Dr. Bockow, a rheumatologist for 36 years and a clinical Associate Professor at the University of Washington, recently discovered a new innovative and safe treatment for a very serious, potentially fatal, hematologic disorder.

The disorder is called immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP). While it is sometimes associated with systemic lupus erythematosus, ITP can also arise without any specific trigger or cause. ITP is a common bleeding disorder and the incidence is estimated to be 1 to 3 per 100,000 adults. The body attacks and destroys its own platelets, causing platelet levels to diminish to life threateningly low levels. Untreated, the patients may experience bleeding from the nostrils or gums and in some cases may bleed internally. The current treatment for this serious malady is high-dose corticosteroids, and if that fails various chemotherapeutic agents are tried. These two treatments have multiple potential serious side effects including secondary malignancies and opportunistic infections.

Dr. Bockow, who has many years of experience using hydroxychloroquine, a drug that is used to treat systemic lupus, treated two patients with hydroxychloroquine and added high-dose vitamin D to the regimen. Vitamin D has been known to be an immunomodulatory agent. For example, it is known that low vitamin D levels are a risk factor for another autoimmune disease, multiple sclerosis. Both of Dr. Bockow's patients responded

beautifully to this combination, and their platelet counts were restored to normal. Although both patients were initially on prednisone, prednisone was actually discontinued in one patient, and the dose was reduced to subclinical levels in the other patient. It is interesting to note that in one patient, after his vitamin D level returned to normal his vitamin D replacement was discontinued. Shortly thereafter, his platelet count plummeted again; however, with reinstitution of vitamin D his level returned to normal again.

Bockow was recently issued a composition patent for this formulation to treat ITP. It includes various doses schedules of high dose Vitamin D with hydroxychloroquine.

Patients on this regimen will be required an initial induction dose and then a maintenance dose for many years. Dr. Bockow feels that this combination is immuno therapeutic because of the effect on cellular actions and modification of T cell populations. He believes that it may work on many of the same cytokines that the IV biologics block. Furthermore, he believes other immune mediated conditions may benefit from this treatment.

Government agencies would welcome this treatment protocol because it is safe.

Dr Bockow is not an employee of the University of Washington and the University does not have any rights to this patent.

The following is a recent publication regarding the above is:

Bockow B and Kaplan TB. New Treatment for ITP for a Subset of Patients. In: *Thrombocytopenia: Epidemiology, Potential Complications and Emerging Treatments*. Bell MG (Ed). Nova Science Publishers, Hauppauge, NY, 2014; Chapter 3, 65-76..