HOLLYWOOD, Md. - In October 2016, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) took an ambitious step toward new treatments for acute myeloid leukemia (AML): we launched a first-of-its-kind master clinical trial to test multiple investigational therapies simultaneously.

Our aim is no less than a complete paradigm shift in the way this deadly cancer is treated. For decades, the same toxic therapies have been used to fight AML—treatments that fail 3 in 4 patients. More than 100 experimental therapies have been tested in AML trials, but none has met the challenge of this complex disease.

Today, a solution is in sight. We can harness cutting-edge genetic screening technologies to provide patients with therapies that target their precise type of AML. LLS’s Beat AML Master Trial is the linchpin in this vision. In collaboration with leading researchers, companies and the FDA, we are accelerating the development of new targeted treatments.

The trial is underway in five leading research centers and expanding across the U.S. Thank you for making this unprecedented undertaking possible. Your generosity, vision and trust in LLS is not only changing lives, it’s saving lives.

For decades, researchers have searched for cures for acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Remarkable scientific advances have increased survival rates for most blood cancers, but AML has lagged behind because it is so complex—defying each new experimental therapy. As a result, the standard treatment for AML has remained the same for 40 years. It fails most patients, causing more than 10,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. We can, and must, do better. LLS and its partners are on a mission to change this story.

Since 2013, LLS has led an escalated offensive against AML, recognizing that for the first time in history, we have the scientific knowledge, the technology, the therapies and the partnerships to revolutionize how we treat AML. Our vision is that patients receive treatments that effectively target their specific type of AML. In other words, we aim to bring the promise of precision medicine to AML patients.

Researchers, physicians, companies, regulators and investors across the country have joined the offensive, looking to LLS—with its relentless patient focus and ability to convene stakeholders of all kinds—to lead the way. We call this offensive Beat AML. By 2019, we will invest $125 million in initiatives that accelerate treatments for AML: a genetic study, a clinical master trial, an extensive body of research and daily patient support.

On behalf of the patients and families we serve, thank you.