

For Immediate Release

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Significant Increase in Patients Served Through the NMDP
Network

***New Services Expand Patient Access to Unrelated Marrow
and Cord Blood Transplant***

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The number of patients served by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP) and its Network grew by more than 20 percent this year. More than 3,200 marrow and cord blood transplants were facilitated through the NMDP during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. Cord blood shipments through the NMDP more than doubled for the year and cord blood now represents 14 percent of total NMDP transplants.

The number of minority patients served by the NMDP also increased significantly in 2006, growing by more than 18 percent. Patients from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds face increased challenges in finding matched donors and accessing transplantation. The NMDP has developed numerous new programs and resources designed to help transplant patients, particularly those from minority racial and ethnic communities, receive the care they need.

“Our Center for Cord Blood played a pivotal role this year in helping more patients access transplant therapy,” says Jeffrey W. Chell, MD, chief executive officer for the NMDP. “A quarter of our minority patients received cord blood transplants, demonstrating that this new source of donor cells can help more minority patients find a match. We now facilitate transplants with banks around the world, offering an increasingly diverse cord blood listing. Twelve percent of the cord blood units we shipped this year were from international partners.”

The percent of patient searches that proceed to transplant increased this year, and the average time to find a matched donor continued to decline. According to Dr. Chell, “We continue to see increases in the number of patient searches initiated through the NMDP. But continued growth in unrelated donor transplants also results from more efficiency in the search process. NMDP has introduced a number of new services and resources to help transplant centers help their patients more quickly and efficiently. We are pleased to see more patients benefit from transplant.”

NMDP offers a number of services to streamline the search process, including:

- Patient assistance funds that provide financial resources to transplant centers to move searches forward while insurance and other funding is approved. In 2006, the NMDP and its funding partner The Marrow Foundation® awarded search assistance grants worth more than \$3.5 million.
- HapLogic predications available on each NMDP search report and free search advice from HLA experts to streamline donor selection and testing.
- Customized Typing providing 7 and 14-day turnaround on intermediate and high-resolution donor typing. In 2007, prices for Customized Typing will drop by approximately 20 percent as new pricing reductions from NMDP labs are passed on to transplant centers.

About the National Marrow Donor Program

The NMDP facilitates unrelated marrow and blood cell transplants as a single point of access for a long-standing collaborative network of national and international leading medical facilities in marrow and cord blood transplantation. The NMDP connects patients, doctors, donors and researchers to the resources they need to help more people live longer and healthier lives. The NMDP Center for Cord Blood continues to grow and give hope to more patients through new partnerships with cord blood banks and cooperative registries, funding of cord blood recruitment, and initiatives to increase access and improve outcomes. For more information about the NMDP, call 1-(800)-MALLOW-2 or visit www.marrow.org.