



# Register as a blood stem cell donor



Are you between 18 and 45 years old?



Do you weigh over 50kg with a BMI <40?



Willing to help ANY patient in need?



Do you lead a healthy lifestyle?

YOU COULD BE SOMEONE'S **HOPE OF LIFE**



The Sunflower Fund  
Hope begins with you

Every year individuals around the world are diagnosed with leukaemia and other life-threatening blood disorders. For many, their only hope is a life-saving blood stem cell transplant.



**share. give. register**

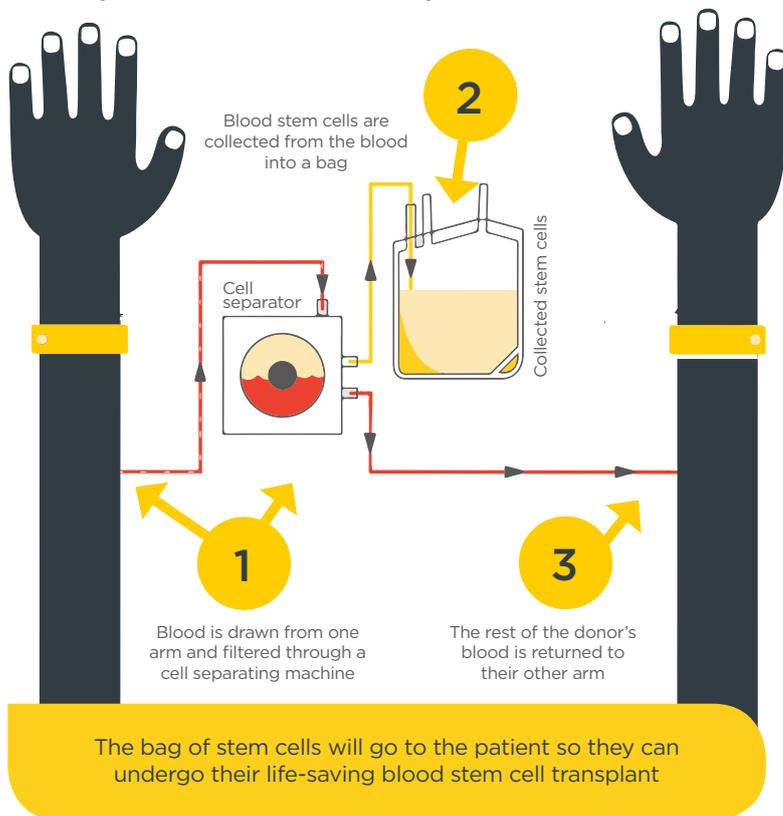
0800 12 10 82 | [www.sunflowerfund.org.za](http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za)



# Growing a **healthy, effective, ethnically diverse** registry of committed donors.

The Sunflower Fund creates awareness and educates the public about the need for and the process involved in becoming blood stem cell donors. We raise funds to cover the tissue-typing costs involved in recruiting potential donors.

A blood stem cell transplant is a procedure to replace damaged or destroyed bone marrow with healthy bone marrow blood stem cells.



**Who pays for the test?** The Sunflower Fund covers the cost of all tissue type testing and welcomes voluntary donor contributions towards these tests. This allows us to allocate our funds to recruit more donors. Donors aged 46-50 may join the Registry, but regrettably The Sunflower Fund cannot sponsor the test.

**Why is your ethnicity important?** Donor matches depend on tissue types, not blood types and these inherited genetic characteristics are often more frequent in a particular race group. It is therefore important that people of all races register as donors, so that all patients have the opportunity of finding a life-saving donor match.

**Joining for someone specific?** The most natural reaction is to want to help a friend who needs a blood stem cell transplant. However, it is important that donors who register realise that they have to be available for whoever they match and cannot register specifically for one person. With so many patients requiring this procedure, let's give them all a chance of finding their life-saving match.

## FAQ's

# Busting those myths

**Myth #1 Blood stem cell donation is painful.** With stem cell donation from the blood, there is very little pain involved. It is very similar to donating platelets.

**Myth #2 Being a donor means having an operation.** There is absolutely no operation whatsoever. A cell separator machine is used to collect stem cells from your blood.

**Myth #3 They will drill into my bones!** The life-saving bone marrow stem cells are found in your blood stream. A cell separator machine is used to collect stem cells from your blood.

**Myth #4 I can't afford to be a blood stem cell donor.** We ask potential donors to consider contributing towards the cost of the test, but if you are not able to, The Sunflower Fund will cover all test costs.

**Myth #5 You can't donate if you have a tattoo.** You can in fact be a blood stem cell donor if you have tattoos or piercings. However you must wait a year after having a tattoo or piercing before you can donate.

**Myth #6 Donor matches depends on your blood type.** Blood stem cell donor matches depend on tissue types, not blood types. These are inherited genetic characteristics, and are often unique to a particular race group.

**Myth #7 I can't become a donor because of my sexual orientation.** Donors who engage in safe sex practices are encouraged to join the registry, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

## DONOR AND PATIENT SAFETY is our priority. We are unable to register you if you:

- Have been exposed to Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-C or HIV by contact with a family member/friend or through your job
- Have injected yourself (even once) with illegal or non-prescriptive drugs
- Lead a sexually unsafe lifestyle
- Get regular tattoos or piercings
- Are pregnant or had a baby in the last year
- Have had cancer
- Have a phobia for needles



SnapScan



Zapper

Your donations help us to recruit others wishing to join the registry. **Make a donation now.**

The Sunflower Fund • ABSA Bank  
 Acc No: 405 183 4719 • Branch: 632005  
 Reference: Tissue Typing  
 Email: donors@sunflowerfund.org.za

# THERE ARE **OTHER WAYS** TO HELP



Encourage others to register



Support our fundraising events



Make a monetary donation



Talk to us about planned giving



Get your company involved



Sms 'Sunflower' to 40555 to donate R30

Please note: Donating blood stem cells is, by law, voluntary and unpaid. You will, however, be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred should you be a match for a patient.