



PRESS KIT



ABOUT US

Peter founded DKMS with his wife's transplant physician, Gerhard Ehninger, on the 28th of May 1991 and in our first year of operations we managed to expand the registry from 3,000 donors to 68,000. Despite the Harf family's best efforts, Mechtild ultimately did not survive. However, before she passed away she made Peter promise her that he would not stop fighting until every patient had a matching donor and a potential second chance at life. Since then Peter and his daughter Katharina Harf, the Vice Chairwoman of the DKMS Foundation Board, have kept that promise. Motivated by the fate of their wife and mother, by 1995 Katharina and Peter had helped build DKMS into the world's largest stem cell donor register and ever since we have worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission – to provide as many blood cancer patients as possible with a second chance at life.



DKMS is dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders by:

- creating awareness
- recruiting stem cell donors to provide a second chance at life
- raising funds to cover costs
- supporting the improvement of therapies through research
- supporting patients from day one of their diagnoses

Today, DKMS has offices in Germany, the United States (opened 2004), Poland (2009), the UK (2013), Chile (2018), India (2019), Africa (2021) and has registered over 10.6 million potential donors and made over 91,000 collections worldwide. DKMS has over 950 staff members from 7 countries dedicated to help give every blood cancer patient a second chance at life.

DKMS is driven by innovation and invests in our people's ideas in order to be the premier provider of assistance to blood cancer patients throughout the world.

WHAT IS BLOOD CANCER?

Blood cancer is malignancy that attacks the blood, bone marrow, or lymphatic system. The three types of blood cancer are leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

When conventional treatments such as chemotherapy don't work, a stem cell transplant may be a potential treatment.

3
MINUTES

Every 3 minutes, an American is diagnosed with blood cancer.

1
DAY

Every day, at least 20 of our donors give patients a second chance at life.

50,000
DEATHS

Every year, over 50,000 people die from blood cancer in the US.

HOW DO YOU DONATE BONE MARROW?

Matching is linked to ethnicity because certain HLA markers are more common among specific ethnicities. It is more likely that patient-donor matches will happen between those who share the same ancestry. Patients from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the registry are less likely to find a match.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell



Through peripheral blood stem cell donation cells are collected from blood stream. On the day of collection the donor's blood is removed with a sterile needle from one arm and passed through a machine that separates out the blood stem cells. The remaining blood is returned to the donor through the other arm. The cell collection is an outpatient procedure that takes about 6-8 hours over one day. This method is used for 75% of donations.

Bone Marrow Donation



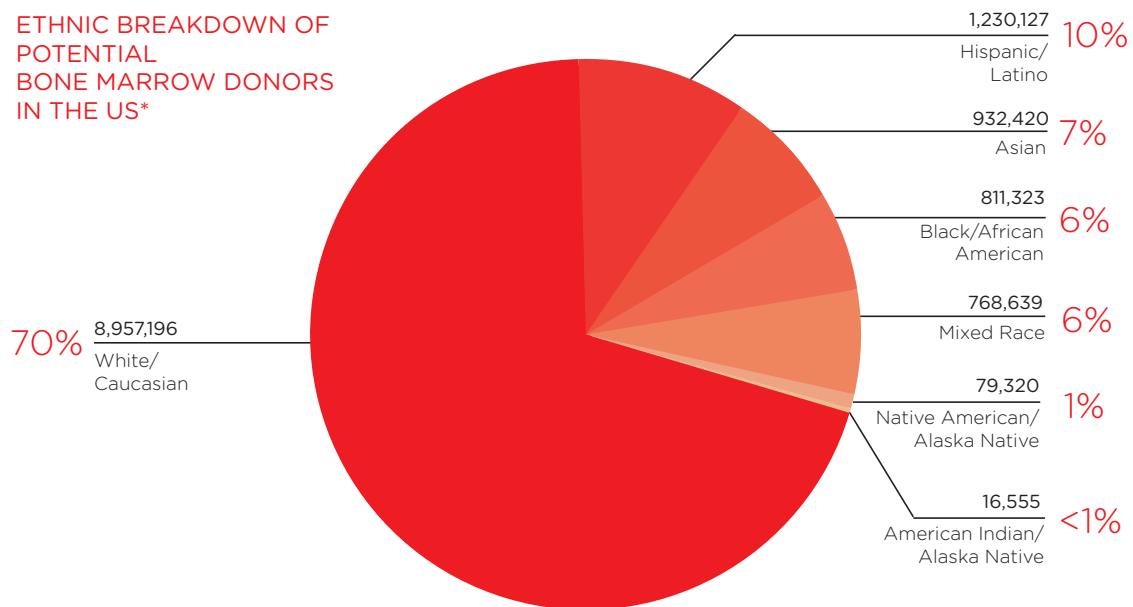
Through bone marrow extraction, cells are collected from the pelvic bone while under anesthesia. Marrow cells are collected from the backside of the pelvic bone (not the spine) using a special syringe. Donors receive general anesthesia so no pain is experienced during the extraction. This is a 1-2 hour, out patient surgical procedure. This method is used for the remaining 25% of donations.

WHY DIVERSITY ON THE REGISTRY MATTERS

Matching is linked to ethnicity because certain HLA markers are more common among specific ethnicities. It is more likely that patient-donor matches will happen between those who share the same ancestry. Patients from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the registry are less likely to find a match. A patient's likelihood of having an adult donor on the US registry who is willing and able to help save a life is estimated to range from 76% to 97%, depending on race and ethnicity.

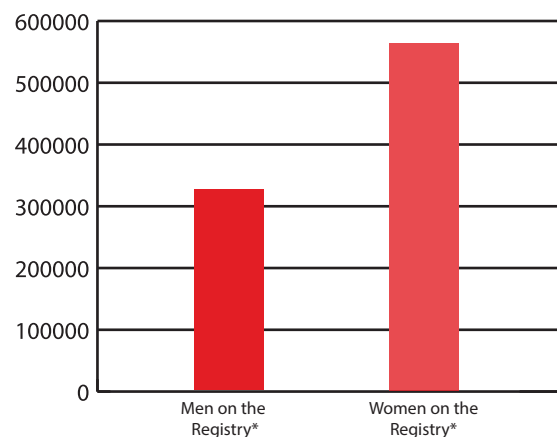
Sickle cell disease affects millions of people throughout the world. In the United States alone, sickle cell disease occurs among 1 out of every 500 black or African American births. African Americans have the most diverse tissue types, which makes the matching process even more challenging. The likelihood of finding a bone marrow match for an African American adult is 76% compared with populations described as white/Caucasian, which is 97%. The cure for sickle cell disease and other life-threatening diseases is in the hands of ordinary people.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF
POTENTIAL
BONE MARROW DONORS
IN THE US*



GENDER AND THE REGISTRY

Young male donors under the age of 30 have the highest probability of being selected. Males typically have more body mass than women making them better candidates than women. Despite this, men are highly underrepresented on the registry.



*Represents DKMS specific data



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

70% OF PATIENTS

Around 70% of patients do not find a matching donor within their family.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are the most likely to be chosen to donate as their cells lead to better long-term survival outcomes after transplant.

OVER 10,600,000

The number of donors we have recruited globally is over 10,600,000.

<14,000 OF PATIENTS

Every year, over 14,000 blood cancer patients in the US look for a matching donor outside of their family.

OVER 91,000

The number of collections we have made globally is over 91,000.

FOUR OUT OF TEN

4 out of 10 blood cancer patients worldwide will not find an unrelated matching blood stem cell donor.

DKMS
100 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10005

T 212.209.6779
For stories or press inquiries
pr@dkms.org
dkms.org

CONNECT WITH US



[/DKMS.us](https://www.facebook.com/DKMS.us)



[@DKMS_us](https://www.instagram.com/DKMS_us)



[@DKMS_us](https://twitter.com/DKMS_us)

DKMS 
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER