

Volume 4, Issue 1

Summer 2010



Someone is looking for a needle in a haystack... you might be the needle!



Having An Impact

It has been 5 years since we lost sweet Katie. She touched the lives of many and her beautiful smile and precious giggle will always be in our hearts. Her memory inspires us to carry the torch for bone marrow transplant patients and we are proud of what we have accomplished in a short time:

- In the past year alone, we added almost 500 people to the bone marrow registry at our "swab events."
- Over \$100,000 has been raised thanks to our generous supporters.
- Financial help for more than 50 families through the Transplant Family Support Program.
- \$30,000 granted to bone marrow transplant related research at University of Montreal and University of Windsor.
- As a "Partner for Life", each year we donate more than 75 units of blood as a group.
- Our message reaches 1500 homes per year through our newsletter.
- A trusted source of information, our website is among the top few search results when people "Google" for information about donating bone marrow and umbilical cord blood.

I am excited that later this year we will announce a formal partnership with OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network (Canadian Blood Services) and will reaffirm our commitment to helping make the bone marrow registry larger and more ethnically diverse than ever before.

The impact we have made is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the selfless volunteers that give their time and creativity. I offer my personal thanks to each and every one of you.

We hope you will join us at the 5th Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow. The money raised at this event is critical to our continued success.

Bryan Bedard
President



Swab Event

© Copyright (c) The Windsor Star

What Is A Swab Event?

The Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association is pleased to announce that it has partnered with OneMatch to register potential donors in the Windsor/Essex County area.

We host Swab Events where adults between the ages of 17 and 50 can learn more about donating bone marrow and stem cells. You can submit a buccal (mouth) swab at the event to be registered with the worldwide registry of bone marrow and stem cell donors.

The process is quite simple and takes from 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Potential donors are required to complete a health assessment form, sign a consent form and swab their mouth to collect a sample. A volunteer from KBBMA is there to assist and answer questions. The package is then shipped by KBBMA to be processed by OneMatch.



Since October 2009, we **have registered 420 potential donors** and look forward to registering many more in the hopes of saving lives. Already our potential donors are being called to say that they might be the "one match". This is a very exciting **new** program for us!

If your place of employment, college, university or organization would like us to host a swab event, **contact us a 519-564-4119 or e-mail info@givemarrow.net**

We look forward to working with you.



Public Relations and Marketing Committee

The KBBMA uses several tools to spread the word about the need for new bone marrow and stem cell donors:

- ♥ Public speaking at schools, churches and fundraisers
- ♥ Swab events at schools and blood clinics
- ♥ Displays including brochures, banners, games for kids
- ♥ www.givemarrow.net
- ♥ Facebook
- ♥ You Tube video
- ♥ Fundraising Events such as Pasta Dinners, Bowl-a-Thon
- ♥ and more!



This year, our goal is to reach a wide variety of ethnic groups. The need for donors from minority groups is urgent. We welcome the opportunity to visit schools, churches and community groups. Please contact us for more information about speaking to your organization.



Children's Fest—Finding The Match Game
© Copyright (c) The Windsor Star

What Does Our Organization Do?

Awareness —————

Raise Awareness about the desperate need for bone marrow donors and encourage people to join the bone marrow registry and to donate umbilical cord blood.

Family Support —————

Provide financial support to patients undergoing a bone marrow transplant through our Family Support Program.

Research —————

Sponsor bone marrow transplant related Research in hopes of finding better alternatives for patients faced with bone marrow transplant.

**Someone is Looking for a Needle in a Haystack...
You Might be the Needle!**

Transplant Family Support Program

The Bone Marrow Transplant Family Support Program continues to grow each year thanks to the many generous donors whose financial support has contributed to its tremendous success. *Together, you are making a difference.* Since the inception of this program, we have been able to assist all patients who have applied for our program. This past year alone, we have been able to help 17 families from across Canada. It continues to enforce the fact that there is a real need for our Family Support Program.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to be involved in our organization? Do you want to help out? There are a few things we need help with:

- ▶ Work at our booth at community events and health fairs.
- ▶ Help organize fundraising events.
- ▶ Write articles for our website.
- ▶ Public speaking engagements.
- ▶ Graphic design, posters, brochures.
- ▶ Join our Board of Directors - a wonderful resume building opportunity!

We also have volunteer training seminars that take place at least once a year. We are looking for a facilitator for organizing a support group for bone marrow recipients and their families in our area.

If you would like more information about volunteering in our organization, we would love to hear from you!

Contact: Andrea.Sulyok@nbc.ca

Volunteer Committee



"A few of our dedicated volunteers"

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all who have assisted us this past year, whether you helped organize an event, manned our booth, or spread the word. Your donations of time, energy, ideas or funds is greatly appreciated.

Don't hesitate to put your name forward again this year, it's fun and rewarding. Contact us and add your name to our volunteer list!



Research Sponsorship Committee

SMAD3 to Prevent Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD)

Dr. Claude Perreault

Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (AHCT) is the treatment of choice for many patients suffering from hematologic malignancies. Currently, more than 15,000 Canadians owe their life to AHCT. However, despite decades of intensive research, graft versus-host disease (GVHD) remains the unrelenting nemesis of patients and physicians involved in AHCT. Indeed, GVHD is the major cause of mortality and suffering following AHCT. Our recent work in humans and mice showed that activation of a protein named SMAD3 can prevent GVHD. Using mice models, we have recently deciphered how SMAD3 works. The major goal of our ongoing research is to devise a safe and effective method to activate SMAD3 in human donor T-lymphocytes in order to prevent the occurrence of GVHD.



Research Sponsorship Committee

\$35,000 Since 2007

The KBBMA continues to support research in the area of bone marrow transplants and related fields through the research sponsorship committee. We have donated \$20,000 since 2007, but this year was absolutely outstanding. Due to the generosity of the community and our volunteers we were able to supply an additional \$15,000 in continued funding this year alone. We've continued our support of Dr. Claude Perreault's research at L'Université de Montreal and Dr. Lisa Porter's research at the University of Windsor. The following are abstracts of the research to which our funding is being applied.



Cell Cycle Regulation in the Expansion of Hematopoietic Stem Cells in vitro

Kaitlyn Matthews, Dorota Lubanska and Lisa A. Porter

With funding from the KBBMA our laboratory set out to identify markers that can be used to follow expansion of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) in the lab to ensure safety while increasing the number of stem cells available for transplant. Through this work we identified an early marker associated with tumour formation that begins to rise in HSCs during expansion in the lab prior to identifiable tumorigenic changes. Interestingly, we also found that this marker is significantly elevated in all myeloid cancers tested to date and may prove to be a novel treatment target for hematopoietic cancers.

We are now expanding these results to develop a 'signature' that can be easily used in the clinic for safe expansion of HSCs.

These research projects are only *two* of many that are helping to develop better treatments for blood related diseases and improve the recovery for bone marrow transplants recipients.

Research is key, and the KBBMA will continue to support these efforts with your help. Thank you.

Partners For Life ~ We Need Your Help

We are very proud that the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association is a member of Canadian Blood Services 'Partners for Life' Program. This year, KBBMA has pledged to donate 80 units of blood. One of our goals this year is to surpass this number. We need your help.

Patients that undergo a bone marrow transplant need a large number of blood transfusions before and after their transplant as well as during their initial treatment. Including their pre-transplant treatment, it is not uncommon for a transplant patient to need over 100 transfusions. These patients cannot survive without the support of blood donors in their community. We feel this is another excellent way to help patients faced with a bone marrow transplant.

If you are currently a blood donor with Canadian Blood Services, follow these steps to sign up to KBBMA's Partners For Life. Every time you donate, you will help us achieve our goal and save lives.

1. Go to www.blood.ca/partnersforlife
2. Click on the **Join Partners for Life** button
3. Click on the **Member's Option**
4. Click on the **Sign me up to donate with my team**
5. Complete the form and click the **Submit** button.
6. KBBMA's Partner ID# is: **KATE007939**

"Together, you are making a difference."

It really is that easy. **If you have any questions please contact us at partners@givemarrow.net for more information.**

Partners for Life is a nationwide program that is designed for corporate and community organizations. By joining the program, our organization made a commitment to save lives by donating blood as a team. The need for blood is ongoing, and patients that are treated for such things as leukemia, surgery, other cancers, and trauma depend on a stable supply of blood year round, which is why **Partners for Life organizations have the power to save lives!**

Fundraising Committee



What better way to spend an afternoon in the dog days of summer than to put on some groovy bowling shoes and come out to our **5th Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow, "Throw a Strike for the Gift of Life"** on **Saturday, August 28, 2010**. It's an afternoon of family fun with games for kids, great prizes and of course ... bowling, all for a good cause! Be sure to register early to guarantee your spot. To register, phone **519-564-4119** or fill out the registration form on our website, www.givemarrow.net.

Lane sponsorships are available at a cost of \$100 per lane.



What: Bowling for Bone Marrow 2010

When: Saturday, August 28, 2010

Check-in: 12:00 pm

Bowling: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where: Bowlero Family Fun Centre

Address: 675 Tecumseh Rd West, Windsor

All ages welcome

The John Fox Memorial was held on May 29th this year. Our sincere thanks to Ken Roughton and Dennis Kelly of Tilbury Golf & Curling Club for hosting this wonderful event and for donating the proceeds to our Association. To date, the tournament has raised over \$20,000 in support of our association. This is truly remarkable and greatly appreciated!



If you would like to contact us with feedback or to ask a question about bone marrow donation, feel free to send us an e-mail at the following address:

info@givemarrow.net

Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association
3064 Fairlane Crescent, Windsor, ON N8W
4Y6

Telephone (519) 564-4119

Website Committee

The Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association's Website Committee creates and maintains the organization's web presence. The purpose of the committee is to keep our viewers informed on what is happening with our organization, provide a resource for information regarding bone marrow donation, cord blood donation and related issues.

The Website Committee is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping us keep our site fresh with interesting articles and photography please email us at info@givemarrow.net.

This year we brought over 8,600 visitors to our site.



Someone is looking for a needle in a haystack... You might be the needle!

Join the Bone Marrow Registry
Find out more at www.givemarrow.net