



Cleveland Cord Blood
CENTER

Save a cord. Save a life.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

**LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are delighted to share with you the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's (CCBC) Year in Review for 2023.

At CCBC, our mission is clear: we are dedicated to advancing umbilical cord blood cell therapy treatments, with the goal of saving lives, enhancing health, and expanding knowledge—one birth at a time.

Throughout 2023, our team remained steadfast in our commitment to this mission, achieving significant milestones and making meaningful strides in the field of cord blood technology. From our close work in our collection sites educating cord blood donors to expanding access to life-saving therapies, our efforts have been guided by our unwavering dedication to improving healthcare outcomes for individuals worldwide.

We are particularly proud to announce that CCBC has been honored with the prestigious Patient Advocacy Award (non-profit), at the Advanced Therapies/Phacilitate meeting in 2023. This recognition serves as a testament to our commitment to patient advocacy putting the patient first in all decisions. At CCBC, the unmet medical needs of the patients we serve are the driver behind our science, ensuring compassion and empathy are at the forefront of everything we do.

As we embark on the journey ahead, we are grateful for your ongoing support and partnership in our mission to make a positive impact in the lives of patients and families. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of possibility in umbilical cord blood cell therapy, bringing hope and healing to those in need.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Warm regards,



Marcie R. Finney, M.S., MBA
Executive Director
Cleveland Cord Blood Center

2023 in numbers

4,488
Cord blood
units collected



32 Cord blood
units distributed
for transplant

2,267
Cord blood
units distributed
for research



Research
cord blood
units sent to
21 states

54% Cord
Blood units added
to inventory were
from diverse donors



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SURVIVOR STORY

DIANA TIRPAK



After being diagnosed with chronic leukemia, and a subsequent acute myelogenous leukemia diagnosis in July 2007, Diana Tirpak's oncologist, Dr. Mary Laughlin, discussed the possibility of an umbilical cord blood stem cell transplant with Diana and her family.

"At the time, I didn't realize what a slim chance I had for survival," noted Tirpak, who received her umbilical cord blood stem cell transplant on February 22, 2008.

Diana, who worked as a school nurse for 29 years, has lived a full and active life since receiving her cord blood transplant. "We celebrate my new life each year on February 22. I am grateful for every day," she said.

Tirpak volunteers one day a week at an organization that helps support cancer patients and their families. She also volunteers for the Cleveland Cord Blood Center, sharing her story and talking about the importance of cord blood donation. "I want to make a difference, and share with others the gift of life that an umbilical cord blood donation offers," she noted.

"The donation of umbilical cord blood is the highest degree of recycling there can be," Tirpak pointed out. "Many people don't understand that if cord blood is not donated, it becomes medical waste.

I like to think of myself as a wonderful, recycled product."

Since her transplant, she enjoys walking and biking with her husband in the nearby national park, as well as spending time with her three grown children and her three grandchildren, two of whom have been born since the transplant.

She fondly recalls when her grandson Adam, at seven years old, stood by her bedside and named the donating baby Mary Call in reference to the miracle of the cord blood that was going to make her well. She cherishes the fact that she has had the opportunity to see Adam grow up to become the fine individual he is today.

"I would like more people to know about cord blood and how it can help people like me have a second lease on life," she concluded.

Diana celebrated her 16th re-birthday this year, and wishes to share her gratitude to the selfless families that donate cord blood.



CLEVELAND CELL THERAPY INCUBATOR MILESTONES

The Cleveland Cell Therapy Incubator (CCTI) is a CCBC social enterprise that aims to support advancement of innovative cellular therapy products from Research & Development along the path to FDA approval.

In 2023, CCTI celebrated new milestones providing testimony to its continued growth and success! These milestones include:

- **Isolated CD34 Production**

CD34 cells are the markers for stem cells for which there is great demand in research and development of cell therapies. In 2023, CCTI manufactured nearly 500 million isolated CD34 cells from roughly 215 donated cord blood units.

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By harnessing several process improvements and efficiencies, CCTI generated 60% more vials of isolated CD34 cells in 2023 compared to 2022.
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- **Staff and program development**

In 2023, based on her effective management of the CCTI programs for distribution of Cord Blood Units and CD34 products as well as facility operations, Sara Shields was promoted to Director of Operations for the CCTI. Sara has played a pivotal role in the startup and development of CCTI's capabilities, and her leadership is anticipated to drive continued success in current and future CCTI programs.

- In the summer of 2023, CCTI hosted two Graduate student interns from Case Western Reserve University, pursuing master's degrees in Regenerative Medicine and Entrepreneurship (RGME). Their efforts in feasibility analysis and protocol development helped to shape new protocols and optimize existing feasibility evaluations for creation of novel cord blood product lines.

CCBC OUTREACH EVENTS CLEVELAND AND ATLANTA

In its efforts to educate local communities on the benefits of cord blood donation as well as the process, CCBC participated in two highly publicized outreach events that provided opportunities to educate and inspire!

On April 30, 2023 the CCBC Team participated in Babies & Bumps Cleveland—a full day event that helped families prepare for pregnancy, birth, and life with a baby. The event featured local businesses, non-profits, and health care providers that cater to the needs of soon to be and newborn parents. Seminars, workshops, and activities were also featured.

In the Fall, CCBC attended Prego Expo 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. Similar to the Cleveland event in Spring, Prego Expo 2023 featured educational seminars, workshops, and vendors to help resource mothers, moms to be, and their families. Over 70 companies and industry experts were in attendance to answer questions and connect attendees to resources.

CCBC Collection Site Manager Kathy Bobik-Kurz R.N., BSN said that both events “provided an excellent opportunity to get the word out about cord blood donation and answer questions about the process.”

Bobik-Kurz also referenced attendee enthusiasm for CCBC being at the event and in Atlanta. “It was a great educational opportunity. People were excited to hear about a public option for cord blood banking in their local community.”



Babies & Bumps Cleveland



Atlanta Prego Expo 2023

CCBC OPENS NEW COLLECTION CENTER IN BERKELEY, CA



In March 2023, CCBC was proud to open a new collection site at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley, CA.

According to CCBC Collection Site Manager Kathy Bobik-Kurz R.N., BSN the Berkeley, CA collection site will “help CCBC in its efforts to broaden the genetic and ethnic backgrounds of its inventory of cord blood units.” This leads to potentially improved outcomes for transplantation in patients with diverse backgrounds battling life threatening conditions like leukemia, lymphoma, and immune system disorders.

Bobik-Kurz also mentioned the support and enthusiasm of the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center team. “The Collections staff are extremely receptive and excited about the possibilities to educate local mothers on the benefits of cord blood donation.”

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

CCBC

... AT THE CORD BLOOD CONNECT MEETING SEPTEMBER 2023



In 2023, CCBC focused on enhancing efficiencies, forming cross-departmental teams to increase clinical banking units while meeting licensure criteria. In doing this, two key strategies emerged: implementing a pre-processing CD34 count to identify high-quality units and creating pre-screening process to flag high-risk donations. These changes were implemented in Q1 2023, leading to a 6% decrease in deferred units, a 15% increase in licensed units, and monthly cost savings of approximately \$25,000.

Spearheaded by Sara Shields, Associate Director of the Processing Facility, CCBC's efforts in the above areas were recognized with the best abstract award at the Cord Blood Connect meeting. Sara emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, attributing its success to teamwork across departments. This recognition marked CCBC's first win in this category, showcasing its commitment to innovation and efficiency in cord blood banking. Congratulations to the entire organization for this achievement!

2023 CCBC NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2023 the Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC) proudly welcomed Pamela Plott, CPA, and Nancy Cook, MD, to their Board of Directors.



Pamela Plott, CPA

With over 30 years of experience as a certified public accountant, Pamela Plott brings invaluable financial expertise to the board. Her extensive background in financial consulting, particularly with nonprofit organizations, ensures robust financial stewardship and strategic planning for CCBC. Pamela's long-standing involvement with CCBC, dating back to its inception, highlights her instrumental role in shaping the organization's accounting procedures and policies.



Nancy Cook, MD

Alongside Pamela, Dr. Nancy Cook, with 41 years of experience in Obstetrics and Gynecology, enriches the board with her deep understanding of healthcare delivery and public cord blood banking. Dr. Cook's pivotal role in establishing a cord blood banking program at Piedmont Healthcare Atlanta underscores her commitment to advancing cord blood research and therapy. Her practical knowledge gained from both clinical practice and educating donating families enhances CCBC's efforts in the public cord blood banking space.

The addition of Pamela Plott, CPA and Dr. Nancy Cook to the CCBC Board of Directors further strengthens the organization's mission to harness the therapeutic potential of cord blood stem cells for improved healthcare outcomes.

NATIONAL CORD BLOOD NETWORK



Dr. Juliet Barker

The National Cord Blood Network (NCBN) represents a major advancement in medical research and treatment options, bringing together institutions and professionals dedicated to optimizing cord blood transplants. The Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC) serves as the fiscal sponsor, playing a vital role in coordinating funding and ensuring optimal operations. Dr. Juliet Barker, a renowned hematologist, leads the NCBN, bringing expertise in stem cell transplantation. Her leadership ensures the network's initiatives align with the latest clinical developments. Dr. Andromachi Scaradavou, a pediatric hematology-oncology expert, co-chairs the network, driving collaboration and innovation.

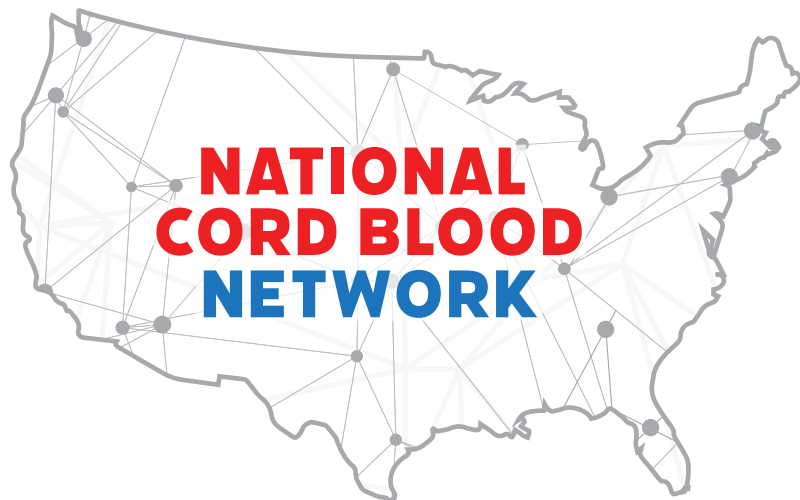


Dr. Andromachi Scaradavou

Marcie Finney, Executive Director of CCBC, also serves as the Administrative Director of NCBN, overseeing day-to-day operations and resource allocation. Under a grant from the Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation, NCBN aims to establish cord blood transplantation as a curative therapy for hematologic malignancies. This vision of progress and hope seeks to broaden treatment options and improve outcomes for patients, transforming modern medicine through the therapeutic potential of cord blood stem cells. The Katz Foundation's investment underscores a commitment to innovation and patient care, marking a significant milestone in cord blood transplantation awareness and treatment possibilities.



Marcie Finney, MBA



CCBC PASSES TWO QUALITY INSPECTIONS IN 2023



In 2023, CCBC underwent two critical inspections, underscoring its commitment to excellence in cell therapy. The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted thorough assessments to ensure CCBC's adherence to stringent safety and quality standards.

CCBC is pleased to report successful outcomes in both inspections, reaffirming its status as a leader in cord blood banking. The center's dedication to meeting and exceeding regulatory requirements is evident in its proactive approach to implementing enhanced processes based on the minimal recommendations received. These measures enhance the high level of safety and quality and also demonstrate CCBC's unwavering commitment to advancing cell therapy and improving patient outcomes.

Dawn Thut, CCBC Quality Manager reiterated the organization's commitment to quality and safety. "CCBC remains committed in its mission to advance cell therapy treatments while continuously striving for excellence in the field of cord blood banking through strong quality and regulatory compliance."

OUR MISSION, VISION, VALUES FOR A NEXT GENERATION OF LIFESAVING WORK

Mission: We are advancing umbilical cord blood cell therapy treatments: saving lives, enhancing health, and expanding knowledge one birth at a time.

Vision: A world in which cord blood therapies enhance quality of life for all.

Values: Quality. Collaboration. Innovation. Leadership. Compassion. Integrity.

Supported by The Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation, Dr. Donald J. and Ruth Weber Goodman Philanthropic Fund, and the Cleveland Foundation.

LEADERSHIP

Mary J. Laughlin, M.D., *Founder and Medical Director*

Marcie R. Finney, M.S., MBA, *Executive Director*

Wouter J. Van't Hof, Ph.D., *Director, Processing Facility and CEO, Cleveland Cell Therapy Incubator*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Goodman, *Board Chair*

Barbara Drobney, *Treasurer*

David Woolf, *Secretary*

Nancy Cook, MD

Alexander Katz

Dawn Williams, MBA

Mary J. Laughlin, M.D.

Pamela J. Plott, CPA

David Woolf

Marcie Finney

WE NEED YOUR HELP

To contribute, contact:



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