



Acute myelomonocytic leukemia. Maslak, 2010. © American Society of Hematology Image Bank.

## First in Florida

As many as 70 percent of all patients in need of a stem cell transplant do not have an exact-match donor within their families and must rely on unrelated donors who volunteer to participate in national blood and marrow registries. Even so, many patients do not have an exact match among unrelated adult donors. To broaden transplant opportunities for those who do not have exact donor matches, UF Health is the first in the state to adopt the use of cord-blood transplantations and haploidentical – or “half-match” – transplantations from mismatched family members. Because of this, there are now viable donor options for nearly all patients in need of transplant.

Additionally, UF Health is also the first in Florida to offer “mini” transplantations. Such non-myeloablative transplantations use less intensive conditioning regimens and are an alternative for thousands of cancer patients either too old or too ill to withstand transplant approaches that employ high doses of chemo or radiation therapy. Mini-transplantations are less costly and result in shorter hospital stays for patients.

### Additional facts about the UF Health Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program:

- ▶ Accredited hematopoietic stem cell transplantation center, with more than 2,700 transplantations
- ▶ Vast experience in stem cell collections, processing and cryopreservation
- ▶ Core center for two National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute clinical trials networks: The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, and the Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network
- ▶ National Marrow Donor Program collection and transplantation center
- ▶ Member of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research
- ▶ National Institutes for Health-funded programs in stem cell biology, regenerative medicine research, and fungal diagnostics
- ▶ Cell-based vaccines after transplant for pediatric brain tumors

## 1997

Florida's first “mini” bone marrow transplantation for lymphoma

## 1996

Florida's first adult umbilical cord blood transplantation for leukemia

## 1995

Florida's first pediatric umbilical cord blood transplantation for leukemia

## 1995

Nation's third and Southeast's first umbilical cord blood bank

## 1983

Florida's first pediatric bone marrow transplantation

To refer a patient, contact the UF Health Hematologic Malignancies and BMT Program patient coordinator Atha Ellerker: 352.265.0111, ext. 2-9452 • Email: [ellera@shands.ufl.edu](mailto:ellera@shands.ufl.edu)



Photo by Erica Brough. © Gainesville Sun.

## Superior Care

The University of Florida Health Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program began in 1981, and is the state's longest established transplant program. UF Health physicians have performed more than 2,700 transplants in adults and children for diseases such as leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphomas, neuroblastoma, myelodysplastic syndromes, testicular cancer, aplastic anemia, certain genetic disorders and immunodeficiency syndromes.

Our program is the first in Florida to receive accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy, and is one of only 20 core centers that make up the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute/National Cancer Institute Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network. The Center for International Blood & Marrow Transplant Research reports our center's one-year, risk-adjusted survival rate is in the top 2.5 percent for all transplant centers nationwide. We are one of only 15 centers in the country with this distinction, the only one in Florida and one of only four in the Southeast.

The BMT program and Hematologic Malignancies Service offer inpatient and outpatient care for patients in the state-of-the-art UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital, and in collaboration with the UF Health Cancer Center, uses a multidisciplinary patient care approach that optimizes patient outcomes and satisfaction. Our program is consistently awarded PRC's Five Star rating, which ranks us among the top 10 percent in the nation for inpatient satisfaction.

UF Health has successfully performed stem cell transplantation to treat a broad variety of malignant and benign hematologic disorders, including among others:

- ▶ Acute and chronic leukemia
- ▶ Myelodysplastic syndromes
- ▶ Multiple myeloma
- ▶ Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease
- ▶ Myeloproliferative syndrome
- ▶ Severe aplastic anemia

## 2013

One of only five FDA-licensed public cord blood banks nationwide

## 2012

Designated a Center of Excellence by the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, and as a referral center for the International Myeloma Foundation

## 2008

Florida's first haploidentical, or "half-match" transplantation

## 2000

Florida's first accredited blood and marrow transplantation program

## 2000

Florida's first umbilical cord blood transplantation for sickle cell anemia

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