



College of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
PO Box 670564
Cincinnati OH 45267-0564

Phone (513) 558-4831
Fax (513) 558-4858

Date: 30 January 2021

Dear members of the LAM community,

It is an absolute honor and a privilege for me to accept the LAM Professorship. I am grateful for The LAM Foundation and the entire LAM community who made this position possible. Most importantly, I want to express my sincere gratitude towards Frank McCormack for being my mentor, for bringing me to this field, and for teaching me not only about the science but also the guiding principles and philosophies that he lives by every single day and that have formed the bedrock of the tremendous success that he and the LAM community have been able to achieve.

We have so much to celebrate over the past 25 years: vastly improved understanding of LAM, development of a blood-based test that can help establish the diagnosis without a lung biopsy, a well-formed clinic network that ensures quality clinical care to LAM patients, and most importantly, the discovery and subsequent regulatory approval of sirolimus as a treatment of LAM. This is a mountain of achievements that most rare disease communities don't get to see in a generation. As much as this success is a testament to the dedication, resilience, fortitude, and never-say-die attitude embodied by the LAM community; in equal parts this highlights the vision, direction and leadership of its main architect, Frank McCormack, without whom we would not be where we are. In that sense, I have a lot in common with the LAM community: both of us owe a large part of our success to Frank!

As I prepare to assume more responsibilities with this new position, I want everyone to know that I will do my level best to carry forward the philosophies that have served us so well over the past 25 years. The guiding principles for me will be: single-minded focus on the goal towards finding a cure for LAM, keeping patients at the front and center of every decision, generous attitude towards sharing that helps accelerate scientific discoveries, and full transparency with the LAM community. There will undoubtedly be scenarios where I will need assistance and I am thankful that we have a well-established group of experts in the form of our Scientific Advisory Board as well as The LAM Foundation Board of Directors to provide the necessary guidance.

Working on LAM has been the greatest professional satisfaction of my career, and it is my goal to use our current position as a launching pad to propel us towards even greater achievements in the pursuit of our mission to ultimately finding a cure for LAM. As we move into this next phase, I promise to maintain a sense of urgency towards our goal, to serve with humility, and to always keep my door open for the LAM community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nishant Gupta'.

Nishant Gupta, M.D.