Dear Friends,

This has been a mixed year for the USC Center for Applied Molecular Medicine and the USC Norris Westside Cancer Center. We have had one of our most exciting years in terms of scientific progress, but, UNTIL STILL lost the fight against cancer with several of our patients. We need to do much better in this war against this awful foe.

We are honored to continue to work in the fight against cancer alongside our patients. You will see in the CAMM Update some of the advances of the Center. We need to do more, and I am asking for your help.

Please help us continue to advance the fight.

I wrote a book that is coming out January 17 (THE END OF ILLNESS, Free Press – Simon and Schuster) detailing my beliefs in a new way to approach health. There is an adage, “In order to understand peace, you have to go to war.” The more than two decades I have spent fighting cancer on the front lines has led me to a new understanding of general health. The work searching for better treatments to combat this ravaging disease has led me to new understanding about what it means for each of us to be healthy—and how to achieve it. As a result, I present a new paradigm for examining and caring for the human body, which honors our bodies as complex, whole systems, rather than focusing on a single issue – such as a genetic mutation, a germ, a deficiency or a number such as blood pressure, weight, or cholesterol. This systemic viewpoint is what has allowed me to challenge long-held beliefs and dismantle misperceptions about what “health” really means. I would be honored to hear your opinions on the book and am excited for you to read it.

Please help us continue the fight. Fight on!

With respect and gratitude,

David B. Agus, MD

Visit this website for health empowering tools: www.theendofillness.com
Spotlight on Dr. Jonathan Katz

Dr. Jonathan Katz is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at USC and the Director of Operations at the Center for Applied Molecular Medicine. In this capacity he oversees the operations of the mass spectrometry facility, clinical and experimental sample preparation, protocol development and data management. His primary research interests are in creating better clinical diagnostics that can help guide disease management decisions. Using his experience with Fourier-transform mass spectrometry, complex sample processing and molecular profiling, he has developed high-throughput techniques that produce informative, very high resolution, multidimensional mass spectral profiles; by interrogating these profiles, we are discovering the molecular fingerprints of biological state, clinical outcome and the underlying biochemical processes associated with cancer progression and management. Dr. Katz is an occasional performer at the Magic Castle as well as an avid, but poor, ukulele player.

How can you help?

In today’s economic environment, federal cancer research funding is in jeopardy, and at the same time, requests for support continue to increase. Now more than ever, CAMM needs your assistance in order for us to make an impact on this terrible disease. To make a donation to CAMM please visit us at www.doctorsofusc.com/wcc_donate or use the enclosed envelope to mail in your donation to the USC Norris Westside Cancer Center. Thank you in advance, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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