

## DKMS FACT SHEET

DKMS is an international non-profit organization, founded 25 years ago in Germany by Dr. Peter Harf when he lost his wife Mechtild to leukemia. Peter promised her that he would help every blood cancer patient find a matching donor. At that time, there were only 3,000 potential stem cell donors available to provide a transplant in Germany and within one year of founding DKMS, the number of stem cell donors increased to 68,000. Today, DKMS has offices in Germany, the United States, Poland, Spain and the UK and has registered over 6 million potential donors worldwide leading to over 57,000 patients receiving second chances at life.

In the U.S., DKMS has registered over 800,000 potential donors and facilitated more than 2,500 life-saving transplants. But we're not stopping there. Every day we lead the fight against blood cancer by working with families, communities and organizations to recruit more donors and provide more patients with second chances at life. We have registered more than 100,000 new donors per year in the past four years.

DKMS is dedicated, creative and tireless when it comes to supporting patients and their families by spearheading the donor drives that provide them with hope and benefit everyone by growing the donor pool. We organize events across the U.S. that help inspire people to take the first step toward saving a life by registering as bone marrow donors.

The donors we register are added to the Be The Match® Registry, the official registry of the United States operated by the National Marrow Donor Program®.

**For more information, contact:**  
info@dkms.org  
212-209-6700

### BLOOD CANCER IS A KILLER

- Approximately every 3 minutes, one person in the U.S. is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- The blood cancer leukemia is the most common pediatric cancer in the U.S.
- More than 170,000 Americans are diagnosed with a blood cancer each year.

### BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS CAN BE LIFE SAVING

- Many patients fighting blood cancer and other blood diseases like sickle cell anemia can be saved with a bone marrow or stem cell transplant.
- Thirty percent of all patients needing transplants find a compatible donor within their family, but seventy percent must turn to the national registry to find one.
- Every year, nearly 14,000 patients need transplants using cells donated from a perfect stranger. Less than half will get them.

### The World's Largest Bone Marrow Donor Center

Currently operating in five countries with plans to expand further.

Country	Year Founded
DKMS Germany	1991
DKMS US	2004
DKMS Poland	2009
DKMS Spain	2011
DKMS UK	2013

## ABOUT REGISTRATION

There are two ways to register: at a donor registration drive or online at [dkms.org](http://dkms.org). DKMS does not charge anyone to register. Registration includes an eligibility and health screening, filling out a form and swabbing each cheek for 30 seconds to collect cells for use in matching with a patient.

To be eligible to register, a person must be:

- between the ages of 18 and 55
- in general good health
- willing to donate to ANY patient
- not already registered
- living permanently in the U.S.
- at least 4'10" and 105 lbs

## DIVERSITY MATTERS

Most of the time, the best patient-donor matches happen between those who share the same ancestry. However, the donor pool is currently not as diverse as it needs to be to serve all communities equally.

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Potential Donors	
Caucasian	7,600,000	(61%)
Hispanic/Latino	1,200,000	(11%)
African American*	775,000	(7%)
Asian	792,000	(7%)
Mixed Race	493,000	(5%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	131,000	(1%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	18,000	(0.1%)

\*The need for African-American donors is especially urgent because African Americans have the most diverse array of HLA —

## ABOUT DONATION

There are two ways to donate. The patient's doctor selects the method that's best for the patient.

1. **Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection (PBSC)** Used in more than 75 percent of cases, cells are drawn via the bloodstream. Prior to collection, donors receive injections of a synthetic protein to increase the number of available blood stem cells in their body.
2. **Bone Marrow Collection** Used in less than 25 percent of cases, marrow is collected from the back of the hip bone through an outpatient surgical procedure performed under anesthesia.