

## DKMS-BMST FACT SHEET

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DKMS is an international non-profit organization, founded 29 years ago in Germany by Dr. Peter Harf when he lost his wife Mechtild to leukemia. Peter promised her that he would help every blood cancer patient find a matching donor. At that time, there were only 3,000 potential stem cell donors available to provide a transplant in Germany and within one year of founding DKMS, the number of stem cell donors increased to 68,000. Today, DKMS has offices in Germany, the United States, Poland, the UK, Chile India and South Africa and has registered over 10 million potential donors worldwide leading to over 86,000 patients receiving second chances at life.

DKMS BMST Foundation India has registered over 42,000 potential donors and has facilitated 28 life-saving transplants. But we're not stopping there. Every day we lead the fight against blood cancer by working with families, communities and organizations to recruit more donors and provide more patients with second chances at life.

DKMS-BMST is dedicated, creative when it comes to supporting patients and their families by spearheading the donor drives that provide them with hope and benefit everyone by growing the donor pool. We organize event across India that help inspire people to take the first step toward saving a life by registering as a potential stem cell donors

DKMS-BMST donors are listed on the DKMS registry. The DKMS Registry reports the DKMS-BMST donors to the WMDA (World Marrow Donor Association). Transplant physicians from India and around the globe can send a search request to the DKMS Registry to search for DKMS-BMST donors that may match with their patients in need of a matching unrelated donor. It is important to point out that personal data of all donors remains only with DKMS-BMST, so physicians searching for a matching donor are only able to see details relevant for a match, such as tissue characteristics. If a DKMS-BMST donor is found to be a match, they will only be contacted by DKMS-BMST.

### For more information, contact:

media@dkms-bmst.org  
080- 68286500

### BLOOD CANCER IS A KILLER

- Every 5 minutes someone is diagnosed with blood cancer or other blood disorder in India
- Blood cancer accounts for 8% of all new cases of cancer diagnosed in India
- More than 100,000 Indians are diagnosed with a blood cancer each year

### STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS CAN BE LIFE SAVING

- Many patients fighting blood cancer and other blood diseases like sickle cell anemia can be saved with a stem cell transplant.
- Around thirty percent of all patients needing transplants find a compatible donor within their family, but seventy percent must turn to the national registry to find one.
- Every year, over 70,000 patients in need of a blood stem cell donation search globally for an unrelated matching donor.

### THE WORLD'S LARGEST STEM CELL DONOR CENTER

Currently DKMS is operating in seven countries with plans to expand further

Country	Year Founded
Germany	1991
US	2004
Poland	2009
UK	2013
Chile	2018
India	2019
South Africa	2020

## ABOUT REGISTRATION

There are two ways to register: at a donor registration drive or online at [dkms-bmst.org/register](https://dkms-bmst.org/register). Registration includes an Eligibility check and filling out a registration form and swabbing with each swab for 60 seconds to collect tissue cells for use in the matching with a patient.

### To be eligible to register, a person must be:

- between the ages of 18 and 50
- in general good health
- willing to donate to ANY patient
- not already registered
- living in India

## DIVERSITY MATTERS

Most of the time, the best patient-donor matches happen between those who share the same ancestry. However, the donor pool is currently not as diverse as it needs to be to serve all communities equally.

## ABOUT DONATION

- Blood stem cells are drawn via the bloodstream. This procedure does not require anaesthetic or admission to hospital. During the collection, a sterile needle will be placed into a vein in each of your arms. Blood is drawn through one vein and passed through a machine that collects the stem cells, before the rest of the blood is returned back into the body through the other arm.
- It is similar to platelets donation and the donation is normally completed within 3-4 hours. For the five consecutive days leading up to the donation, the growth factor G-CSF, which is naturally present in the body, is injected subcutaneously to the donor. This is required in order to increase the number of stem cells in the blood.

