



Campus
Ambassador
Program

TALKING POINTS





About Gift of Life Marrow Registry

At Gift of Life we believe every person battling blood cancer deserves a second chance at life — and we are determined to make it happen. We are singularly passionate about engaging the public to help us get everyone involved in curing blood cancer, whether as a donor, a volunteer or a financial supporter. It all begins with one remarkable person, one life-changing swab and one huge win — finding a match and a cure.

Gift of Life Marrow Registry began in 1991 to save the life of Jay Feinberg, a 23-year-old from New Jersey diagnosed with leukemia. Jay did not have a match in his family, so they launched a campaign to find the one person who could save his life. More than 60,000 donors joined the registry, providing matches for many people awaiting transplant, but not Jay.

In May 1995, as hope faded for Jay, a young man whose friend found a match from Jay's campaign asked to hold one last hopeful drive - the last person to be tested that day was Jay's perfect match.

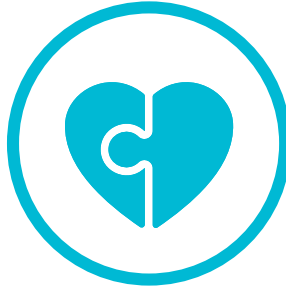
Jay founded Gift of Life so that no one else would ever have to wait for years to find a matching donor. Gift of Life remains the only registry founded and led by a transplant recipient - which gives our organization a unique perspective and the drive to be innovative. In May 2019, Gift of Life moved into new headquarters that houses the first registry-integrated stem cell collection center in the world. Gift of Life will open its Biobank in late summer 2020 to cryopreserve stem cells from "superdonors," and participate in cellular therapy research.

GIFT OF LIFE AT A GLANCE

SAVING LIVES BY THE NUMBERS



Nearly 375,000
registered donors



Over 17,000
donor-recipient
matches



Over 3,600
marrow
transplants



More than 19,000
donor drives



More than
3,000 volunteers



Conducted donor
searches for over
128,000 patients



More than 370 student
interns on college
campuses nationwide



Serves patients in
49 countries on
6 continents



128 hospitals
and cancer
centers

FACTS ABOUT DIVERSITY

3 Facts About Marrow Registry Diversity

(and why genetic heritage is the key to a perfect match)

FACT #1: THE SHORTAGE OF DIVERSE DONORS COSTS LIVES

Many blood cancer patients lose their lives because no matching stem cell or marrow donor is found in the worldwide registry, even though there are now more than 36 million registered donors from 63 countries.

The numbers are staggering: 75% of Blacks, 75% of multi-racial individuals, 55% of Latinos and Hispanics, and 60% of Asian Americans do not have a perfectly matched donor in the worldwide registry.

The reason matches are so difficult to find for these patients is simple: their genetic heritage is under-represented in the registry. While more than 12% of the American population is Black, only 4% of Americans on the registry are Black.

Gift of Life is on a mission to change these numbers. To give everyone the chance to find their donor, we need more people to step up, join the registry, and commit to help save someone's life if called as a match.

FACT #2: ETHNICITY IS THE KEY TO A PERFECT MATCH BETWEEN DONOR AND RECIPIENT

Bone marrow and stem cell transplants are one-to-one: one donor is a tissue type match for one patient and donates to that person. Matches are based on inherited factors called Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA). You get half your HLA from your mother and half from your father.

The best chance of finding a perfect HLA match is with someone of the same genetic heritage. Multi-racial individuals often have rare combinations of antigens in their HLA profiles, making it even more difficult to locate perfect matches. It is urgent that more multi-racial individuals join the registry.

FACT #3: THE ODDS OF FINDING MATCHING DONORS CAN BE CHANGED

We know we can change these statistics, because Gift of Life has already done it.

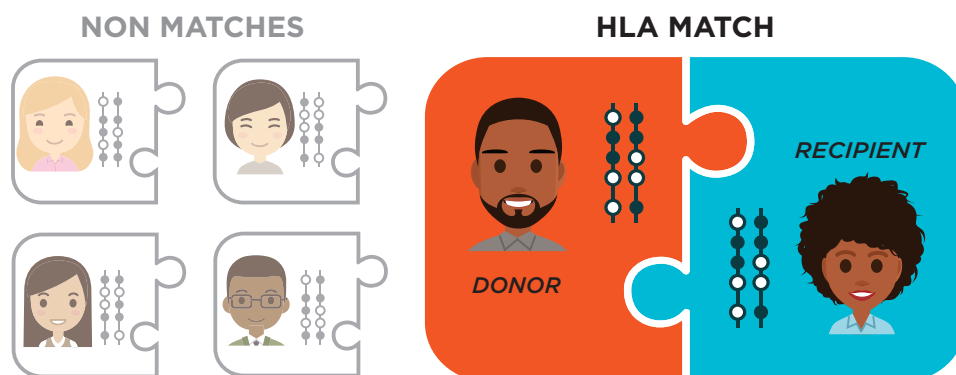
In 1991, Jay Feinberg was diagnosed with leukemia. Doctors told him he had no hope of finding a matching donor because he was an Ashkenazi Jew. He only had a 5% chance of finding a lifesaving match. His parents and friends refused to accept that the marrow registry was not diverse enough to help Jay. They started a grassroots effort to find his donor, a four-year search that added more than 60,000 Jewish donors to the registry, and saved dozens of lives.

Jay did find a matching donor and went on to found Gift of Life. We believe that ***every patient should be able to find a donor.*** In partnership with other organizations around the world, Gift of Life helped recruit so many donors that today's chance of a Jewish patient finding a donor is 75%.

We helped change the odds for Jewish patients, and we are determined to do it for every other ethnic group. With your help, we will someday find a matching donor for every patient in need.



GIFT OF LIFE FACT SHEET



ABOUT GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY

The Gift of Life Marrow Registry is a public bone marrow registry in the United States, founded in 1991 by Jay Feinberg, a marrow transplant recipient and leukemia survivor. The organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and is an accredited member of the World Marrow Donor Association. Headquarters are located in Boca Raton, Florida, with field staff in New York City, Boston, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

When he was 23 years old, Feinberg was diagnosed with leukemia. On learning that finding a match would be extremely difficult, he was advised to prepare his bucket list and do what he could with his remaining time.

Because tissue type is inherited, like hair and eye color, a patient's best chance of finding a genetic match lies with those of similar ethnicity. Feinberg was of Eastern European descent and at that time the registry was not diverse and potential matching donors from that background were not prevalent. Unwilling to accept this advice, he and his family launched a four-year, international search for a matching donor, registering over 60,000 people and finding hundreds of matches for other cancer patients – but not Feinberg. As his time was running out, one final drive was held, and the last person tested that day turned out to be his perfect match. The lengthy struggle to find a donor inspired Feinberg and his family to pay it forward and start the Gift of Life Marrow Registry.

Today, the organization continues its mission to cure patients suffering from blood cancer, with nearly

375,000 donors in the registry, and over 3,600 lifesaving transplants accomplished. Donors who join the Gift of Life registry become part of the international registry database serving over 49 countries. Donors can be searched by transplant centers and physicians around the world.

Gift of Life is known for the excellent support it provides to donors, with an annual check-in call and full on-site personalized support from a dedicated coordinator during the donation process.

ABOUT DONOR-PATIENT MATCHES

Matches between the donor and patient are identified by immune system factors called Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA). Blood type does not matter for this kind of match.

The more closely the HLA are matched, the more likely a transplant will be successful. Half of the antigens are inherited from the mother and half from the biological father – meaning that there is a 25% chance of inheriting the same HLA as a sibling. If a donor does not have a match within the family, the search moves to the worldwide registry. Seventy-five percent of patients search the registry in the hopes of finding a donor.

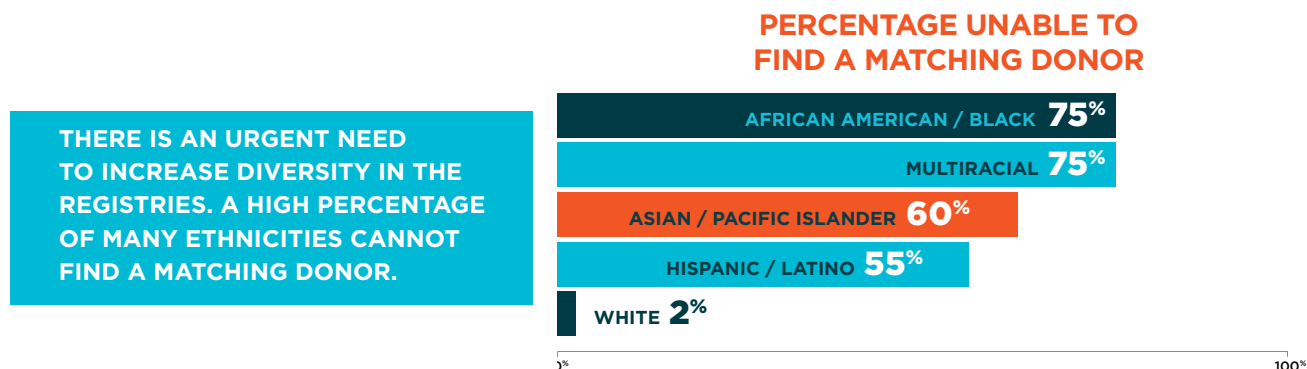
Ethnicity is important to the process. As the HLA have been passed down for centuries, unique combinations have developed within various ethnic groups, therefore two people from the same ethnicity are more likely to share a matching HLA type.

ABOUT TRANSPLANTATION

Transplantation using a donor involves either bone marrow collected from the iliac crest of the hip bone while under anesthesia or peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) collected through apheresis, a process similar to donating platelets. The donor's bone marrow or stem cells will naturally return to pre-donation levels. Approximately 80 percent of today's donations are PBSC, and only 20 percent bone marrow, which is often requested for children. The goal of transplantation is to fully replace the patient's bone marrow and immune system with healthy hematopoietic stem cells that will form new, healthy bone marrow that generates a new immune system, free from the conditions that caused the need.

CONDITIONS TREATED BY TRANSPLANTS

Bone marrow and blood stem cells transplants may be used to treat or cure many blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma and sickle cell as well as diseases of the bone marrow and inherited immune disorders.



GIFT OF LIFE AT A GLANCE

- 3,600+ transplants facilitated
- Over 17,000 matches found
- Nearly 375,000 registered donors
- More than 19,000 recruitment drives held
- The cost to tissue type a new donor is \$60
- Donors are not paid, nor do they incur a cost for donating
- Gift of Life is the only stem cell/marrow registry founded and headed by a transplant recipient, Jay Feinberg
- Accredited member of World Marrow Donor Association, serving 52 countries
- Headquartered in Boca Raton, FL, with field staff in New York City and Los Angeles
- Campus Ambassadors at more than 118 campuses in the United States
- As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Gift of Life receives no government funding and relies on charitable contributions to further its lifesaving mission

GIFT OF LIFE FIRSTS

- First registry to recruit donors with a cheek swab at drives
- First registry to recruit donors online
- First registry to use mobile, paperless registration
- First registry to create a smartphone app for registration
- First registry-integrated stem cell collection center

NEW DONOR INFORMATION



WHAT IS BONE MARROW DONATION?

For some patients suffering from life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, other blood cancers, and inherited immune disorders, their only option for a cure and survival is a bone marrow transplant. Some patients have a family member who can donate, but in 70% of cases a volunteer donor is required. The Gift of Life Marrow Registry recruits donors who can donate to patients if they have a matching tissue type.

For more information visit giftoflife.org/donors

HOW DO I JOIN THE MARROW REGISTRY?

Today you can take the first step in the process and join the bone marrow registry. Give a quick and painless cheek swab, complete a form and give your consent. We then test the cheek swab and add your tissue type to the registry. Hospitals worldwide search the registry for donors whose tissue type matches that of a patient, so in the future you may be called upon to donate either bone marrow or stem cells.

DONATING PERIPHERAL BLOOD STEM CELLS

80% of donors give peripheral blood stem cells from their circulating blood. To obtain enough cells for transplant, a donor is given injections of Filgrastim that stimulate large quantities of stem cells to mobilize from the bone marrow into the circulating blood. At a hospital or clinic the donor is connected to an apheresis machine for 4-6 hours and the stem cells are harvested. In rare cases a second session may be required the following day.

DONATING BONE MARROW

20% of people donate bone marrow which is found in the hollow cavities of large bones. It is withdrawn from the pelvic bone in an area called the iliac crest. The bone marrow is collected as an outpatient procedure in a hospital operating room under general anesthesia. Marrow regenerates completely within four to six weeks. Donors usually go home after the donation and should anticipate taking a few days off after the collection to recover.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The donation process is anonymous
- If you are requested to donate for a patient, this will take approximately 20-30 hours over a 4-6 week period
- If you donate, the donation and blood tests involve the use of needles
- You must be 18-35 years old to register

