



The Sunflower Fund
Hope begins with you

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOODWOOD ISLAMIC SOCIETY JOINS THE SUNFLOWER FUND'S NATIONAL DRIVE TO FIGHT BLOOD DISEASES

[28 March 2019] The Goodwood Islamic Society is teaming up with The Sunflower Fund, in support of one of their community members Dr Nabeelah Ismail who was recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL).

A (bone marrow) blood stem cell donor drive will be held at the Mosque in Goodwood Street on Saturday, 6 April from 12:30 to 16:30. Everyone between the ages of 18-45 years with a BMI of less than 40 and a consistent weight of more than 50kgs is invited to register to be a blood stem cell donor and give the hope of cure to someone diagnosed with a blood disease. The drive is to create awareness and education about blood diseases and to drive interest for people to register as blood stem cells donors.

Patients from all ages and races can find themselves in need of a transplant and in such an instance; they are looking for their genetic twin. The chances of finding this match is 1:100 000 and the best chance of a match is within your same ethnic background. There is only a 25% chance that a sibling will be a match. The remaining 75% chance depends on an unrelated matching donor being found. Patients of colour and mixed ethnicity around the world are at a disadvantage due to the underrepresentation of Black, Coloured, Indian and Asian donors in the global donor pool.

The Muslim Judicial Council (MJC) South Africa issued a statement in March that “any form of organ donation that does not involve death of the donor is permissible and praiseworthy. This includes bone marrow stem cell donation and blood transfusions,” said Imaam Sheikh Ebrahiem Tofa Spiritual Leader and head of community and member of the MJC.

People don't realise that it is painless to register as a donor, or that you only donate once in your life and that there are no major side effects of being a donor.

A blood stem cell transplant as it is more commonly known today, is essentially a procedure where a person's defective cells in their bone marrow is replaced by healthy ones from their donor. For the donor, it involves a fairly painless procedure that can take up to 6 hours, which is very similar to donating platelets and with no major side effects.

If you are willing to consider helping anyone in need of a transplant for whom you might be a match, contact The Sunflower Fund and get registered telephonically or join us in person on 6 April. To register takes less than 10 minutes. After completing a health screening, a DNA sample will be collected via a cheek swab. If you're interested to register, please

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share. give. register

0800 12 10 82

www.sunflowerfund.org





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refrain from consuming any food and beverages for an hour before coming through to register.

To find out more visit www.sunflowerfund.org or call them toll free on 0800 12 10 82. ENDS.

About The Sunflower Fund

The Sunflower Fund is a donor recruitment centre and stem cell registry that is part of a global network, dedicated to creating awareness about blood diseases and stem cell donation, recruiting blood stem cell donors and maintaining a registry of committed donors.

The Sunflower Fund pays for the cost of the tissue-type testing. This is fundamental to saving the lives of South Africans who need a stem cell transplant. The chance of finding a matching donor is 1 in 100,000 – and as ethnic origin plays a significant role in the search for a donor, South Africa's rainbow nation is at a distinct disadvantage, requiring a large pool of prospective donors.

Should you wish to become a donor, support one of the fundraising projects or make a financial contribution, please contact The Sunflower Fund on toll-free number: 0800 12 10 82. Visit www.sunflowerfund.org.za to learn more or look out for the DONATE button to make a cash donation via the website.

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