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Dr. J.G. de Ridder
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SKION	
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	Paraaf:

Dear Dr. de Ridder,

I am writing as CEO of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (SJCRH), the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children in the US. I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to establish a National Childhood Cancer Center in The Netherlands. I have discussed this with Professor Rob Pieters, Head of Pediatric Oncology/Hematology at Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, and also with several of his colleagues who visited St. Jude last year.

The idea to establish one center of excellence for pediatric oncology research and treatment could create an institution comparable to SJCRH, which would be unique in Europe. I believe this would not only be best for children with cancer in The Netherlands, but throughout the EU and beyond. My confidence in its success is in part because it is led by an impressive group of physicians organized within the well-established DCOG. I would anticipate that this new center will act as a model for clinical care throughout the EU and will be considered a resource for national and international clinical and translational researchers. I understand that this would become the largest center for childhood cancer in Europe and a collaborative site for leaders in this field worldwide. Such a center would allow you to combine leading patient care experts and top researchers in a single center, to guide the development and evaluation of innovative treatment protocols for children with cancer.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was established in 1962 with the goal of becoming a "National Resource" for children with cancer, and over the years we have increasingly developed focused programs that conduct clinical and translational research that is difficult or impossible to conduct at multiple treatment centers. We have benefited enormously from having a critical mass of investigators at a single center, where we can conduct protocols and do translational research that would otherwise not be possible. This not only sets St. Jude apart as a national resource, but more importantly it brings innovations to childhood cancer research and advances in treatment that might otherwise not happen. It is my view that if done properly, the

National Childhood Cancer Center in The Netherlands could emerge as a similar "national resource" for all of Europe, with its work complimenting and helping to advance research being done in smaller centers throughout the EU.

Our goal at St. Jude is to be the world leader in advancing treatment of cancer and other catastrophic diseases in children, through cutting edge basic research and innovative clinical trials that translate laboratory discoveries to the clinic. Having a strong partner like the proposed National Childhood Cancer Center in The Netherlands would provide the opportunity of international collaborations between our two institutions, and would synergize our efforts to advance cures for children with cancer.

I would be delighted to discuss this further with you, if you wish.

Sincerely,



William E. Evans