



Press Statement

Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service Announces Collaboration with the Anthony Nolan Trust

SNBTS announces a collaboration with the Anthony Nolan Trust to improve recruitment of potential volunteers to donate bone marrow stem cells.

The Anthony Nolan Trust is one of the largest registries of volunteer donors of bone marrow stem cells in the world and is the largest in the UK. The Trust manages donors and arranges for the collection and transport of stem cells around the world. In addition, their research institute is a world leader in research into bone marrow typing, immune therapy and immune recovery after transplants.

SNBTS is committed to supporting bone marrow stem cell transplantation in Scotland, and is responsible for collecting all of the family or unrelated donations in Scotland, as well as almost all of the collections from patients themselves. SNBTS is also responsible for the processing and storage of stem cells in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. SNBTS is also investing in a volunteer cord blood bank for Scotland, initially based in Glasgow.

Professor Ian Franklin, National Medical & Scientific Director of SNBTS said today; "I welcome this collaboration as it will bring together the strengths of both organisations for the benefit of patients. By supporting the work of the Anthony Nolan Trust in Scotland SNBTS can help access all the eligible bone marrow donors in Scotland, not only the 5-6% who give blood. SNBTS will continue to concentrate on helping our colleagues in bone marrow transplant units identify and select donors and carry out the stem cell collections."

Dr Anne Parker, lead clinician for Haemato-Oncology services in Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, is responsible for co-ordinating adult bone marrow transplant services. Dr Parker said that "providing more opportunity for individuals to register as volunteer bone marrow donors is important and the involvement of the Anthony Nolan will strengthen this. The partnership between the Health Boards, SNBTS and the Anthony Nolan Trust will provide the best chance for patients who need a transplant to find a donor quickly and easily, whether the donor is in the family, an unrelated adult or a stored cord blood donation."

Contact the Anthony Nolan Trust Donor Recruitment Department on 020 7284 1234 to find out how to join the register. Do not contact SNBTS unless you are already a blood donor. More information can be found on www.anthonynolan.org.uk

Blood and bone marrow disorders can affect both children and adults but only around a third of patients will find a tissue type match within their family. The remainder of patients rely on the generosity of an unrelated donor.

It is vital that you only join the Anthony Nolan Register if you are really committed to donating your blood stem cells should you match. Find out what stem cell donation means to you at www.anthonynolan.org.uk

Lynne C Kidd
Head of Public Affairs
Mobile: 07775 818 466
29th August 2008