

January 31, 2016

Dear Dr. Memmo,

"Thank you" cannot even begin to express my gratitude for everything you have done for me. You saved me, not once, but twice. When I saw you for the first time in March 2015, after 6 months of pain & no answers as to the cause, you gave me an ~~easy~~ answer within thirty seconds of looking at my MRI - the same MRI that FOUR other doctors had looked at & told me was perfectly fine. Not only did you give me an answer to the cause of my pain, but also, maybe even more importantly, you validated that my pain was real & I was not crazy, which is how I was beginning to feel! This is why I came back to you in November, this time after 5 months of pain after surgery & again knowing there was something wrong, but being told everything looked fine. You, once again, validated my concerns & feelings & confirmed there was an actual problem. Not only did you provide me with a diagnosis, but have successfully treated my pain. I feel better now than I have in the 16 months since my original injury. I want you to know how you quite literally saved me with this last start of treatment in November. I will never forget November 11<sup>th</sup> when I stood in front of Dr. Krompinger sobbing in pain, explaining that the daily pain/problems had already caused me to lose my job, was taking a toll on my marriage, my mental/emotional health, & affecting my daily life - only to be told there was ~~nothing~~ nothing more he could do for me, there was nothing wrong with me, & "maybe this was testing my adaptability." I left that appointment &, still sobbing, told my husband that I would rather die than endure the pain every day for the rest of my life. I don't think anyone understands how serious I was with that statement - I already had a plan in my mind as to how

I would stop my suffering when it got to the point that I could not take it any more. Then I saw you again in November, just 9 days after that horrible encounter & making that statement to my husband. Not only did you give me ~~me~~ answers again, but you gave me hope! Hope that the problem & pain could be treated, hope that even if what you thought was the problem wasn't that you would work to find the cause of my pain, hope that are doctors that truly care about their patients, & hope that I could one day have a life with less pain. That hope was all I needed to stick it out a little longer, knowing there was a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. So when I say thank you is not enough, it is because you literally saved my life. Although I am not 100% pain-free, I am remarkably better & finally starting to enjoy life again! Through my work in the medical field & my recent experiences as a patient, I have learned that no amount of education can teach someone how to be compassionate, caring, or truly listen to their patients - those are things doctors (& nurses) either have or not & I am so very thankful that you possess all of those qualities & more! I will forever be indebted to you for everything you have done for me physically, emotionally, & mentally, & will also be forever grateful! The medical field needs more doctors like you! Thank you so very much!!