



MEDIA ADVISORY

National Stem Cell Drive Urges Chinese in GTA to Help Stem Cell Patients

OtherHalf - Chinese Stem Cell Initiative is partnering with OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network to Raise Awareness for More Chinese Stem Cell Donors

For immediate release

TORONTO, ON Mar. 12th – Did you know that over 12,000 Canadians are diagnosed with blood cancers each year? Many of these patients require a stem cell transplant to survive these life-threatening conditions. However, less than 30% of these patients will find a compatible stem cell donor from a sibling. This means that over 70% of patients must rely on the generosity of a total stranger for the gift of life.

The majority (82%) of registrants within Canada's stem cell network are Caucasians. Unfortunately, Chinese represent **only 2% of the Canadian registry** and about **4% of the global stem cell database**. That is why Caucasian patients have about an 80% chance of finding an unrelated stem cell donor for transplants and Chinese patients have only a 10% chance of finding one. With the likelihood of finding a match far greater within one's own ethnic group, more Chinese Canadians are needed to register as a stem cell donor with Canadian Blood Services' stem cell program, OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network.

Currently over 20 Chinese patients in Canada are desperately searching for unrelated stem cell donors who can help save their lives. We would like to make this known to the Chinese community and encourage as many Chinese Canadians as possible to register as a stem cell donor with OneMatch.

On Saturday, March 27th (327) OtherHalf - Chinese Stem Cell Initiative will be partnering with **OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network** to organize a **National Chinese Stem Cell Drive in Toronto and Vancouver**. The Toronto event will take place at First Markham Place (Hwy. 7 and Woodbine Ave.) in Markham, Splendid China Mall (Kennedy Rd. and Steeles Ave. E.) in Scarborough and Chinese Gospel Church (450 Dundas St. W.) in Toronto from 11 am – 5 pm. The Vancouver event will take place at Aberdeen Centre (No. 3 Rd. and Cambie Rd.) in Richmond from 11 am – 5 pm. Everyone between the ages of 17 and 50 is encouraged to come and register as a potential donor by providing his oral tissue sample with cotton swab sticks. It is a very simple procedure that takes only 5 to 10 minutes.

Who: *Susan Go and Belinda Wong of OtherHalf - Chinese Stem Cell Initiative; Jennifer Philippe, Director, OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network; John J Doyle, MD, FRCPC, FAAP, Section Head, Section of Blood & Marrow Transplant, The Hospital for Sick Children*

What: *Announcement of 327 National Stem Cell Drive, March 27th 2010*

Where: *Canadian Blood Services, 67 College Street, Toronto*

When: *Friday, March 12th 11:00 am*

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For more information contact:

Susan Go
Toronto Co-Chair
327 National Chinese Stem Cell Drive
susango@chinesestemcell.ca

Janet Wong
Communications Specialist
Canadian Blood Services
janet.wong@blood.ca