



December 18, 2018

As we approach the end of 2018, I want to update you on our efforts toward finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease (PD). Over the last few years, we have found "our lane." With research efforts literally in the millions of dollars, we quickly realized we could not make an impact in "that lane." We have learned that there is a very high demand for funding in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range to determine potential viability before organizations with significant resources are willing to commit funding.

Last year we awarded a \$50,000 grant to a team of scientists via Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) that has researchers "very excited" about the initial findings. While the findings require additional testing and validation, the team of scientists are excited to have laid foundation for the discovery of a potential biomarker for PD.

A biomarker is an objective measure that would provide: (1) the ability to diagnose PD; (2) monitor/measure progression; and, (3) objectively evaluate drug effectiveness. Currently, there are no known biomarkers for PD. MJFF will continue to support this work and KiMe is excited to be a part of this forward momentum.

If we can predict who will develop Parkinson's, we might be able to prevent it. With this in mind, in 2016 we made an award to Van Andel Institute (VAI) to study the implications of a specific gene (ACMSD). Preliminary results were encouraging and have been recognized by potential funding sources as "timely, innovative, significant, and of high relevance." In September we awarded an additional \$25,000 to VAI to further support this effort.

Research funded by KiMe has produced encouraging results that have been essential to gaining the confidence, and subsequently the funding, from organizations to support research that has the best chance to make a significant difference in finding a cure. Your sustained support has enabled us to make these research grants possible.

In addition to our annual 2018 Shakin' Not Stirred fundraiser, on October 5, we held our *1st Annual KiMe Fund Golf Classic* at Egwani Farms Golf Course. The course, player gift packages, prizes, and opportunity for one golfer to take a shot at winning \$1,000,000 made our inaugural golf classic a memorable day! We have already started planning for 2019. Stay tuned.

On April 27, 2019 we will be hosting our *9th Annual KiMe Shakin' Not Stirred Parkinson's Fundraiser* at The Venue at Lenoir City. The evening promises to be engaging and fun! I hope you will save the date now and join us next April.

I am truly humbled by the more than 500 supporters that have generously volunteered time, donated auction items, hosted events, served as a sponsor, donated money, or attended an event since we established KiMe in 2010. In closing, I want to say *THANK YOU* for making a difference!

It is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when ---- we will find a cure!

With every best wish,

*Steve*

Steven R. Hodges  
Founder, KiMe Fund

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