

ANNUAL REPORT – 31 DECEMBER 2007

Report from the President

Overview

2007 will be remembered as a challenging year for everyone and especially for the non-profit sector which relies on the generosity of the public and the corporations for funding and support. Against this backdrop, the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP) has had one of the busiest but also most successful years to date, facilitating a record number of transplants. That means we identified a fully matched, but unrelated bone marrow donor for 35 patients whose lives would most certainly have been lost without having this transplant.

This is the business of miracles and with bone marrow transplantation becoming an increasingly successful and preferred option for the treatment of blood diseases such as leukaemia, immune-deficiency and others, this trend to continue to rise. In support of this anticipated upward growth, 2007 has seen us introduce a number of new initiatives to streamline communications between the BMDP and the transplant centres, and at the same time continue to recruit new bone marrow donors so that our success rate in identifying a patient match will continue to improve.

Highlights

- S\$200,000 raised through donations and fund raising activities
- Conducted over 400 searches to find a match for patients – local and international
- Facilitated 35 patient transplants - local and international
- Recruited 1900 new donors to the registry

Operations

We have not seen any notable changes in our operations during the course of the year, having maintained an extremely lean organisation with just two paid staff, working under the guidance and direction of an Executive Committee of non-paid volunteers. Some changes have been introduced in terms of extending our communications to make sure that the BMDP offers absolute transparency and at the same time, is able to build a closer and more collaborative relationship with our various partner organisations.



This will continue in the coming year as investment will be made into extending the BMDP website to offer more info-educational support to patients and families seeking to understand the implications of bone marrow transplantation.

Fundraising

Working with a group of Junior College Alumni who went to the streets of Singapore to perform for a good cause, the Busker's Festival 2007 raised over \$51,000 during a two-week period. The event saw volunteers with donation cans and boxes working the crowds asking for donations as well as raising awareness of the BMDP. As a fringe activity, another group of Raffles Junior College students organised the Sentio Charity Dance concert held over two nights in June 2007 at the Republic Polytechnic. This served as a platform for young dance enthusiasts to share their passion whilst benefiting those in need of bone marrow transplants. The concert raised over \$38,000. Finally, a pre-Christmas effort through the sale of BMDP Friendship bears raised \$15,000 and at the same time we donated a bear to each child in hospital over the Christmas period.

Donor register

Through our corporate and community outreach programmes, over 1,900 new donors were added to the register which remains a primary focus. Our target is to reach 50,000 donors and at the same time, we would like to bring a new focus to donor recruitment with a pro-active outreach into the minority ethnic groups.

Sixteen donor recruitment drives were held during the year and we extend our thanks to Hwa Chong Institution, City Harvest Church, and Faith Community Baptist Church who each made a significant contribution to the effort. 2007 also saw a number of joint drives between the BMDP and the Singapore Red Cross and Bloodbank and we extend our thanks to both organisations for their support. By working together, we have been able to reach out to a wider donor community where the philosophy of "giving" is fundamental and together we have been able to explore opportunities with new partner organisations.

Patients

The BMDP register was searched by local and international transplant centres a total of 402 times to find a match for this number of patients who needed that life-saving transplant. From these preliminary search requests, we facilitated a total of 35 patient transplants which means that number of lives potentially saved.

Auditors

During the year Messrs MGI Jason Mah & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, resigned as auditors and Messrs MJMA PAC, Certified Public Accountants, were appointed in their place. Messrs MJMA PAC, Certified Public Accountants, have expressed their willingness to accept re-appointment.

Executive Committee

Looking forward to 2008 our work at the BMDP will continue to escalate as we receive more and more requests for matched bone marrow donors from our local and international transplant centres. Our international partnerships will strengthen and we must also grow our local resources with more volunteers, new donors and all supported with a higher public awareness about our life-saving work.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our Executive Committee and the volunteers who all give freely of their time and their talent to help us build on the vision that lives can be saved through this extraordinary gift of courage. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone as we strive to reach greater heights in the year ahead.



Jane Prior
President