

Giving Hope, Saving Lives!

After years of studies in Pharmacy School in Auburn University in Alabama as a Ph.D student and working in Pharmaceutical industry as a formulation scientist, Lan Ma had worked on almost every cancer drug in the market. However, never had she thought that one day she would need to take them. It all happened on that Monday afternoon in April 2006. Up until that point, things had seemed peaceful and predictable. She and her husband, Wei Li, a computer engineer both worked full time. They spent precious time after work with their lovely daughter, 5-year-old Maggie.

That Monday, Lan had to drive to the emergency room after work because her swollen right leg had been bothering her since the prior weekend. That visit changed her life. She was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) with Philadelphia Chromosome Positive.

She had gone through 2 phases of Chemotherapy and had responded well to the treatment. However, Lan's only hope of long term cure is a stem cell transplant (or more specifically, Peripheral Blood Stem Cell - PBSC transplant). She urgently needs a well-matched donor. Unfortunately, her only sister was not a match, nor were any of her relatives.

Despite the excruciating chemotherapy, Lan remains optimistic. She believes, like thousands of others, she will find the matched donor and survive ALL with the support of her doctor, family and friends. She has promised her daughter that she will be there to attend her college graduation ceremony.

Let us all, whether we know Lan or not, work together and give Lan a second chance at life.

The search for a donor begins with a test for Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) typing. One way to save Lan and many many others is to join the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP, www.marrow.org). This way, your HLA typing information will be available for doctors to search. If your HLA typing matches a patient, you will be asked for a second round testing as well as a physical exam. After that, one of the following two types of stem cell donation could be requested from you: collected either from the marrow or the circulating blood (known as a PBSC donation). You will then decide whether or not to donate. In the case of Lan's transplantation, PBSC method has been chosen by her doctor.

Thanks to Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association and Cammy Lee Leukemia Foundation (www.cllf.org), A National Marrow Donor Drive is scheduled:



Time: Sunday, 9/10, 3:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: New Student Welcome Party
Philosophy Lawn, Columbia University
Main Entrance at 116 Street and Broadway

Contact: Mr. Kai Xu (email: kx2102@columbia.edu)

At the event, volunteer will be asked to draw a blood sample (20ml). The procedure lasts about 15 minutes and the results will be sent to NMDP directly.

If you are between 18 to 60 years old and in good general health, Please consider participating in the drive. (health guideline please refer to: www.marrow.org)

Details: Internet: <http://malanweb.org>
FAQ: <http://www.marrow.org>