

1111 University Blvd West
Silver Spring, MD 20902

April 5, 2004

Doctor Blair M. Eig
Holy Cross Hospital
1500 Forest Glen Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Eig,

Thank you for your letter and your kind words about my father. He was indeed very much loved but gave infinitely more than he received.

While I am gratified that end-of-life care is important to your hospital's ethics committee, I fail to understand how or why this would relate to my father. Indeed it is my fear that the hospital went into an "end-of-life mode" with my father based solely on his age, with little regard to his medical status or his wishes. I brought my father to your hospital for treatment of an infectious disease. He was ambulatory, suffered from no additional serious illnesses and had an excellent quality-of-life. As such, he wanted and required the most aggressive treatment in the hope of recovering and returning to that life. Anyone in his position, enjoying his good health, would have opted for the same regardless of religious orientation and very likely regardless of age.

As I conveyed to Ms. Williams, I believe the more serious issues we raised at our March 16th meeting go beyond the scope and purview of a confidential medical peer review process. They call into question, in a compelling and credible way, the accuracy of the medical records and the veracity of the doctors who treated my father. I trust they will be investigated in the thorough, open and transparent manner that such serious allegations mandate.

Dr. Eig, the unthinkable did happen in your hospital: Doctors surreptitiously wrested control of a patient's care from the patient and his family. An "unrealistic son" was left to stand and watch his father go from good to bad to critical without being apprised of readily-available treatment options. He was subsequently denied those options. As a result the patient's life ended prematurely, possibly very prematurely. By our Judeo-Christian standards this was essentially a murder.

We would appreciate if you could give us a timeframe by which we can expect to hear back from you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Rabbi Anemer, Dr. Cooper and I are awaiting with great interest your response.

Alexander H. Neustadter