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Dear Friends,

Serving as Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for nearly a quarter of a century has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I have decided that the time is optimal for me to step down as the Director of Neurosurgery. I do so with a tremendous sense of gratitude to the faculty, residents, and fellows who deliver the highest level of neurosurgical care while pushing boundaries through research to better understand the diseases we treat and to develop new innovative therapies.

As I step down from my administrative role as chair, I will remain as a full-time neurosurgery faculty member and will continue to advance the mission of Johns Hopkins Medicine. My focus will be on providing compassionate care for the brain tumor patients in my practice, reinvigorating our research, and educating the next generation of academic leaders. The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine has launched an international search for the next Director of Neurosurgery.

Caring for neurosurgery patients continues to be my most rewarding endeavor. As a young surgeon-scientist, I realized that I could change the unfavorable outcomes that our brain tumor patients faced by dedicating my career to not only delivering the best possible and most compassionate care, but also to advancing the science. Using the operating room as a portal of discovery, and the laboratory as an approach to testing new ideas, our team developed the first biodegradable wafer as a novel approach for the delivery of chemotherapy in malignant glioma. While brain tumor patients have benefitted from our work, there is still an enormous opportunity to further improve the outcomes and quality of life.

Today, our Hopkins neurosurgeons are on the cusp of numerous medical breakthroughs:

- Novel medication delivery systems, such as ones using microchips and nanotechnology to target precise locations in the brain
- Personalized brain tumor vaccines and targeted therapies
- Exploring compounds that combat neuroinflammation and help prevent stroke
- Implantable ultrasound to treat spinal cord injury and destroy brain tumors noninvasively without radiation
- New pharmacological approaches for the treatment of hydrocephalus

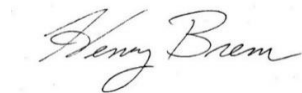
As a physician, I have treated thousands of patients and have strived to give them the best and most compassionate care available. However, as a scientist collaborating with others, we have improved the care for hundreds of thousands of neurosurgery patients worldwide. And perhaps even more importantly through education and mentorship, we have inspired others to follow suit. A culture has been established that values eliminating barriers, expanding access for all patients, and improving outcomes on a global scale.

I couldn't have accomplished any of this without you – our loyal donors and partners – who together have helped us to create one of the top neurosurgical programs in the world. Your support has enabled us to recruit and retain the finest caliber physician-scientists, conduct groundbreaking research, and develop impactful surgical innovations. Our department is currently in the best position it has ever been, thanks to our cohesive and gifted faculty and residents. We successfully deliver the most advanced skilled neurosurgical care, but even more significantly, we are constantly changing the paradigm of care through groundbreaking research. By doing so, we are also educating and stimulating the next generation of neurosurgeon-scientists to do even better.

Thank you for the trust that you have placed in me and in Johns Hopkins Neurosurgery. The future of Johns Hopkins Neurosurgery is bright. I am truly inspired knowing that with you by my side, we can achieve more breakthroughs to eliminate neurological diseases.

With my deepest gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Brem". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Henry Brem, MD