

Dear Rugiero Family and Casino Royal Sponsors,

2020/2021 can be defined by the word "change," and I am grateful to share that the Michigan diabetes program not only survived in the midst of many changes, but thrived.

The past year and a half has been a special challenge for us. When COVID-19 hit Michigan, the U-M responded by creating a regional respiratory intensive care unit — all patients on ventilators, fighting for their lives. You may already know this, but fully **one-third of all the COVID-19-positive ICU patients presented with runaway diabetes**. We tripled our inpatient doctor teams for COVID diabetes and are now part of a new multidisciplinary clinic to provide a one-stop evaluation and treatment approach for patients afflicted with PASC (long haulers).



The pandemic affected all of us — and shed a new light on the comorbidities that put people at risk and compounded the complications of COVID, namely diabetes.

As we move forward, our mission and resolve remain strong to advance diabetes research through groundbreaking genetic studies of patients with diabetes in our MEND clinic. The Michigan Genomics Initiative (MGI) has created an institutional repository of DNA and genetic data together with a medical phenotyping for a broad portfolio of future medical research. Participants are being enrolled to contribute biospecimens for genotyping and we are committed to advancing the understanding of health and wellness, the development of disease, personalizing and predicting response to treatment and advancing drug development.

The Antonio Rugiero Diabetes Research Fund has played a key role in our mission to fund our pilot research studies, support diabetes research trainees, including our annual postdoctoral symposium and also support our annual summer diabetes symposium.

I am amazed by the Rugiero family for the unwavering commitment to bring awareness and raise funds for the Michigan diabetes program to support our mission. I want to thank the family and all of you, our sponsors. Together, we are moving forward toward a future where there is a cure for diabetes. I look forward to celebrating the “10th Anniversary of the Rugiero Casino Royale event in person this fall!

With best regards,

Peter Arvan, M.D., Ph.D.
Division Chief, Metabolism Endocrinology & Diabetes