

Mary Ann Collins: Leukemia Patient in Need of a Bone Marrow Transplant

Mary Ann Collins is 100% Lebanese. She was born and raised in Columbus, GA and was diagnosed in March of 2005 with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). She relapsed earlier this year and her doctors say that her only hope for a cure is a bone marrow transplant, but she needs to have the transplant soon. In order for a marrow or blood cell transplant to be successful, the donor and patient must match on three sets of Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA), classified as A, B, and DR tissue types. In much the same way that eye or hair color is inherited, HLA tissue types are inherited, making it more likely for a patient to find a match with a donor from the same ethnic or racial heritage. Mary Ann has turned to you and to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Registry of unrelated donors since no one in her family is a match for her. Please consider joining the Registry to help patients like Mary Ann, patients who don't have a match in their family.

Mary Ann's friends and family are in the process of creating a website where you can learn more, (<http://maryannsmarrowdrive.com>) but at the time of this writing (9/15/06), it is still "under construction. (Check for updates soon.)

There are three ways you can help:

- 1) **Joining the NMDP registry by going to a center near you;**
- 2) **Organizing a drive in Mary Ann's name to encourage others to join;**
- 3) **Making a donation to help cover the costs of tissue-typing, which is the process used to determine whether or not marrow types match.**

Joining the NMDP Registry and/or organizing a drive:

- **If you live in the Washington, DC area** and are interested either in joining the Registry or organizing a drive in honor of Mary Ann Collins, please contact Dave Morgan at the NIH Marrow Donor Center at 301-496-0572 or dmorgan@mail.cc.nih.gov .
 - *There is normally a cost associated with joining the Registry, but that cost is being covered by a fund that has been set in Mary Ann's name--the Mary Ann Collins Fund at The Marrow Foundation. **So there will be no cost for you to join.** (This does not cover tests ordered on-line in the United States.)*
- **If you are interested in joining the National Marrow Donor Program Registry and you live outside the Washington, DC region,** please go to the NMDP Web site (www.marrow.org) and find the donor center that is located closest to where you live:

http://www.marrow.org/ABOUT/NMDP_Network/Donor_Centers/US_Donor_Centers/dc_list_by_state.pl

Call the donor center nearest you and tell them that you would like to join the Registry in honor of Mary Ann Collins. They will provide you with the information necessary for you to join the Registry. If you have any questions about finding your donor center or joining the Registry, please call 1-800-MARROW2.

- **If you live outside the Washington DC area, and are interested in organizing a marrow drive,** please contact Tim Chase 612-884-8568 or RuthAnn Wicks 612-627-8183 at the NMDP.

- If you live in **Canada:**

Canadian Blood Services Bone Marrow Donor Registry

T: 613 739-2300

email: ho.marrows@bloodservices.ca

www.bloodservices.ca

Or, you can join on-line (also at no cost.)

https://www.blood.ca/Web/cbswebforms.nsf/page/E_ubmdrPKG-intro?opendocument

- **If you live elsewhere,** click on <http://www.bmdw.org/> to find out how to register in your country.
- **If you live in the US,** are in good health and between the ages of 18 and 60, you can join the Registry of potential marrow donors.
 - Testing to join the Registry is easier than ever and is done with a simple mouth swab (like a Q-tip).
 - If you are a match for a patient, there are two methods to donate marrow/blood cells:
 1. **PBSC donation:** Donors receive daily injections of a drug to increase the number of blood-forming cells in the bloodstream for five days before the collection. The donor's blood is then removed and passed through a machine that separates out the cells used in transplantation, and the remaining blood is returned to the donor. This procedure is similar to platelet donation.
 2. **Surgical marrow donation is performed in a hospital.** While the donor receives local or general anesthesia, doctors use special, hollow needles to withdraw liquid marrow from the cavities in the donor's pelvic bones.
 - For more information on the marrow donation process, go to www.marrows.org.

Supporting the Mary Ann Collins Fund

If you would like to support the Mary Ann Collins Fund, please fill out the attached form and either fax or send it to:

Mary Ann Collins Fund
The Marrow Foundation
400 Seventh Street, N.W., Suite 206
Washington, DC 20004
T: 202 626-8660
F: 202 638-0641

Thank you!: On behalf of Mary Ann and her family, sincere thanks for any consideration you give this most urgent request.