



# News Release

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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## **STANFORD BLOOD CENTER CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH PROCLAMATION AND FESTIVITIES**

STANFORD, Calif. - On Wednesday, July 2, Stanford Blood Center invites the public to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Palo Alto Mayor Larry Klein will kick off the festivities at noon with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Palo Alto recognizing Stanford Blood Center's dedicated service to the community.

Other speakers recognizing the blood center's milestones and contributions will be Edgar Engleman, MD, medical director; Vince Yalon, administrative director; and blood recipient Ron Preston. People who donate between noon and 7:30 p.m. will be treated to a barbeque and receive a commemorative T-shirt, an AMC movie ticket and a \$10 coupon for Sports Basement.

Stanford Blood Center was created within the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine in 1978. The blood center was created to meet the increasingly large and complex transfusion needs of Stanford Hospital and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, and to perform research and teaching in transfusion medicine. The history of Stanford Blood Center is replete with milestones in transfusion medicine, particularly in the areas of blood safety and compatibility testing.

\* Stanford Blood Center was the first in the world to routinely test for cytomegalovirus (CMV), which was the leading cause of mortality in transfused newborns, and provide CMV-negative blood for immunocompromised transfusion recipients.

\* Rose Payne, then-Director of the Stanford Histocompatibility Laboratory, discovered the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) system, revolutionizing transfusion and transplantation compatibility testing.

\* Stanford Blood Center was among the first in the country to provide HLA compatible platelets.

\* In 1983, Stanford Blood Center was the first blood center to screen for AIDS-contaminated blood, using a surrogate test (T lymphocyte phenotyping) two years before the AIDS virus antibody test was developed.

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\* In 1987, Stanford Blood Center was the first in the country to screen donors for HTLV-I, a virus believed to cause a form of adult leukemia.

These achievements represent the outcome of a close working relationship between research and clinical personnel, and the integration of the research labs with the Blood Center and Transfusion Service clinical programs.

Ron Preston needed hundreds of units of blood to stay alive during his successful battle with leukemia at Stanford Hospital. In October 2000, Ron underwent a bone marrow transplant (BMT) and had to be hospitalized and kept in a quarantined room for two months. Ron received many platelet transfusions. "I never knew it took so much blood to keep people alive in the BMT area. It's staggering to know I was there for 10 months getting blood products, sometimes daily," he said.

Stanford Blood Center provides service to patients at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Palo Alto Medical Foundation Clinic, El Camino Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, the Livermore Veterans Affairs Hospital and three free-standing local surgery centers.

Donors can call (650) 723-7831 or toll-free (888) 723-7831 to make an appointment and get directions. Donors should be in good health with no cold or flu symptoms. They must eat well prior to donation, drink fluids and present photo identification at the time of donation. The process takes about an hour. For more information or to schedule an appointment online, please visit <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu>.

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**Stanford University Medical Center integrates research, medical education and patient care at its three institutions — Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, please visit the Web site of the medical center's Office of Communication & Public Affairs at <http://mednews.stanford.edu>.**