Life, interrupted
Abruptly diagnosed with cancer, Mike’s life took an unexpected turn. Now that he’s healthy again, he’s not wasting one minute.
Message from donor services

Giving blood and platelets is one way for regular citizens to be heroes. Our blood donors literally save lives every day.

Here at Stanford Blood Center, we have many heroes; just look at the bottom of this page at some of the recent milestones achieved. We take pride in the number of donors who come in regularly to give blood, most of whom are on a first name basis with our staff!

Oftentimes, new blood donors come in at the urging of a friend, family member or coworker. After hearing first-hand about the patients’ lives being saved and the ease of the donation process, a first-time donor will commit to giving blood at least once. For an example, read about new donor Daniel Chui on page 4. He really went above and beyond by sharing his experience as a first-time donor with us in a video and by speaking at our “Fearbusting” event in May. Can you think of anyone you could encourage to donate blood?

With a holiday weekend approaching, many of us are busy making plans to visit with our loved ones. I hope you’ll include giving blood in your holiday plans (please note our holiday hours on the adjacent page). You can provide the opportunity for others to spend another day with their loved ones.

Come visit us again at Stanford Blood Center; let us take care of you while you become a hero!

Warmest regards,

Harpreet Sandhu, MT (AAB)
Director of Donor Services

At Stanford Blood Center, we provide hope for the future: teaching tomorrow’s leaders in transfusion medicine, researching to unlock mysteries inherent in blood, and connecting donors to patients every day.

If you have any questions about or suggestions for upcoming issues of LifeLink, please contact Brooke Krannich at krannich@stanford.edu, or 650-723-8270.

Special thanks to the following for making our Canteen area more comfortable for donors: Better Bagels, Mountain View Hobee’s, Palo Alto JJ&F, Palo Alto Stanford Floral Design, Palo Alto Sunnymount Produce, Mountain View

Contact Us:
888-723-7831
http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu
giveblood@stanford.edu

Milestones

100 donations:
Marc C. Abrams
Gordon Brandt
Robert W. Brown
Mark James
Christopherov
Gordon Covell
Donald Crisp
Joseph Dooling
Ellen Gilkerson
James Gonsalves
Calvin Herrick
David Hjortsvang
Mildred Lincoln
Pam Mitchard

David Nicholas
Richard Randolph
Daniel Scales
James E. Sharp
Daniel Siehl
Brad Sorensen
Chris Steinbroner
John Votaw

200 donations:
Michael K. Davis
Allan Delfino
Stephen B. Martin

300 donations:
Craig Lunow
Mark Passeau

400 donations:
Don Durr
Tom Tamaru
We know you do it to save lives, but here are a few thank-yous we have planned for our donors.

**Grateful Life Tour** Returns, with a New Twist that Turns us **Green**

- **All Centers**
- **June 26, 27, 29, 30**
- **July 1, 2, 3*, 4*, 6**

It’s back and better than ever! The tie-dye shirt you know and love will be here for the fifth consecutive year with a new design (see image at right). But we have a bonus to make your summer a little greener. Our new “recycle life. give blood.” shirts (see image below) will be an option this year. The simple, modern design is printed on 100% organic t-shirts! This year, the choice is yours.

*July 3rd and 4th we’re open for platelet donations only.

**AMC Movie Tickets**

- **All Centers**
- **Monday, June 29 through Saturday, July 11, then Fridays and Saturdays through July 31**

Be a life-saver this summer! Come by to donate and you’ll receive an AMC movie ticket.

**Sports Basement Coupons**

- **All Centers**
- **Now through Saturday, June 27**

Pick up your coupon for 20% off your entire purchase at the Sports Basement! You’re sure to find your summer gear, apparel, and equipment at this unique outdoor sporting store. Thanks to the Sports Basement for sponsoring this generous promotion!

**Café Scientifique Event**

**Truth vs. Fiction**

- **Hillview Center, in the “breezeway”**
- **Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 7 - 9 p.m.**

Abraham Verghese, MD, Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, and best-selling author of *My Own Country* and *The Tennis Partner*, discusses the topic: Is Fiction a Higher Form of Truth?

**Baskin Robbins Pint for a Pint Coupons**

- **All Centers**
- **Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays in June**

Donate on one of the days above at any of our Center locations and you will receive a coupon good for one pint of ice cream at any Northern California Baskin Robbins. It’s a sweet treat!
Alvina lives in Pacifica. She has a bachelor’s degree in Broadcasting and a masters in Education. When she’s not teaching preschoolers at the Jewish Community Center, she loves playing volleyball every chance she gets—with leagues, her friends, whoever wants to play. Alvina also received regular blood transfusions because of aplastic anemia—a disease that causes the body to under-produce red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. She’s doing great now, and hasn’t needed a transfusion in weeks. Receiving transfusions gave her more strength and energy and helped prevent internal bleeding. “When my platelet count was below 100, my doctor said I couldn’t play volleyball or go to the gym,” she said. “I didn’t stop, though, I just slowed down. I came to Stanford for a transfusion if I needed it, and got back to my life.”
Here is a recent picture of my “boys” when we spent the day in Santa Cruz. Their names, starting clockwise at the top are Tom Zumsteg (23), Dan Zumsteg (18), Greg Zumsteg (16), myself, Mary Sullivan (old enough), and Steve Zumsteg (21). We laughingly call ourselves “Mary and her merry men!” We all give blood at Stanford Blood Center as a family thing! We often “race” to see who will be the fastest in giving blood. The fastest so far has been Dan at 4.5 minutes!

When they were little, they would come with me as I went up to Welch Road donation center—often sitting on my lap. They always enjoyed talking with the staff and volunteers handing out cookies and pretzels. Stanford Blood Center is a wonderful organization with a friendly, helpful staff that make the process practically painless! Thanks for all the good work you do!!
—Mary Sullivan
42 donations and counting

first-timers who conquer their fear of donating

Daniel Chui remembers getting shots when he was a child: “The orderlies pretty much had to hold me down,” he reminisced. “I guess I’ve always had a fear of needles.”

At his girlfriend’s urging, Daniel decided that it was time to conquer his fear. After asking questions of and talking the process through with our staff, Daniel was a first-time donor on May 27.

Before donating, Daniel participated in an event at our Hillview Center called “Fearbusting”. He represented the apprehensive donor population in a panel discussion.

At the canteen enjoying his second cookie, Daniel said “I think I could make this part of my lifestyle after all!”

Check out the Urban Dog Walkers at http://www.urbandogwalkers.org
Life, interrupted

Abruptly diagnosed with cancer, Mike’s life took an unexpected turn. Now that he’s healthy again, he’s not wasting one minute.

Update from Mike:
“Jen successfully fundraised and completed the Nike Women’s 1/2 marathon last November. My last fundraising event with Team-in-Training was Tour of Palm Springs in February. I have just signed up as an honoree for this Summer’s Team-in-Training cycling team. Our 1st group ride was in early June. We feel we are just giving back to a community from which we have benefited enormously.”

Mike Wu was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) in January, 2003, after complaining to his doctor about persistent abdominal pain. It was one week before his wedding. He began taking a laundry list of prescribed medications that compromised his immune system; he lost about 30 pounds. He and his fiancée, Jennifer, postponed the wedding so Mike could get better.

After being ultimately disappointed with the results of drug therapy which did not help to control his CML, Mike was relieved to hear that a suitable marrow donor had been found in China through the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in July, 2004, and several transfusions of platelets and red blood cells in the following weeks of recovery.

Having leukemia has changed Mike’s focus in life. “I decided not to go back to my previous job after my treatment. Being so close to death made me realize how important time is, so now I spend it doing things I enjoy and doing things that matter.” Mike and Jennifer were married on May 14, 2003.

They are both actively involved with Team-in-Training, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Asian American Donor Program to support other people who are battling cancer.

Life, Interrupted: It’s in your blood.

5
A cancer vaccine based on research originating in the lab of Stanford scientist Edgar Engleman, MD, has been found to extend survival in patients with an advanced form of prostate cancer, according to a study presented in April at the American Urological Association’s 2009 annual meeting.

Engleman is professor of pathology and of medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and director of the Stanford Blood Center and the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Research Program at the Stanford Cancer Center.

If approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the vaccine would represent an important proof of principle of Engleman’s research – that individualized immune therapies are effective in the treatment of certain cancers. His research began in 1992, and was performed on by-products—white blood cells that are filtered out of donations and discarded because of their tendency to cause adverse reactions in recipients—from Stanford Blood Center’s volunteer donors. “Thanks to our donors, we have a constant supply of white cells for research,” said Engleman. “These cells—especially, dendritic cells and T cells—are the key component to researching and developing immunotherapy treatment for cancerous tumors.”

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 512 men with advanced, androgen-independent prostate cancer, the vaccine, called Provenge® (sipuleucel-T), prolonged average survival by over four months – nearly twice as long as a standard chemotherapy regimen used in these patients – and increased three-year survival by 38 percent. Moreover, the vaccine produced none of the unpleasant side effects associated with other prostate cancer treatments.

Provenge targets the prostatic acid phosphatase antigen, which is present in approximately 95 percent of all prostate cancers. “From a scientific perspective, this news is very exciting and very significant,” said Engleman, who was not involved in the research presented at the April meeting. “As a physician, it would be great to offer such a promising new treatment to cancer patients.”

Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in the United States and the third most common worldwide. More than 1 million men in the US have prostate cancer, with an estimated 186,000 new cases and about 29,000 deaths annually.

Engleman co-founded Dendreon, the company that makes the vaccine. He is no longer employed by or involved in business decisions, consulting or operations at the company, but still owns shares of its stock.

« The focus of Engleman’s research is dendritic cells. As part of the immune system, they play a crucial role in crafting an immune response to foreign, harmful cells. Unfortunately, cancer appears harmless to the body’s immune cells; they identify cancer as “self”. Engleman was able to extract, isolate and “teach” dendritic cells and T cells how to better recognize and fight off the cancerous tumor cells. Re-introducing those educated cells to the patient’s bloodstream allows them to share that education with the entire immune system.»
Give blood for life!

Stanford Blood Center

3373 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1204
http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu

Give blood for life! • 888-723-7831 • http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu

Hillview Donor Center
3373 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Monday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday Noon to 7:30 pm
Thursday Noon to 7:30 pm
Friday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Campus Donor Center
780 Welch Road, Suite 100
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Monday Noon to 7:30 pm
Tuesday Noon to 7:30 pm
Wednesday Noon to 7:30 pm
Thursday Noon to 7:30 pm
Friday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Mountain View Donor Center
515 South Drive, Suite 20
Mountain View, CA 94040

Monday Noon to 7:30 pm
Tuesday Noon to 7:30 pm
Wednesday Noon to 7:30 pm
Thursday Noon to 7:30 pm
Friday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Give blood for life!