

## **We Are Not Done Yet!**

G'day. I am writing to you from my home office as I have not been able to go into the hospital these last few months due to safety measures put in place to protect our patients. While this has been difficult for me personally, it has given me an opportunity to think – really think- something my busy schedule has not always allowed. Thinking has renewed my passion and focus on areas of CLL research on which we are lacking information critical to finding a cure and saving countless lives. To some, the fact that we now have non-chemotherapy treatment options that can extend the lives of many CLL patients, potentially for decades, means monetary and research efforts should be focused elsewhere. Well my friends, WE ARE NOT DONE YET! There are many critical questions that need to be answered. We need to understand the genetics behind familial CLL and the onset of second cancers so often seen in patients if we are to successfully prevent these cancers from occurring in the first place, or ensure we catch them at their earliest and most treatable stage. We need to discover what drives Richter's transformation and find therapies for these patients whose outcome is currently very poor. We need better information on how effective vaccines are in CLL patients, especially important as the world is laser-focused on finding a vaccine for COVID-19. Moving forward, state and federal research dollars will be reallocated to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. My promise to you is that CLL Global will steadfastly work towards finding a cure for CLL, funding cutting-edge, out of the box science from some of the greatest research minds in the world. Thank you for making all of this possible. Without your support we would not be where we are today, and we would not have the promise of a world without CLL in our future.

- Dr. Michael J. Keating