

In Celebration of 10,000,000 United Donors Worldwide

Why do we celebrate 10,000,000 donors in Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide?

The international collaboration of 75 blood stem cell registries in 42 different countries around the world over the course of 16 years is an unprecedented example of global altruism directed to helping patients irrespective of their national ethnic origin.

The collaboration was established and is maintained with a minimum of governmental involvement, relying instead on collegial cooperation spearheaded by the vision of Prof. Dr. Jon J. van Rood of The Netherlands. It is a recognized international resource for physicians and registries when they need to rapidly locate closely matched, life-saving donors for their critically ill patients.

Future Goals

Despite the success of donor registries and cord blood banks around the world in recruiting donors and storing cord blood units, many thousands of patients each year are still not able to find closely matched donors.

One goal of Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (BMDW) and the World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA) is to encourage the continued development of donor registries and cord blood banks in Africa, Asia, South America and Oceania, and the continued recruitment of ethnic minorities in Europe, North America and Australia.

A second goal of BMDW and WMDA is to encourage and support research that will reduce the need for HLA matching requirements. Further research to broaden the use of cord blood as a stem cell source for adult patients must be vigorously pursued if we are to provide a life line to all patients in need.