

The Story of Dan Berger:

Dan Berger was a prominent Pittsburgh attorney, citizen, and humanitarian who was diagnosed with cancer. After many years of treatment and remission, Dan received a successful stem cell transplant to cure him of both the lymphoma and the leukemia that ensued. In July of 2006, Dan's heart failed.



It was in the course of his treatment that Dan and his wife, Carol, recognized the lifesaving impact of stem cells, and in particular, umbilical cord blood, which is rich in stem cells.

The Berger family approached Magee-Womens Foundation to encourage a systematic collection of umbilical cord blood. With much hard work and dedication, Magee publicly unveiled The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program in October 2007.

The program is distinct because the hospital offers expectant parents three cord blood options from which to choose – donate to a public bank, donate to research, or store in a private bank.

Today, there are more than 80 diseases being treated with cord blood stem cells, including malignancies like leukemia and lymphoma, immunodeficiencies, blood disorders like sickle cell anemia and aplastic anemia, metabolic disorders, and other diseases such as osteoporosis and Evan syndrome. This

advancement of medical science offers hope to many families, like the Berger family.

The possibilities are expanding rapidly and we want to support these research efforts to cure more diseases and save more lives. Landmark trials are underway in regenerative medicine, juvenile diabetes and cerebral palsy. Other cord blood stem cell research that is showing promise includes treating brain injury, hearing loss, heart disease, corneal regeneration, Alzheimer's disease, lupus, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, spinal cord injury, stroke, liver disease and more. To see s complete list of diseases that are being treated, visit www.marrow.org.

Donating or preserving cord blood is a great way to advance research and medical developments in hopes of finding cures for many diseases including cancer and diabetes.

If you would like to help sponsor new reasearch, click here to make a donation to the Dan Berger Cord Blood Program through the Magee-Womens Foundation. www.mageewomens.org