate making many discoveries. However, we continue to rely on your support to allow us to develop new ideas that are not funded by our NIH support. As you know it is the unrestricted nature of your donation, allowing us to choose the area of greatest scientific urgency rather than confining us to a funded project, that makes your contributions so special for our work.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Lafyatis".

Robert Lafyatis, MD