



KAISER PERMANENTE SAN LEANDRO MEDICAL CENTER NEWEST CORD BLOOD COLLECTION PARTNER



L-R: Marcie Finney, Executive Director, Cleveland Cord Blood Center and Margaret M. Thomson, TPMG Regional Director of Strategy and Programs, RN Pediatrics and Women's Health, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.

Expectant parents who deliver at the Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center will now have an opportunity to donate their babies' umbilical cord blood as part of an expanded partnership with the Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC).

The Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center becomes the second Kaiser Permanente hospital on the West Coast to offer the Cleveland Cord Blood Center donation and collection program.

"Our expectant parents now have the opportunity to participate in a program that can help provide lifesaving treatments to many simply by donating their babies' cord blood at birth," said Debra Flores, RN, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente, Southern Alameda County. "We are proud to partner with the Cleveland Cord Blood Center to expand this program to our hospital so we can create a more diverse pool of donors."

The San Leandro collection center is supported by the California Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program, a statewide public program to collect a genetically diverse bank of cord blood units that will then be made available to patients in the U.S. and around the world for lifesaving transplantations. "Our efforts to collect cord blood units from diverse populations are furthered by the addition of Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center," said Marcie Finney, Executive Director of the Cleveland Cord Blood Center.

Join the Cleveland Cord Blood Center on our exciting cord blood journey

- Visit the Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC) website at clevelandcordblood.org
- Keep up with the latest CCBC updates – follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

UTILIZATION RATES INCREASE IN 2020

RISE IN CORD BLOOD USAGE, COLLECTION MILESTONE REACHED

Utilization rates for umbilical cord blood units collected by the Cleveland Cord Blood Center saw a significant increase from January 2020 to January 2021. CCBC also reached a milestone of 76,000 cord blood units collected since its inception in 2008.

The dramatic rise in usage is a result, in part, of initiatives that include:

- Expansion of relationships with institutions conducting biotech studies using cord blood units designated for research
- Cleveland Cord Blood Center's own research laboratory exploration of new applications for umbilical cord blood-derived therapies
- Growth of the CCBC Cell Therapy Incubator (CTI) production and distribution programs
- Transplantation of cord blood units as an attractive alternative to bone marrow harvesting and transplantation

"Everyone at the Cleveland Cord Blood Center plays an important role in our process and we build on each other's strengths. The result is CCBC's strong reputation for providing high quality products and excellent customer service," said Sara Shields, MLS, Associate Director, Processing Facility. "Recently, we had our first transatlantic shipment to a research collaborator in the Netherlands," she noted.

CELL THERAPY INCUBATOR EXPANDS DEMAND

In 2020, the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's subsidiary, the Cleveland Cell Therapy Incubator, executed 20-plus new material transfer agreements for the provision of cord blood-derived research material, further contributing to CCBC's increased utilization rates. "As interest in cord blood for novel therapeutic applications has grown, our reputation for consistency, product quality and responsiveness, along with our FDA license, has positioned the Cleveland Cord Blood Center as a prime source for supply in the industry," said Wouter Van't Hof, PhD, Director, Cord Blood Bank and CEO, Cell Therapy Incubator.

The organization continues to cultivate new opportunities for lifesaving applications for the cord blood inventory, seeking to put it into the hands of those who need it. "We deem it our main responsibility to honor the good will of the families who donated their baby's cord blood by identifying a productive use in transplant or research for every collected unit," Van't Hof said.

DR. BARRATT EMBRACES CORD BLOOD COLLECTION



*Peter J. Barratt,
M.D., FACOG*

When Piedmont Atlanta Hospital began its umbilical cord blood collection program through the Cleveland Cord Blood Center in 2012, Peter J. Barratt, M.D., FACOG, was supportive from the start. "With the rise of stem cell transplants, cord blood's potential for good seemed unlimited to me," said Dr. Barratt. A practicing obstetrician for the past 35 years, he serves as Chairman of Maternity Services at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital.

Dr. Barratt has had seven of the cord blood units he collected called on for transplant. "When the CCBC coordinator lets me know that a cord blood unit I was involved with has been used for transplant, it is a special day," he said.

Dr. Barratt has been touched by cancer in his family and even personally so the program hits home. "Umbilical cord blood is a resource we have been throwing away for years and it turns out to offer potentially lifesaving treatment with minimal work for those who donate and those who collect," he said.

STRIVING FOR GENETIC DIVERSITY

NEED FOR CORD BLOOD DIVERSITY COMPELS ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE



A donor search for a bone marrow transplant needed by a Caucasian patient has a 77 percent likelihood of finding a match while a similar search on behalf of an African American or Asian patient ranges from 23 to 41 percent likelihood of finding a match. For people who cannot find a bone marrow match, an umbilical cord blood transplant often serves this unmet need.

In umbilical cord blood transplantation, the better the match, the better the outcome of the transplant. Cord blood doesn't have to be as closely matched to the patient as a marrow donor, so it may be an option for patients with uncommon tissue types.

"Recognition of the need for broader diversity in the cord blood inventory has increased the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's efforts to expand our collection sites," said Marcie Finney, Executive Director. "We have contracted with the Health Resources & Services Administration's National Cord Blood Inventory to support our contribution to an inventory of stem cells to help meet the expanding needs of Americans."

Cleveland Cord Blood Center's locations in northeast Ohio, Atlanta, San Francisco and most recently, San Leandro (in the East Bay area of California), establishes collection sites in areas of great diversity, including African American, Asian, Caucasian and Hispanic populations. "Forty-seven percent of CCBC's inventory is from minority donors," noted Finney. "CCBC strives to have cord blood units for all."

According to Cleveland Cord Blood Center's Atlanta Hospital Liaison, Candice Laster, the cord blood collected at Piedmont Hospital Atlanta and Emory University Hospital is 85 percent minority. "Being African American, I understand the importance of encouraging cord blood donation," Laster said. "Expanding the diversity of cord blood banks for both transplantation and for research has the potential to help millions worldwide. That's how important it is."

CORD BLOOD DIVERSITY ON THE RISE

“As the world's genetic diversity is growing, as reflected in California's population, it is important for us to partner with cord blood banks that are dedicated to the goal of obtaining widely representative inventory.

At the UC Davis Health Center, a full 81 percent of the cord blood units selected for transplant have been non-Caucasian or Hispanic. Our inventory is composed of cord blood units that are 20 percent multi-racial and just over 50 percent Hispanic Caucasian. Only 19 percent of our inventory is Caucasian.

The Cleveland Cord Blood Center is a great partner, in part, because of their efforts to expand their bank's diversity profile. The establishment of the new collection site at Kaiser Permanente San Leandro, located near a diverse Asian and Hispanic population among others, is the latest example of their commitment.”

Suzanne Pontow, Co-director, The Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program for California, UC Davis Health System

NEWS BRIEFS

Scientific Reports publishes CCBC research

After rigorous peer review, on May 21, 2021, *Scientific Reports* published the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's research into the manufacturing and expansion of iTreg cells while maintaining the unique properties that render them potent in cell therapy for autoimmune disorders. The research report, "Mesenchymal stromal cell mitochondrial transfer to human induced T-regulatory cells mediates FOXP3 stability," is in line with CCBC's mission to save lives through cord blood donation.

Researchers, staff and colleagues worked diligently to have the investigation accepted by *Scientific Reports*, one of the top scientific journals in the world. Congratulations to Jeong-su Do, Daniel Zwick, Jonathan D. Kenyon, Fei Zhong, David Askew, Alex Y. Huang, Wouter Van't Hof, Marcie Finney and Mary J. Laughlin for this important accomplishment.

CCBC staff engages in diversity training



Representative team members from the Cleveland Cord Blood Center participated in training on *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace* through a seven-week certificate program. Presented by the University of South Florida Muma College of Business, the two-hour online sessions were held over a seven-week period and focused on ways

organizations could create a more diverse workplace as well as address equity issues and foster inclusivity.

We need your help

Your contribution will support the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's work in helping to ensure good matches for a diverse cross-section of patients. Your support will also help continue our innovative research in the development of stem cell treatments to address a variety of unmet medical needs.

TO CONTRIBUTE, CONTACT:

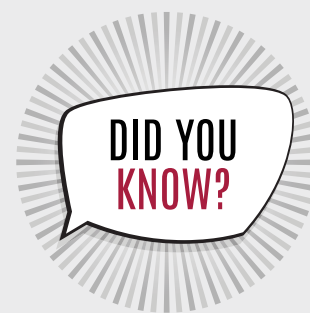
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Annual board meeting steers progress

The strong partnership between the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's Board of Directors and staff was on display at the 2021 Annual Board Meeting in May. Discussions included thoughtful reflection on performance and feedback on successes and challenges. "The involvement of our board is critically important to our success," said Marcie Finney, Executive Director. "We appreciate the opportunity to meet with board members to help ensure we are strategically aligned."






Early in 2021, CCBC's cord blood collection reached a milestone of having collected **76,000 umbilical cord blood units** since its inception.

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SAVE A CORD. SAVE A LIFE.

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