DKMS

WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER

Global Impact Report

Give hope. Save lives.


2024
DKMS
WIR BESIEGEN BLUTKREBS
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER
Informiere dich
VOLUNTEER
Be a Lifesaver!
Love Life. Fuck Cancer.
dkms.de

Moving moment: A donor and patient meet for the first time at the DKMS Summer Festival in Dresden

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Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to this edition of our DKMS Global Impact Report, in which we look back at the milestones of our lifesaving mission and more particularly our achievements in 2024.

From our beginnings as a small donor centre in Germany to becoming the world's largest international nonprofit dedicated to saving the lives of patients with blood cancer and blood disorders, we have come a long way. Today, we operate donor centres in seven countries, with a mission that transcends borders, bringing hope and second chances to patients worldwide. This past year, we were able to provide more than 9,000 second chances at life in more than 60 countries, and as at 31 December, our global database comprised an incredible 12.5 million donors. Furthermore, we gave over 450 additional second chances at life, for instance through our Access to Transplantation programmes.

Our mission is clear: to give as many patients as possible a second chance at life. But our work goes far beyond registering donors. We are committed to addressing blood cancer from multiple angles, as is reflected in our three strategic pillars, which guide us in everything we do: (1) Boost Stem Cell Donations, (2) Improve Access to Transplantation, and (3) Advance Research & Development to improve survival and recovery rates.

Like every forward-thinking organisation, we regularly pause to reflect on how we work and ensure we stay on track to fulfil our mission. We operate the largest donor database in the world – but we still face challenges such as not being able to reach donors once they have been identified as a match. In addition, we are going all out to motivate young people to register as potential stem cell donors. For various medical reasons, the 18–25 age group is most frequently requested by transplant centres. That's why we have set up a task force that is looking into how we can better reach the younger generation and motivate them to become a lasting part of our mission over the longer term. Find out more on page 22.

In 2024, we also launched our latest initiative to help patients with limited access to transplant care: the DKMS BMT Start-Up Programme in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The aim is to provide infrastructure and medical advisory support to transplant units in underserved regions. Launched in two paediatric hospitals in Uzbekistan and Vietnam, by the end of 2024 the DKMS BMT Start-Up Programme had enabled six successful transplants.

Another major breakthrough was the transplantation of the first off-the-shelf cryopreserved stem cell unit from an adult donor – a milestone made possible by our DKMS Stem Cell Bank. This innovation opens up new opportunities for accessing stem cells within 72 hours and improving efficiency. For more on this exciting development, see page 24 of this report.

We are also keen to foster innovation and research through our third pillar: Advance Research & Development. For example, we are currently expanding further into the field of diagnostics, starting with the monitoring of measurable residual disease (MRD) for children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in India. We are expecting promising results over the coming years, guided by our Agenda 2030, the lodestar in our mission to reach even higher and achieve even more second chances at life.

By the end of 2030, we aim to:

- Provide 12,000 second chances at life a year
- Enable 200,000 stem cell transplants worldwide since we were founded
- Increase our pool to at least 17 million potential donors
- Make a meaningful contribution to advanced cell therapies
- Further develop MRD diagnostics and make them affordable

At the heart of it all is you. With your generosity and commitment, we will continue increasing our impact and offer significantly more second chances at life. Thank you for your support. And happy reading!

Sincerely,

Dr Elke Neujahr
Global CEO, DKMS Group
Vice Chair of the Foundation Board,
DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden

Laura (right) embraces her lifesaver Kati

2024 – Global Highlights

Together, we save lives

"I am extremely grateful to see that DKMS continues to bring hope to thousands of patients with blood cancer and blood disorders worldwide every year. Providing more than 120,000 second chances at life since we were founded is an extraordinary achievement. I am proud of all of our colleagues, partners and supporters who are giving their all every day to make this possible."

Katharina Harf

Katharina Harf
Global Chair of the Foundation Board,
DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden

Katharina Harf

Our global impact in numbers

Our donors are at the heart of our mission

Potential lifesavers

12,731,545
registered donors
as of 31 December 2024

729,344
donors recruited in 2024

We give hope to patients worldwide

Second chances at life

123,147
since 1991

9,126
in 2024

Additional second chances at life*

2,275
since 1991

454
in 2024

*includes second chances facilitated by our Access to Transplantation programmes, Cord Blood Units, family donors and non-DKMS donations enabled via DKMS Registry searches

Constant innovation, new opportunities

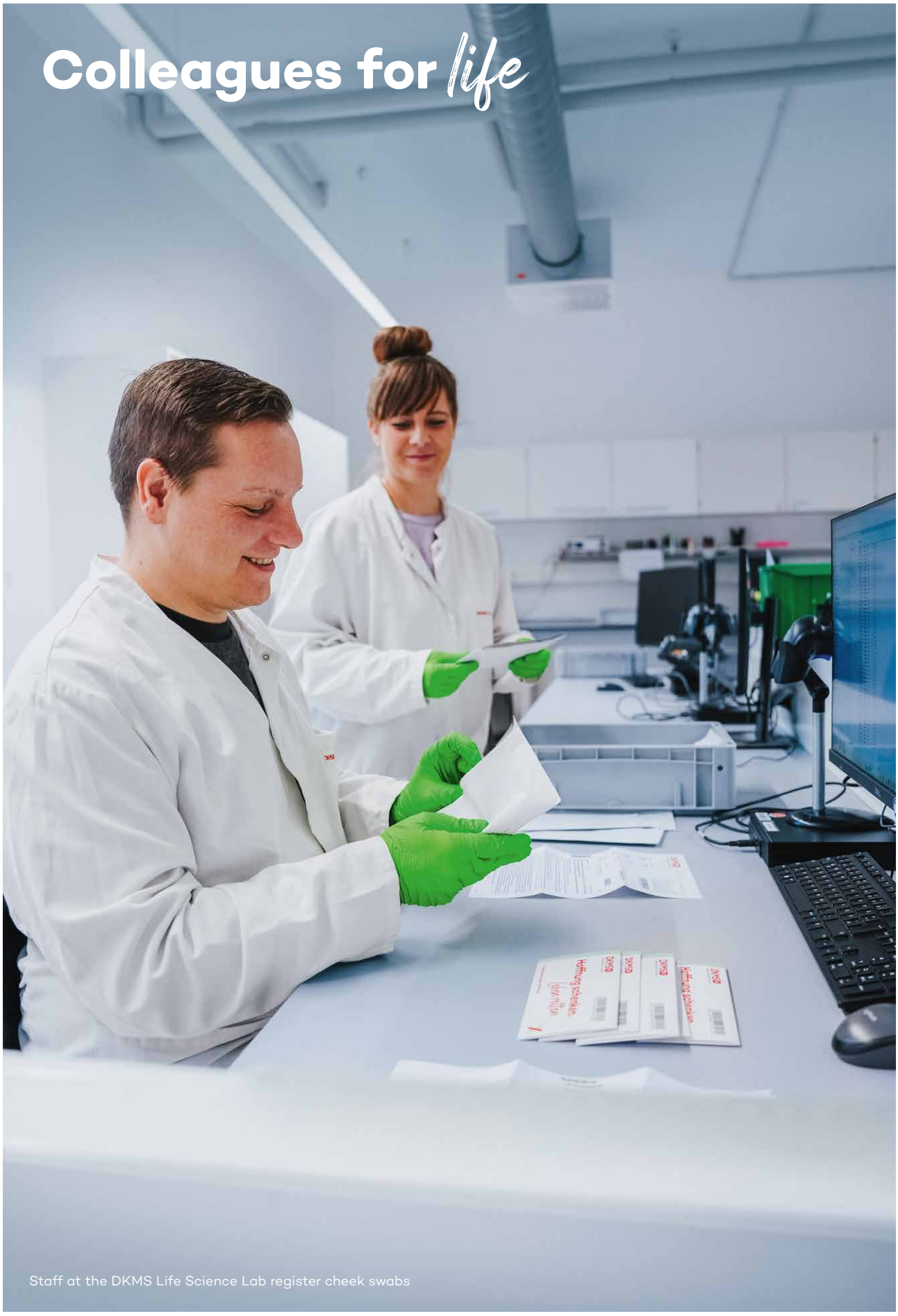
- Patient registry in seven countries
- New international aid programmes
- Advancement in diagnostics and patient outcomes as well as many more innovations and initiatives

35%
of all stem cell collections worldwide are enabled by DKMS donors

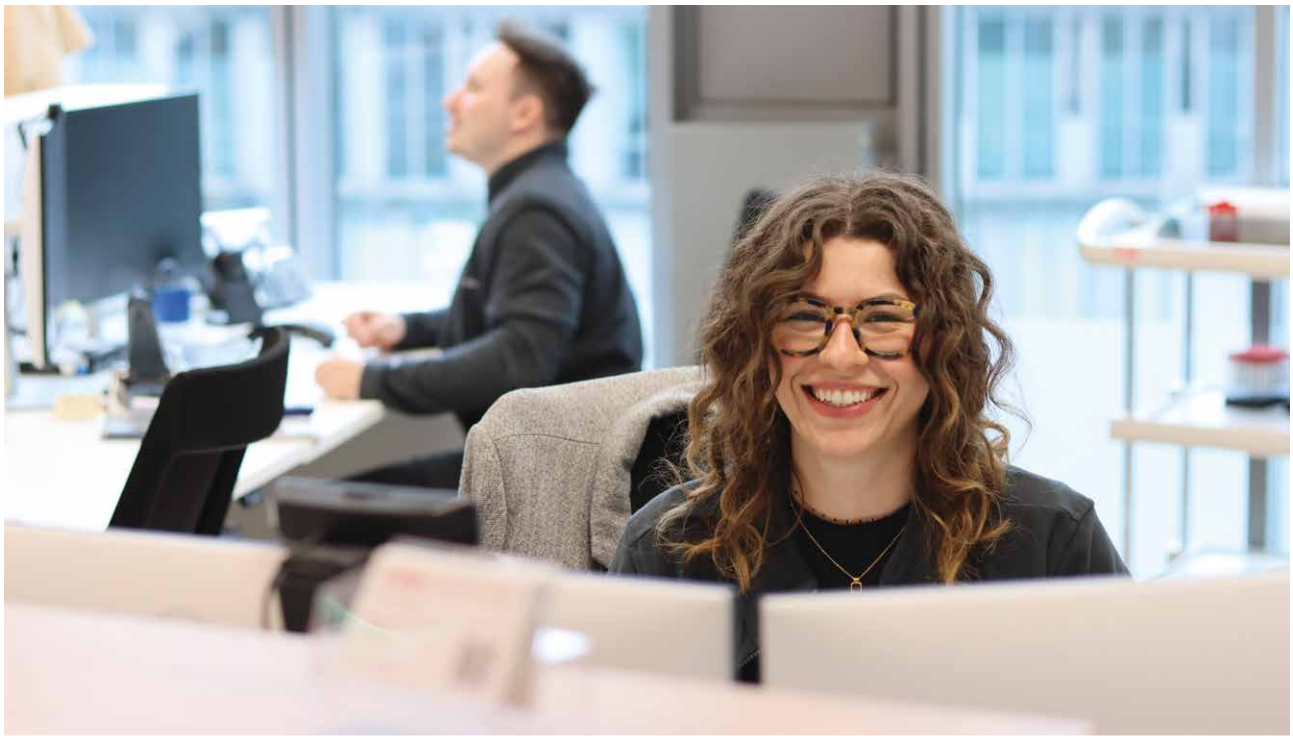
75%
of DKMS collections are for patients abroad

DKMS supporter Benedikt and his dog Bruno complete their fundraising journey in Santiago de Chile, after thousands of kilometres for a good cause

Colleagues for *life*



Staff at the DKMS Life Science Lab register cheek swabs



We work with the most qualified and talented people

1,246
employees

more than **33** nationalities

more than **400** roles

"Working at DKMS means being part of something truly meaningful. Every day, I see how our work can help save lives, and that motivates me. What I also appreciate is the trust, flexibility and support we receive as employees. It's empowering to contribute to a global mission in an environment that values both impact and well-being."

Ceren, DKMS Global Corporate Communications, Germany

≈130
departments, from shared services such as Finance, IT and Legal to Donor Recruitment, Workup, Fundraising, and Corporate Communications as well as our medical, lab and nursing teams, and much more...

in 7 countries

on 5 continents

Our Three Pillars for Giving Second Chances at Life

Every 27 seconds someone, somewhere in the world is diagnosed with blood cancer. For many, a stem cell transplantation is the only hope. But the chances of finding a genetic match – or even affording such a treatment – vary across the globe. The long-term success of transplantations also varies, depending on many different factors. And that's why we have extended the scope of our activities to pursue a holistic approach comprising three pillars:

Pillar 1
Boost Stem Cell Donations

- **Our goal by 2030:**
  To have the most diverse pool possible of readily available donors
- **Expanding access:**
  Raising awareness amongst potential young lifesavers and recruiting as many of them as possible to maximise the number of stem cell donations

Pages 16–25

Pillar 2
Improve Access to Transplantation

- **Free HLA Typing Programme:**
  Identifies potential donors within the patient's family and offers additional support if none are found
- **Patient Funding Programme:**
  Reduces financial obstacles to transplantation
- **Capacity Building Programme:**
  Enhances treatment and care via infrastructural support and knowledge sharing

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Pillar 3
Advance Research & Development

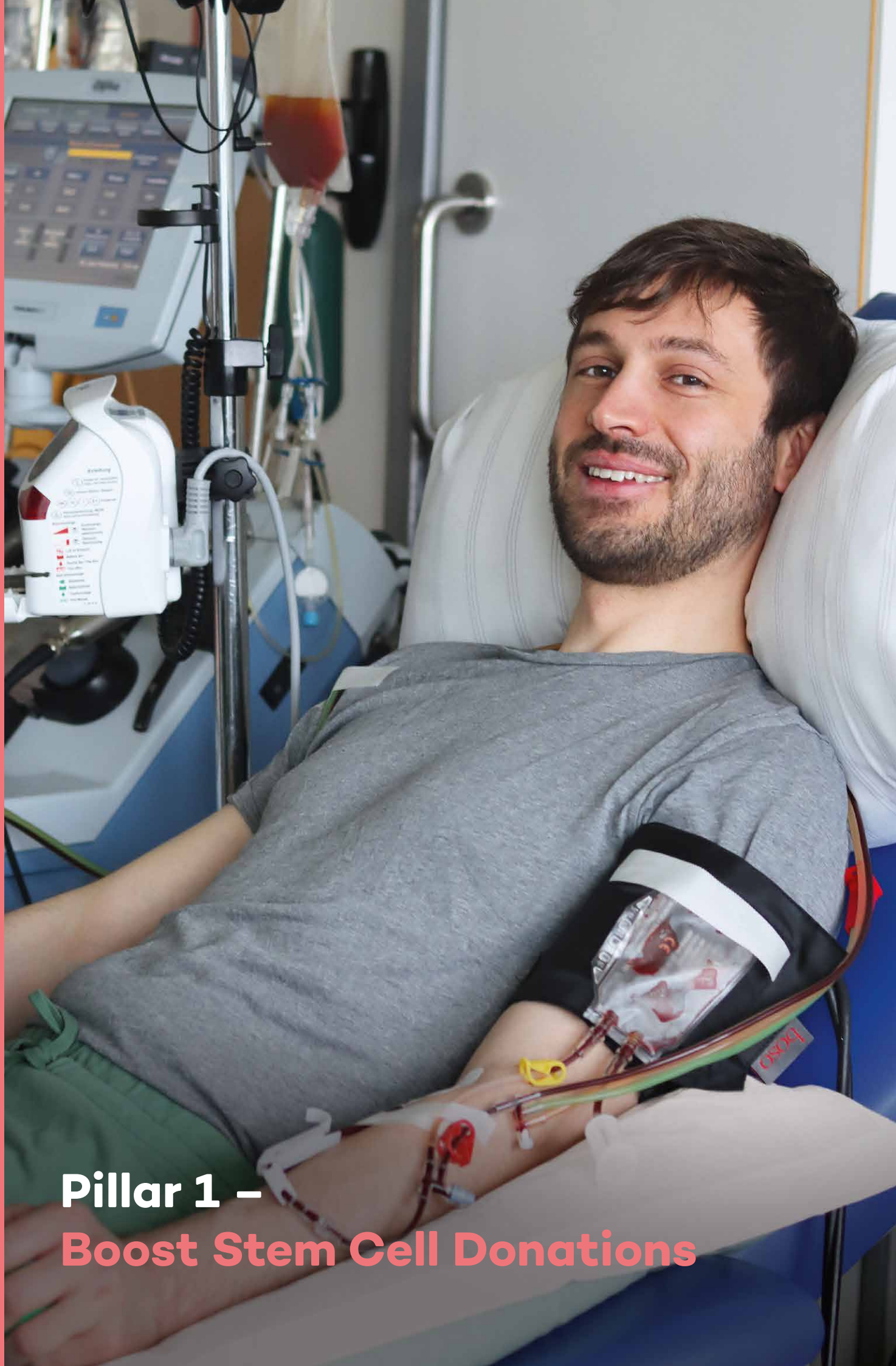
- **Improve patient outcomes and chances of survival:** Support patients with blood cancer and blood disorders through the work of our Clinical Trials Unit, the DKMS Life Science Lab and the DKMS Stem Cell Bank
- **Open up the field of diagnostics with MRD monitoring**
- **Contribute to advanced cell therapies:** with our expertise, equipment, and dedicated supporters

Pages 32–39

Boost Stem Cell Donations is the core of our mission. We want to find the best possible donor for every patient with blood cancer or a blood disorder. Our seven donor centres on five continents raise awareness, recruit donors and expand the diversity of our global pool – to increase the chances of finding a lifesaving genetic match for as many patients as possible.

Improve Access to Transplantation focuses on breaking down financial and logistical barriers for patients in low- and middle-income countries. We want more of them to have access to lifesaving stem cell transplants through international aid and support programmes.

Advance Research & Development drives innovation in blood cancer treatment through pioneering research, clinical trials and novel cell therapies. We want to improve patient outcomes and shape the future of blood cancer treatment by enhancing advanced diagnostics and supporting scientific progress.



Pillar 1 –
Boost Stem Cell Donations

DKMS Collection Center – *Empathy* and expertise in every donation

It's another day for Emily, one of the 17 nurses at the DKMS Collection Center in Cologne, Germany. As donors start to arrive, she takes care of what matters most: making them feel comfortable, informed and heard. Her involvement starts early on, during the preliminary examination weeks before the actual donation.

"We take the time to explain the mobilisation process and check how people are feeling," Emily explains. "We take our time and really focus on each individual and their needs."

Three to four weeks before their donation, donors come to the Collection Center for their preliminary check-up. They are also given information material, watch videos about the donation process and meet the coordination team. Then they are called in to the consultation room, where Emily and a doctor examine their general health, check their vital signs, explain the medication and answer any questions they may have. Diyar, a donor we met after his examination, told us: "I felt well looked after right from the beginning. The call beforehand and the videos about the donation process really put my mind at rest."

Prior to the donation itself, donors prepare by taking G-CSF (granulocyte-colony stimulating factor) on five days in a row. The G-CSF causes stem cells to be released into the bloodstream and can have mild, flu-like side effects.

On the fifth day of receiving the medication, the actual donation takes place – and that's when Laura, a donation nurse, comes in. First thing in the morning, Laura welcomes each donor individually. Often, they bring headphones or a book with them, and sometimes even a lucky charm. Laura sets the needle, monitors the donor's vital signs and makes sure everything runs smoothly. "We chat with our donors a lot," she smiles. "Everyone is different: some need reassurance, some want to know every detail."

"With the medication, I didn't feel too great, but I was expecting that thanks to the great preparation, so it was OK," says Marvin, speaking to us while donating his stem cells. "I know I am in caring and capable hands."

"If I had blood cancer, I'd hope someone would do the same for me," he adds.

Every day, up to fourteen donors come in to donate. The nurses and twelve doctors rotate between pre-examinations and collections, ensuring everyone feels OK. "At the end of the day, you've done a great thing," says Laura, "and when we hear it helped someone, it means the world to us."

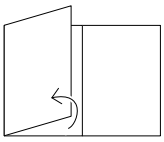
Whether in Germany or Chile, our DKMS Collection Centers are guided by one principle: treat every donor with empathy, professionalism, respect and care.

"We take the time to explain the mobilisation process and check how people are feeling," Emily explains. "We take our time and really focus on each individual and their needs."

Stem cell donor Marvin during his donation in Cologne

The donor-patient journey

From Münsingen in Germany to Bengaluru in India: Donating stem cells was a life-changing experience that brought two totally unconnected people together. In 2016 Roman was identified as a match for Chirag. Eight years later, in 2024, the two met for the first time – in Bengaluru. Here is what they told us…



Unfold this page for a graphic showing the full donor-patient journey.

Patient

"Words cannot express how thankful I am

for Roman's selfless act. He didn't just give me stem cells, he gave me a future."

Chirag
17-year-old thalassaemia survivor from India

Donor

"There's no greater joy than knowing you've helped someone in need.

Seeing Chirag healthy and full of life is the biggest reward."

Roman
29-year-old donor from Germany

Diagnosis

Someone somewhere in the world is diagnosed with blood cancer

every 27 seconds

Treatment

Treatment depending on disease

e.g. chemo, radiation, additional antibody therapy if needed

Search for donor within family

If doctors decide on a blood stem cell transplant

One in three patients finds a donor in their own family

Search for unrelated donor

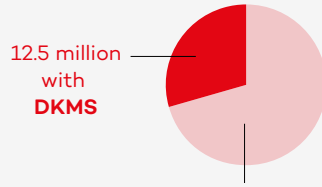
Typing

1 2 3

Search unit at patient's hospital launches search for donor in national and international registries

Patient

Over 42.5 million registered donors worldwide



Last updated: 31 December 2024

International Donor Registry

Possible matches

Identification of possible donors matching the patient

Communications

DKMS educates public on stem cell donation and encourages them to register

Donor registration

Registration includes donor eligibility check and consent, and submission of sample for HLA typing

Typing

HLA genotyping

Buccal swabs

Donor consent

Data administration

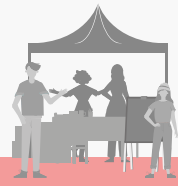
Maintenance and management of donor data

Donor data entry

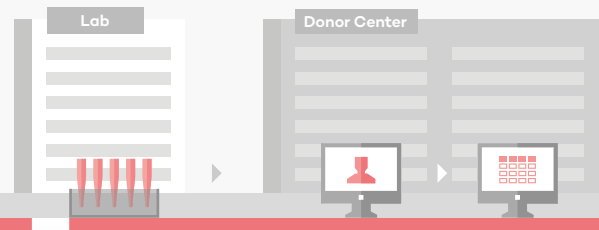
Donors register ...

... online on the DKMS website

or



... at a registration event



Donor

DKMS Life Science Lab

Dresden, Germany

The world's leading HLA typing laboratory according to the latest scientific standards

Confirmatory typing

Not every patient finds a matching donor

Search unit requests confirmatory typing of selected possible matches from DKMS

DKMS processes more than 60,000 confirmatory typing requests every year

Successful donor search

Hospital lab verifies HLA match

Finally patient's doctor selects donor

Lab

Collection method is decided

Hospital requests donor workup and cell collection

Patient is informed of matching donor

Donor-patient match

Collection Center clears donor for donation

Confirmatory typing

DKMS CT Coordinator contacts donor to check health status and willingness to donate

- Donor is briefed on donation process
- Health questionnaire
- Family doctor takes blood sample

Workup

DKMS Workup Case Manager immediately notifies donor of match

- Detailed information on donation procedure
- Dates are set for physical examination and donation
- Travel arrangements are made for donor

Donation

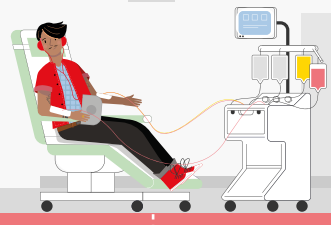
Preliminary examination

Collection Center*

Peripheral blood stem cell donation

or

Bone marrow donation**



DKMS Donor Centers
in Chile, Germany, India, Poland, South Africa, UK, USA

DKMS Donor Centers' primary tasks are to educate, register and take care of donors, and manage medical donor requests

DKMS Collection Centers
Dresden and Cologne (Germany), Santiago de Chile (Chile)

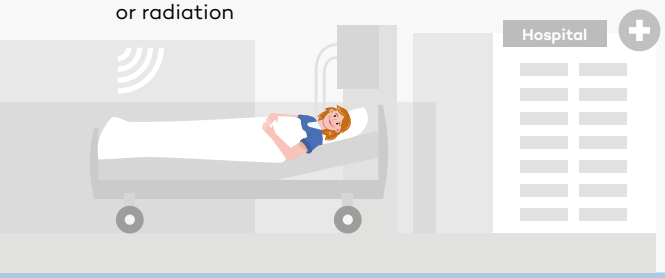
Collection Centers ensure the safety and wellbeing of donors and the quality of donations

Preparation for transplant

Conditioning of patient: preliminary treatment with chemotherapy or radiation

Transplantation

Blood stem cells are transplanted via infusion



Patient follow-up

Hospital updates DKMS on patient's progress for 2 years after donation

(possible in most countries)

Donor-patient contact

If permitted in the patient's country, patient and donor can have anonymous contact

First face-to-face meeting

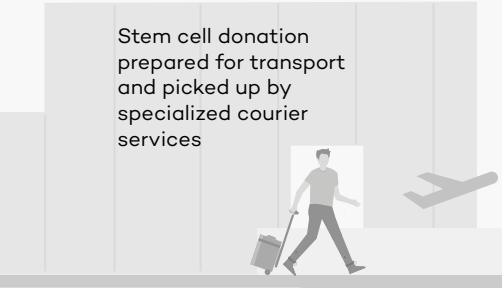
After anonymity period: release of personal data if donor and patient agree

In most countries, donor and patient are allowed to meet after two years

More than 75 %
of all donations from DKMS donors are transported to patients abroad

Transport

Stem cell donation prepared for transport and picked up by specialized courier services



Donor follow-up

- Regular health checks after donation
- Support for donors whose patient has deceased
- Donor feedback

*With the donor's consent, surplus stem cells may be collected for cryopreservation****

DKMS Stem Cell Bank
Dresden, Germany

The first facility in the world to provide cryopreserved peripheral blood stem cells to adult patients across the globe

**All DKMS entities collaborate with certified collection centres in addition to their own facilities*

***Not available in India and South Africa*

****Only in Germany*

Reaching and *inspiring* young people – Team Young Gen

Medical and scientific progress over the past decades has significantly advanced our understanding of stem cell transplantation. Today, physicians know that young donors, especially those aged between 18 and 25, provide the highest possible quality of stem cells[1]. That's why they are the donors of choice for patients in need of a transplant.

Young voices shape the future of stem cell donation

Although only 11 percent of the DKMS donor pool is aged 17–25, this group accounts for an impressive 39 percent of all donor requests made by transplant centres and search coordinators, as shown in the graph. This imbalance highlights the high demand for young donors and the urgent need to increase their share in the registry.

But who are these young potential donors?

Today's young people are growing up in a world shaped by rapid change, global crises and constant digital connectedness. They came of age during a pandemic, care deeply about social justice, and expect authenticity and purpose from the brands and causes they support. Whether scrolling on their phones, connecting online or raising awareness through creative content, they are vocal, well-informed and values-driven. For us at DKMS, it is crucial to engage with young people in our lifesaving mission, as transplant physicians often prefer stem cells from younger donors. What's more, they will stay on our books for longer – which increases the likelihood of them actually making a donation.

How can we reach them?

Considering this question, we asked ourselves two key things:

- **How can we inspire young people to become stem cell donors?**
- **How can we meet them where they are, understand their needs and expectations, and get them involved?**

A look at their social media habits provides a clue: these potential lifesavers spend hours scrolling, swiping, liking and streaming. Whether on the couch at home, on a bus or in a restaurant, they are constantly online. So, we need posts, videos and campaigns that cut through the noise and really grab their attention. We need to meet them where they are, in their reality, and get the message across that they could be the perfect match for a patient with blood cancer somewhere in the world.

Listening to young people

To better understand and reach out to young people, we set up an inter-departmental team called Team Young Gen. They adopted a unique approach to their research, inviting young colleagues from within our organisation to act as a sounding board. Together, they explored how young people think and act, and worked out what would motivate them to save a stranger's life.

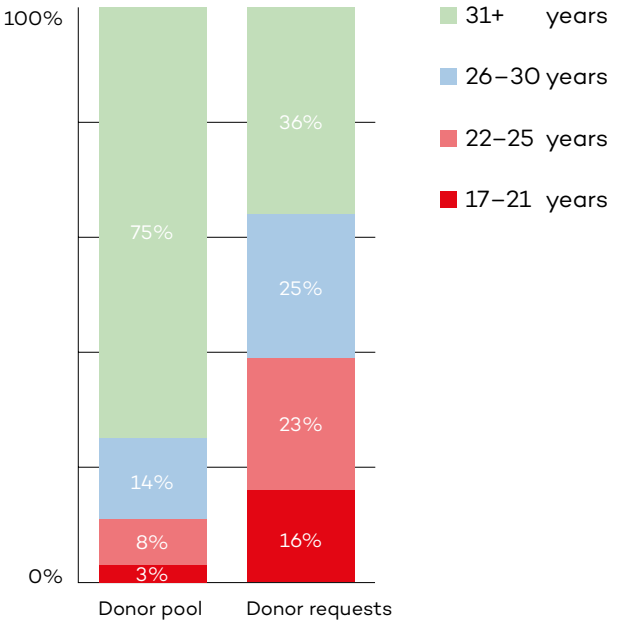
The donor journey – step by step

The journey of a young donor starts with awareness, understanding our mission and recognising the life-saving impact they can make. The first active step is to register. Then, they swab the insides of their cheeks with the swab set we provide and send their samples to be analysed at the world's largest HLA typing laboratory: our DKMS Life Science Lab in Dresden. When everything is set up, they receive their HLA data and access to a personalised section of our website, where they can update their details and stay connected. These digital touchpoints allow us to build trust, maintain engagement and ensure that when a young person is called upon to donate, they feel informed, supported and ready to take action.

Engaging with them where they are

We meet young people where they live, study and connect – at schools, universities, sports clubs, online platforms and festivals. Our messages are relatable and reinforced by real-life stories that resonate. We also work closely with young volunteers who serve as trusted ambassadors. By integrating interactive formats like workshops, social media challenges, and meetups with donors and patients, we create shared experiences that foster trust and inspire action. Team Young Gen is more than a recruitment project, it's a long-term investment in the future of stem cell donation. Because by involving young people early and amplifying their voices, we are building a strong, committed donor base for the years ahead.

All DKMS entities



[1] *Schetelig, J., et al. Young unrelated donors confer a survival advantage for patients with myeloid malignancies compared to older siblings. Leukaemia 2025. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41375-025-02724-1*

A thick vapour of nitrogen leaves a cryotank in which stem cells are stored

Stem cells *ready to use* in 72 hours

First blood cancer patient receives off-the-shelf stem cells

Waiting for a stem cell transplant is a race against time. It's often a period of urgency and uncertainty, all the more so because finding a match and organising the logistics can take weeks.

To address this, in November 2023, the DKMS Stem Cell Bank in Dresden introduced a groundbreaking innovation: the processing, storage and provision of cryopreserved peripheral blood stem cells, or Adult Donor Cryopreserved Units (ADCUs). ADCUs are surplus stem cells collected during an initial donation and cryopreserved at minus 180 degrees Celsius, with the donor's consent. These cells can then be used for subsequent transplantations anywhere in the world at a later stage. ADCUs allow fast, flexible and more efficient responses when donations are urgently needed.

2024 saw a patient benefit from this innovation for the very first time, receiving a timely boost of additional pre-collected, cryopreserved stem cells stored from their initial transplant. Because the cells had already been quality-checked beforehand and cryopreserved, the donor was not needed for a second donation. The transplantation could go ahead immediately, supporting the patient's recovery.

The success of this first ADCU transplantation marks the beginning of a new era in stem cell medicine

Thanks to ADCUs, a prolonged stem cell donation can help not just one patient but two. Each additional unit stored brings us closer to faster, more accessible and more effective treatments for those who need them as soon as possible.

By the end of 2024, the DKMS Stem Cell Bank held over 170 ADCUs. More than 100 of them are already listed and available to transplant centres – via the Central Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ZKRD) in Germany and the DKMS Registry worldwide. DKMS is continuously expanding this inventory to help more and more patients.

The DKMS Registry – Matching patients with the *best possible* donors

When someone is diagnosed with blood cancer, their life can depend on finding a matching stem cell donor. Often, it will be a stranger somewhere in the world, and finding them is the mission of the DKMS Registry.

Unlike our donor centres, which focus on recruiting and supporting potential donors, the DKMS Registry is all about identifying the perfect match. We are the world's largest stem cell donor database and a lifeline for patients across the globe.

In 2024 alone, we received 23,302 search requests from other registries and transplant centres seeking non-related donors. That's more than 485 a week. Thanks to our dedicated team and global network, we were able to facilitate 4,545 lifesaving donations, each one offering another patient a second chance at life.

What sets the DKMS Registry apart is the quality of our work. We are known for our fast, reliable and medically precise donor search process. Our digital tools use advanced matching algorithms and can identify a potential match in minutes. Our expert coordinators then manage the entire process, from confirming availability to arranging the next steps, even across borders.

Our partnerships with transplant centres and registries around the world – including the World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA) – help match patients with donors not only from our own pool but from global databases as well. What's more, since July 2024, transplant centres supported by the DKMS Registry have had direct access to the WMDA's international search system via our streamlined Hap-E-Search software, which makes the search for a donor even faster and more efficient.

Meet Jacob & Lorna, a 10/10 match

As both a donor and patient registry, DKMS plays a vital role in the global transplant community, breaking down barriers and connecting people across borders.

DKMS patient and donor registry

The DKMS Registry is both a patient and a donor registry. **As a donor registry,** we meet our international partners' search requests for DKMS stem cell donors. **As a patient registry,** we support affiliated transplantation centres in regions with limited resources, by searching DKMS and other registries worldwide to find the donors they need.

In 2024, for example, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the seventh country to benefit from our support as a patient registry. With no national donor database of its own, the UAE is home to one of our partner organisations, which was able to facilitate a transplantation for a local patient using stem cells from a donor registered with DKMS Germany.

Pillar 2 –
Improve Access to Transplantation

Tanvi – From sickness to *strength*

Tanvi is a thalassaemia survivor. She was diagnosed at only six months old, and from that point on, her father did everything in his power to find a cure. As a single parent in India, raising two daughters while managing the challenges of a serious illness was no easy task. Fortunately, however, his efforts led the family to DKMS via the local NGO Sankalp India Foundation. Tanvi benefited from the free DKMS HLA typing programme, which identified her sister, Dhanvi, as a genetic match. For the first time in years, Tanvi's father saw a glimmer of hope and made the courageous decision to pursue a stem cell transplantation for his daughter. The family received vital financial assistance through the DKMS Patient Funding Programme, which covered about one-third of the treatment costs. With additional support from Tanvi's aunt – who stepped in to care for her during the first crucial month after transplantation – the family embarked on a difficult journey together. Tanvi was 11 years old at the time, and today, five years after her successful transplantation, she is a bright, energetic young woman. Her haemoglobin levels are stable and she is full of life.

By funding two transplant centres in India and providing international support programmes, DKMS continues to help patients like Tanvi access lifesaving transplantations – giving them not just a chance of survival but a chance to truly live.

Tanvi (left) and her sister Dhanvi

Tanvi benefited from the free DKMS HLA typing programme, which identified her sister, Dhanvi, as a genetic match

Overcoming barriers

Since 2014, our international support programme, Improve Access to Transplantation, has been assisting patients in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

One important part of our mission is to improve access to transplantation for blood cancer patients and patients with blood disorders in underserved regions of the world. In many LMICs, patients are likely to have difficulties obtaining proper treatment due to the inadequate infrastructure or financial barriers. We believe that by removing these barriers, we can offer equitable access to stem cell transplantation. Our goal is to ensure that comprehensive treatment is available to everyone, no matter where they were born, be it by supporting appropriate medical infrastructure, facilitating training for healthcare professionals or by providing financial resources. So far, we have supported patients in India, South Africa, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Armenia and elsewhere.

In 2024...

... our DKMS Free HLA Typing Programme handled over 12,700 samples. We were able to identify over **780 potential family donors and give more than 320 children a second chance at life**

... our DKMS Patient Funding Programme contributed to the treatment costs of **more than 240 patients**

... our DKMS Capacity Building Programme supported two nonprofit hospitals. We also funded a total of **14 bone marrow transplant rooms** to increase the capacity of their bone marrow transplant units

Committed to the cause:

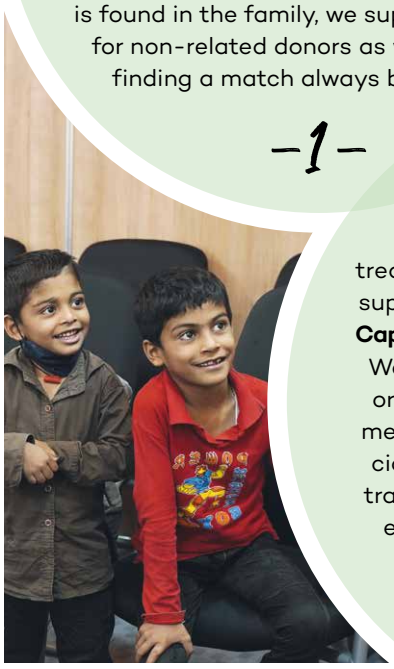
Our three programmes

The first hurdle for patients needing a stem cell transplantation in an LMIC is accessing HLA typing. Often, testing options are insufficient and unaffordable. Our **DKMS Free HLA Typing Programme** aims to ameliorate the situation by covering the cost of HLA typing for patients and their family members. If no suitable donor is found in the family, we support searches for non-related donors as well. Because finding a match always brings hope.

-1-

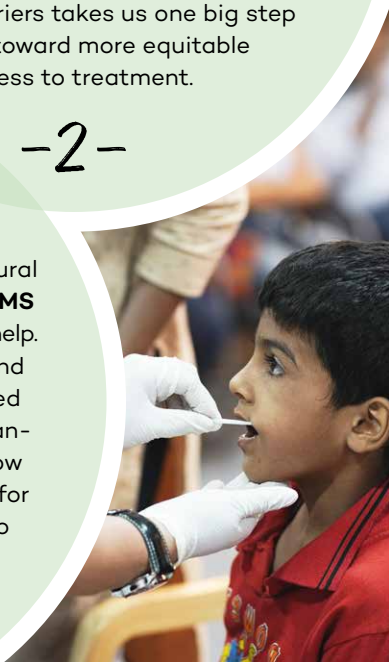
However, many families then find themselves facing the next obstacle: the cost of transplantation and related medical care. Our **DKMS Patient Funding Programme** supports patients in LMICs who would otherwise not have access to the treatment, by covering part of the cost of their stem cell transplantation. To do this, we work closely with other nonprofit organisations and transplant centres. Because overcoming financial barriers takes us one big step forward toward more equitable access to treatment.

-2-



When it comes to advancing treatment and care through infrastructural support and knowledge sharing, our **DKMS Capacity Building Programme** is here to help. We support local nonprofit hospitals and organisations in countries with a limited medical infrastructure by providing financial assistance for building bone marrow transplantation units or care facilities, for example, and training medical staff so they can offer a better level of care.

-3-



Celebrating the first two successful bone marrow transplantations in Hue, Vietnam

Learn more here

BMT Start-Up Programme – Building *local expertise*

In 2024, one of the latest Access to Transplantation initiatives in our Capacity Building Programme really took off: our BMT Start-Up Programme.

Stem cell transplantation is a highly complex medical procedure, and many countries lack the infrastructure, trained specialists or resources to offer it. With our BMT Start-Up Programme, we enable paediatric centres in LMICs to offer safe and effective low-risk transplantations with a matched family donor for children suffering from severe thalassaemia or sickle cell disease (SCD).

The Hue Central Hospital in Hue, Vietnam, and the National Children's Medical Centre (NCMC) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, were the first hospitals to receive support via our BMT Start-Up Programme, in September 2024. Both strive to offer a cure for children living with thalassaemia.

Support provided by the BMT Start-Up Programme includes:

- **Expert guidance** from experienced transplant specialists who share their knowledge with the institutions' medical teams, including advice on preparing to meet key requirements and onsite consultations to support their first two transplantations
- **Free HLA typing** for thalassaemia and SCD patients and their siblings to find a matching family donor

The goal is to foster local expertise and proficiency to ensure a sustainable setup that will save many lives in years to come.

Scaling up our future impact

As at December 2024, our initiative has enabled life-saving transplants from matching family donors for six children. We are happy to share that all the thalassaemia patients we supported in Uzbekistan and Vietnam underwent the treatment without major complications and were able to return home as planned.

By the end of 2026, the two paediatric centres aim to carry out 20 allogeneic bone marrow transplantations. To support them, we will continue to offer free HLA typing and online medical advice. We will also facilitate access to an international network of experts focusing on safe and effective stem cell transplantation in places with limited resources. By addressing gaps in transplantation infrastructure and expertise, the BMT Start-Up Programme advances healthcare equity and access to lifesaving treatment in underserved regions. It is open to hospitals and tertiary care centres meeting certain conditions in haemoglobinopathy-prone areas and will span several years. Closely tailored to the specific needs of each individual centre, the programme aims to ultimately make them self-sufficient.

The power of *partnership*

The strength of our Improve Access to Transplantation programmes lies in our strong partnerships with organisations that complement our expertise. Cure2Children is one example, and we have been partners for over ten years. The nonprofit organisation's mission is to cure children with cancer and severe blood disorders by ensuring that local medical centres are directly available in LMICs.

Cure2Children was founded in Italy in 2007 by a group of parents who had lost a child to cancer and by paediatric haematologist-oncologist Dr Lawrence Faulkner. The organisation has since helped establish bone marrow transplant units in low- and middle-income countries across South-East Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Together we work relentlessly to ensure equitable access to transplantation. We spoke about our shared mission with Cure2Children's co-founder, Dr Lawrence Faulkner:

Why does Cure2Children focus on underserved regions of the world?

The most common life-threatening noncommunicable diseases in children globally are haemoglobinopathies – particularly sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. Sickle cell disease is more prevalent in Africa, while thalassaemia is more common in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. But these are also the regions where the majority of the world's children live. Given this reality, we chose to focus on countries where our impact can be greatest: where the most affected children live and where our resources can save the most lives.

Talking of cures, how can these children be saved?

At the moment, bone marrow transplantation is the only established cure for haemoglobinopathies. It is especially effective with a matched sibling donor. We're seeing success rates of over 90 percent in young children with either thalassaemia or sickle cell disease. However, this lifesaving treatment is often out of reach in lower-income countries due to its cost. For this reason, we're working to make transplantation far more accessible in these regions.

Ninety percent is an outstanding success rate. How can we make transplantations more accessible, though?

Our goal has been to build services based on frugal innovation and affordable care. We eliminate any cost or complexity that isn't supported by strong evidence. If a procedure or drug doesn't clearly improve outcomes, we don't use it. This approach includes avoiding unnecessarily elaborate facilities and excluding expensive drugs with limited benefit. Cost is a prognostic factor: every time a child is prevented from accessing curative treatment, it results in a preventable death. That's why our focus is firmly on affordability while maintaining high standards of safety and care – thanks in part to our collaboration with DKMS.

"We're seeing success rates of over 90 percent in young children with either thalassaemia or sickle cell disease."

What has this collaboration meant for Cure2Children?

Cure2Children is a small nonprofit. In the early days, we had a proof of principle: that it was possible to make transplantation significantly more accessible in resource-limited settings. But with DKMS on board, the scale of what we can achieve has transformed. We brought the medical expertise; DKMS brought the structure, resources and reach to expand our efforts and support more children. Together, we've already made a meaningful impact and we continue working toward a future where access to a cure doesn't depend on geography or income.

Dr Lawrence Faulkner


BỘ Y TẾ
BỆNH VIỆN TRUNG ƯƠNG HUẾ
CHÚC MỪNG THÀNH CÔNG


TÌNH HÌNH HOẠT ĐỘNG PHÒNG MỔ NGOẠI A
THÔNG TIN KHOA HỌC
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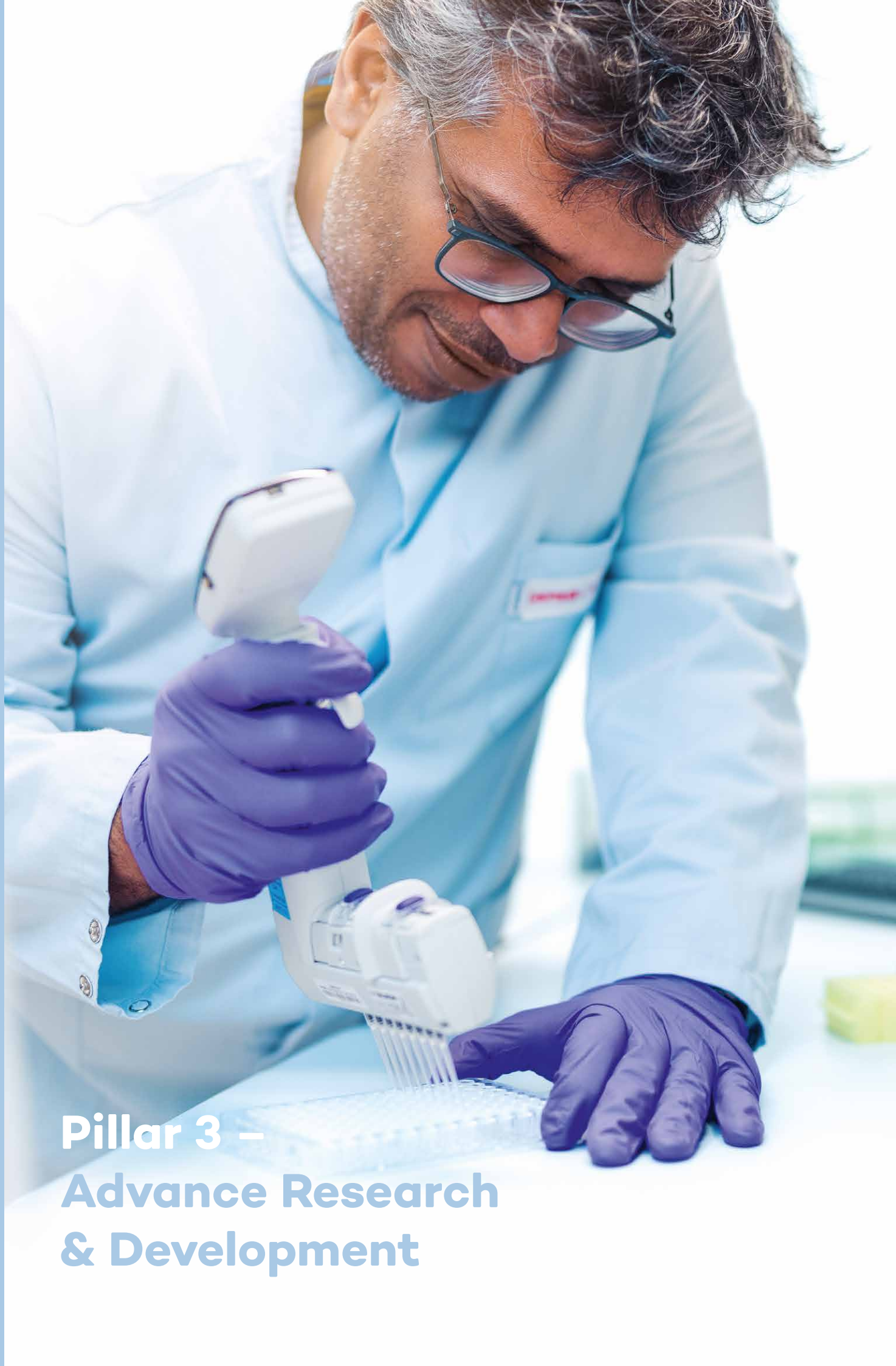


Pillar 3 – Advance Research & Development

Reaching a milestone in clinical research

For people with blood cancer, a stem cell transplant may be their only chance of survival. But every patient is different – and so is their path to recovery. That's why we invest in innovative research and clinical trials to improve and tailor treatments to each patient's situation, reduce risks and achieve better outcomes. At DKMS, we work with medical experts to translate scientific insights into real-world impact so that patients get the best possible care and can enjoy a future beyond their diagnosis.

Celebrating our 1,000th clinical trial participant

Since 2013, our Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) in Dresden, Germany, has been driving research to improve transplantation outcomes. Our team of more than 30 experts conducts its own clinical studies and invests in international research collaborations to advance and improve stem cell transplantation. This year, our research reached a significant milestone: we passed the 1,000 mark for patients enrolled, a powerful step toward advancing lifesaving therapies.

We also work closely with the DKMS Life Science Lab and operate the Collaborative Biobank (CoBi). With the donor and patient's consent, the CoBi processes and stores their stem cell samples to support cutting-edge research worldwide. Our studies focus on improving donor selection, refining transplantation protocols and developing better post-transplant care strategies.

"Reaching this milestone of 1,000 patients enrolled would never have been possible without the strong and trusting collaboration with our network of dedicated transplant centres. Their support gives us the foundation to conduct meaningful research and bring innovative studies to life."

Professor Johannes Schetelig, Director Clinical Research at DKMS and Head of Stem Cell Transplantation at the University Hospital Dresden

Our research for transplantation

ASAP – Immediate vs delayed transplantation in AML patients

For a standard transplantation for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), the patient needs to be in full remission before the procedure can begin. However, study results show that proceeding with transplantation as soon as possible rather than waiting for full remission could be a viable alternative. As well as increasing access to transplantation, it could potentially reduce side effects and shorten patients' hospital stays.

ASAP is one of our most impactful studies and challenges traditional approaches to transplantation. Conducted in close collaboration with leading German research institutions, it has gained international recognition for its practice-changing results.

HAMLET – Optimising donor selection

Finding a suitable donor is crucial for the success of a stem cell transplantation. But when a full match is not available, an alternative is needed. The HAMLET study compares two potential options: partially matched non-related donors and half-matched family donors (also known as haploidentical donors).

The aim of the study is to develop more precise criteria for donor selection to improve patient outcomes.

GRAPPA – Advancing GvHD[2] prevention

This trial compares two preventive approaches to graft-versus-host disease (GvHD): post-transplant cyclophosphamide and anti-thymocyte globulin. The aim is to improve immune recovery and patient survival.

[2] *Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD) is a serious complication of allogeneic stem cell transplantation, caused by an immune response in donor cells against the recipient. It can occur even with full HLA matching and affects skin, mucous membranes and joints.*

Research to *improve* patient outcomes

Professor Katharina Fleischhauer is a renowned expert in the world of stem cell transplantation. She started her career at the prestigious Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, later leading the Unit for Immunogenetic Diagnostics and Research at the San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan, Italy. She then became Head of the Institute for Experimental Cellular Therapy in Essen, Germany. Katharina Fleischhauer won the DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award in 2016 and is now a longstanding member of the DKMS Medical Council. We spoke to her about her lifesaving work and our joint mission:

What inspired you to enter the research field of allogeneic stem cell transplantation?

During medical school, I learned how empirical clinical treatment can be at times, as we often have insufficient knowledge about the complex mechanisms governing health and disease. This sparked my interest in contributing to patient-oriented scientific research. After getting my MD, I was fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to join the Immunogenetics Department of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where allogeneic stem cell transplantation was pioneered in the late 1980s. My first project investigated why a fatal transplant rejection occurred despite serological HLA identity between donor and recipient. The results showed, for the first time, that a single amino acid difference between patient and donor HLA determined the clinical outcome. They were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. This experience ignited my enthusiasm for what, even after almost 40 years, I still consider one of the most rewarding fields in medicine, with a profound impact on treating life-threatening diseases such as leukaemia. I was fortunate to have mentors who supported and inspired me throughout my career, in particular Soo Young Yang, Bo Dupont and Richard O'Reilly at Sloan, and later Claudio Bordignon and Fabio Ciceri at San Raffaele in Milan.

In a few words, what is your research about and how will it impact patient outcomes?

Allogeneic stem cell transplantation is the clinically most consolidated and successful form of immunotherapy for blood cancer and the foundation for new targeted cellular therapies. Leveraging my decade-long experience of donor-recipient compatibility (histocompatibility) and immunogenetics, my research focuses on understanding the complex immunological mechanisms that drive success or failure of treatment. We have developed in vitro models of allogeneic stem cell transplantation to study why some human leukocyte antigen (HLA) mismatches between donor and patient are better tolerated than others. This also allows us to search for cell surface structures that can target leukaemia cells without harming healthy ones. Luckily, we can test our hypotheses in collaborations with international registries such as CIBMTR, EBMT and DKMS. Ultimately, our work supports patients with blood cancer by providing new algorithms for stem cell donor selection, unravelling mechanisms of how tumour cells evade the immune system and designing new targeted therapies.

You are a longstanding member of the Medical Council. What is your role there and how does your expertise contribute to its work?

It was an honour to join the DKMS Medical Council in 2019, alongside internationally recognised experts. We receive updates on DKMS activities, review results from the DKMS Clinical Trials Unit and the DKMS Life Science Lab, and discuss priorities. A key part of our role is evaluating DKMS John Hansen Research Grant applications for young scientists and selecting the DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award recipient. My expertise is especially relevant to research and diagnostics in histocompatibility and immunogenetics, and I also value the exchange with my esteemed colleagues as an opportunity to broaden my own knowledge.

Professor Katharina Fleischhauer

Professor Katharina Fleischhauer during her laudatory speech at the presentation of the DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award

DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award 2024

Celebrating breakthroughs in medical research

The DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award, presented by the DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden, recognises outstanding contributions in stem cell transplantation and cell therapy. Established in memory of Mechtild Harf, it honours internationally renowned scientists whose work has significantly advanced the treatment of blood cancers and related diseases.

Professor Robert Zeiser, the awardee in 2024, is dedicated to improving outcomes for patients undergoing allogeneic stem cell transplantation by reducing the risk of leukaemia relapse and graft-versus-host disease.

> "Our work aims to enhance the immune effects of the donor graft against leukaemia cells, ultimately reducing the risk of relapse"

Three questions for Professor Robert Zeiser

Just briefly, what's your main research focus?

My research focuses on two common complications occurring after allogeneic stem cell transplantation[3]: leukaemia relapse and graft-versus-host disease. Graft-versus-host disease is a condition where the donor's immune cells mistakenly attack the recipient's tissue.

Professor Robert Zeiser at the Mechtild Harf Science Award Ceremony in Glasgow

How might your research impact the well-being of patients?

The leading cause of death after an allogeneic stem cell transplantation in patients with acute leukaemia is relapse of the underlying malignancy. So, our work aims to enhance the immune effects of the donor graft against leukaemia cells, ultimately reducing the risk of relapse. Another key goal is to minimise graft-versus-host disease, which in its acute form primarily affects the intestinal tract, liver and skin. Graft-versus-host is associated with high mortality, so we want to better understand its biology and develop novel strategies for its prevention and treatment.

What does receiving the Mechtild Harf Science Award mean to you?

The Mechtild Harf Science Award means a great deal to me. I have seen the esteemed group of researchers who have received this award in the past, and I feel deeply honoured and grateful to be among them. It is a privilege to have my work in allogeneic stem cell transplantation recognised in this way.

[3] *In an allogeneic stem cell transplant, the patient receives healthy stem cells from a donor to replace their own damaged blood cells.*

DKMS John Hansen Research Grant 2024

John A. Hansen

Empowering the next generation of researchers

The DKMS John Hansen Research Grant 2024 was awarded to a new group of exceptional young scientists dedicated to advancing medical care and improving outcomes for blood cancer patients worldwide. Each researcher will receive a total of 240,000 euros over a three-year period to support their groundbreaking projects in the fields of cell therapy and stem cell transplantation. Originally established in 2015 as the Mechtild Harf Research Grant, the programme was renamed in 2019 to honour John A. Hansen, a distinguished oncologist and immunogeneticist whose pioneering work on graft-versus-host disease has had a profound impact on the field. Dr Hansen received the DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award himself in 2015 and played a crucial role as a member of the DKMS Foundation Board and DKMS Medical Council until his death in 2019. His legacy continues to inspire the next generation of researchers striving to transform the future of blood cancer treatment.

Senthil Bhoopalan, MD, PhD
St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis

Senthil is working on a new gene therapy for Diamond-Blackfan anaemia, a rare hereditary blood disorder that affects red blood cell production in infants. His approach aims to compensate for the defects caused by mutated genes using a specially designed virus. This could potentially cure the condition without the risks of traditional treatments like bone marrow transplants.

Nicoletta Cieri, MD, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston

Nicoletta is developing a new prognostic tool to help predict and potentially reduce graft-versus-host disease after stem cell transplants. Analysing genetic differences between donor and recipient could improve donor selection and personalise post-transplant immunosuppression, ultimately making transplants safer and more effective.

Livius Penter, MD
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Livius is developing a new technology to detect early signs of leukaemia relapse after stem cell transplantation. His approach analyses individual leukaemia cells at a molecular level to detect resistance to donor immune cells sooner. This would allow for earlier and more effective treatments to prevent relapse and improve long-term survival rates.

Tobias Wertheimer, MD
University Medical Centre Freiburg

Tobias is studying why some acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) patients relapse after stem cell transplantation. By analysing how leukaemia cells evade the immune system, his research aims to identify key markers for relapse and treatment response so that personalised treatment strategies can be developed to improve patient outcomes.

DKMS Life Science Lab – Our beating heart

Efficiency, high throughput and top quality. That's what the DKMS Life Science Lab (LSL) in Dresden, Germany, is known for. As one of the most advanced laboratories of its kind, the LSL performs high-resolution HLA typing and drives research through cutting-edge diagnostics to support our mission to save as many blood cancer patients as possible.

In 2024, the DKMS Life Science Lab achieved another major step forward: it developed a DNA-based diagnostic method for determining measurable residual disease (MRD) in patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). The innovative solution, named Hematrack ALL™, is ultra-sensitive, so it can detect even the tiniest traces of cancer cells that may remain after treatment – and help identify patients at risk of relapse.

So, why is this such a breakthrough? Because early and precise detection can inform critical treatment decisions and ultimately lead to better outcomes for patients. This highly sophisticated method will strengthen our capabilities in personalised medicine even further.

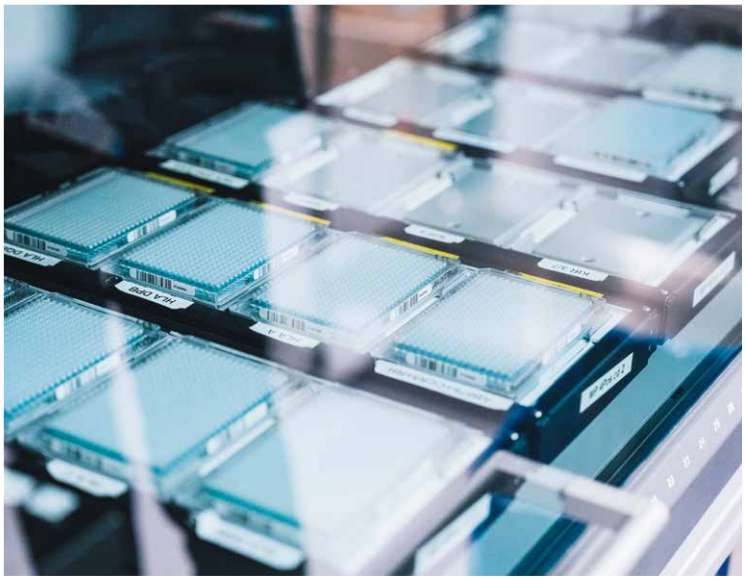
Hematrack ALL™ is yet another example of how the LSL pushes the boundaries of what's possible in laboratory science. Whether it's typing thousands of donor samples a day, supporting clinical trials or improving diagnostics – the LSL plays a vital role in advancing our mission.

- Approx. **180 employees**
- Up to **7,000 samples a day**
- Capacity of **1 million analyses per year**
- **22 HLA characteristics and other parameters** analysed

Why implement ALL-MRD diagnostics?

- Detects even tiny amounts of leukaemia cells that may remain after treatment
- Delivers reliable, unbiased results thanks to an automated analysis process
- Analyses patient DNA to track specific types of cancer cells


Biomek i5



Fundraising

DKMS supporter Benedikt on the road with his dog Bruno

Ride for ALL – Benedikt's journey to *help save lives*

In 2022, Benedikt and his trusty dog Bruno embarked on an extraordinary journey, cycling over 4,500 kilometres across nine countries in just 79 days. Their destination was Cabo da Roca, Portugal, the westernmost point of Europe. But this was no ordinary bike ride, it was a mission fuelled by love, loss and the determination to make a difference.

Making a difference, one joyful ride at a time

Benedikt's journey, called Ride for ALL, was inspired by his late wife, Alicia, who passed away in 2019 from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Alicia was Ecuadorian, but the couple lived in Germany, where she received medical treatment without worrying about the cost. Their experience made them acutely aware of the disparities in access to healthcare: in Latin America especially, many patients struggle to afford stem cell transplants. Before her passing, Benedikt and Alicia made a promise: to help others facing the same struggle.

Putting their promise into action, Benedikt dedicated his ride to raising awareness and funds for DKMS. By the end of his journey, he had raised more than 60,000 euros, which he donated to DKMS Chile. The funds directly supported the Patient Funding Programme, which helps patients from low-income backgrounds access stem cell transplants.

But Benedikt's mission didn't stop there. In 2024, he embarked on a second Ride for ALL, this time cycling 5,500 kilometres from Ambato, Ecuador – where Alicia was born – to Santiago de Chile. Once again, Bruno was with him all the way. Their journey across diverse landscapes included countless emotional moments and culminated at the DKMS office in Santiago, where he was welcomed with open arms. His efforts raised an additional 30,000 euros, which will help even more patients in need.

To honour Benedikt's tireless dedication and Alicia's enduring legacy, DKMS Chile created a special tribute wall in its collection centre. It serves as a lasting reminder of their story, the generosity of supporters and the countless lives that can be saved.

Before returning to Germany, Benedikt visited the tribute wall, which is a heartfelt acknowledgment of his impact and the hope he continues to inspire. His journey is a testament to the fact that one person's determination can change many lives. His story exemplifies the very spirit of our mission at DKMS.

Benedikt's Ride for ALL is not just about cycling but about giving other people a second chance at life. Thanks to his efforts, that chance is now within reach for far more patients who need it. Every one of us can be part of his mission too, because even a small donation can help clear financial obstacles to accessing treatment and give someone the chance of a lifesaving stem cell transplant. Every little helps. Together, we can make a difference.

His journey is a testament to the fact that one person's determination can change many lives. His story exemplifies the very spirit of our mission at DKMS

Benedikt and Bruno on arriving in Santiago de Chile

Fundraising for a world without blood cancer

Benedikt's journey is one of many that show how powerful individual fundraising efforts can be. At DKMS, fundraising is more than a financial necessity, it's what powers our mission. And while many organisations measure success in profit, we measure it in lives saved and hope restored for patients and families worldwide. Every financial contribution, no matter how large or small, helps us save more lives, extend our reach and raise awareness of our cause.

While many organisations measure success in profit, we measure it in lives saved and hope restored for patients and families worldwide

Fundraising income from all entities

€24,395,900	**€22,761,100**
in 2023	**in 2024**

Galas

UK Gala **1,400,000 GBP** (around 1,633,107 euros)[4]
US Gala **4,850,000 US dollars** (around 4,443,638 euros)[4]

[4] *As of 31 December 2024; Source: Currency calculators from LucaNet and EZB, accessed on 11 August 2025*

A huge *thank-you* to our supporters and partners

The money we raise is a testament to the incredible impact we can make when we stand united for a common cause. Thanks to the generosity of our financial donors and supporters in the business world, DKMS can not only provide lifesaving transplants to patients in need but also work actively towards making our dream of a world without blood cancer come true. Our supporters may not be as publicly visible as our stem cell donors, but their contributions mean we can keep on fighting for every patient, overcome every obstacle or challenge and refuse to take no for an answer.

"At DKMS, financial sustainability is the foundation of our mission. Our strategic approach ensures we can continuously expand our global impact, invest in lifesaving innovations and provide unwavering support to patients with blood cancer or a blood disorder. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our supporters: their commitment helps us make a lasting difference in improving treatment outcomes and saving lives."

Bernd Weinel
Global Chief Financial Officer, DKMS Group

Our Global Footprint

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5 continents
7 countries
7 donor centres

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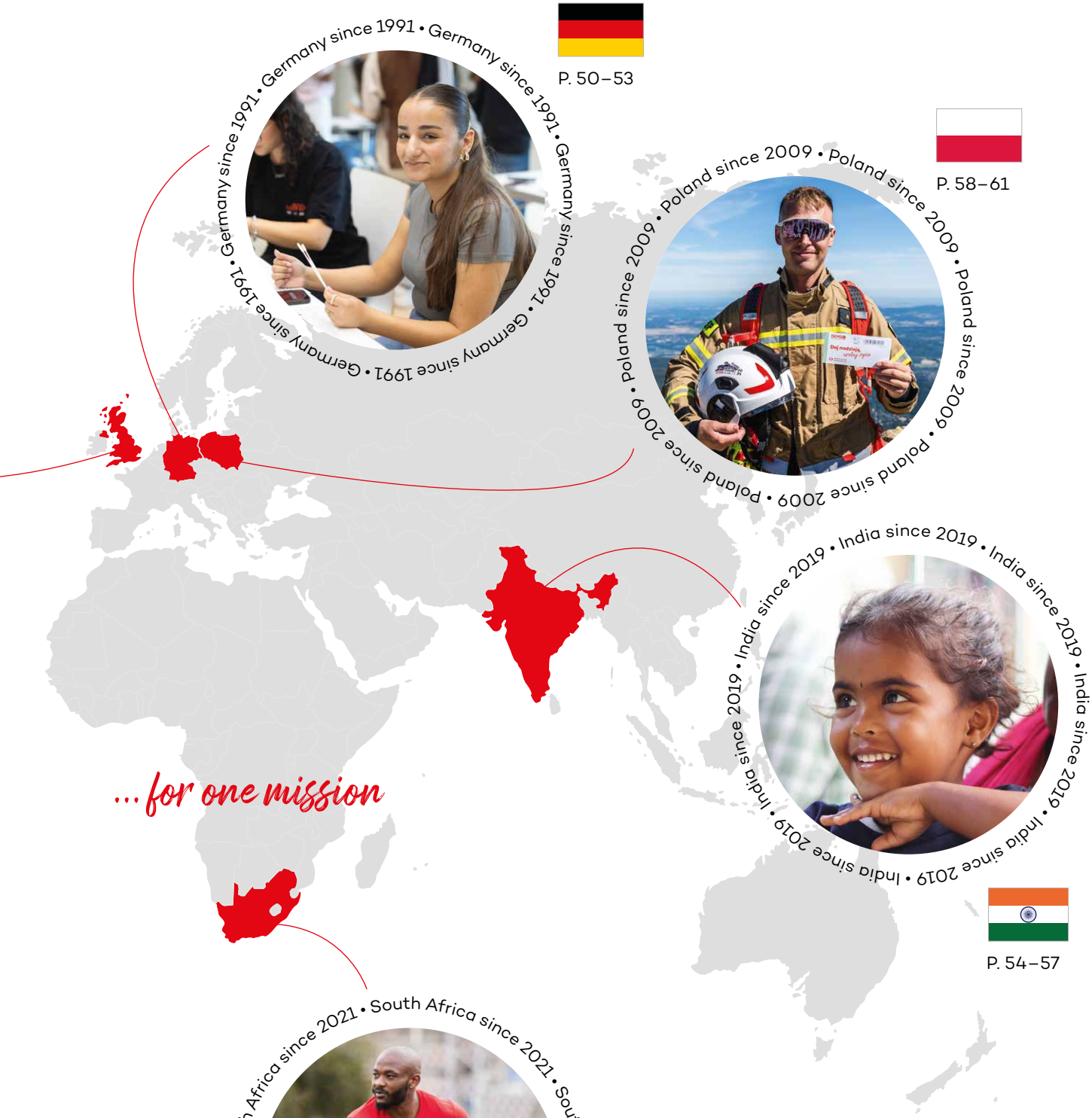

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Chile


2024
Busca tus fotos
llévate una y déjanos
un mensaje en la otra.

Rooted in purpose, reaching across borders

Ignacia Pattillo Garnham

Anette Giani

"This year has been deeply meaningful for all of us here in Chile. Opening our own collection centre was both a milestone and a moment of hope made real. Watching a donor walk in and knowing their gift could save someone's life reminds us why we do what we do.

Every new partnership and every generous supporter helps us reach out to more and more patients not just in Chile but across borders. There's still so much to do, but we're moving forward with courage, determination and the unshakable belief that every patient deserves a second chance at life."

Ignacia Pattillo Garnham, Country Manager
Anette Giani, Country Manager

Key Figures Chile

Overall as of 31 December 2024		**In 2024**
264,946 registered donors		49,044 recruited donors
488 second chances at life (stem cell collections)		159 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Made in Chile – A gathering to *celebrate life and solidarity*

Spirit of community at the Made in Chile event

In November, we came together under the open sky in the heart of Santiago: more than 70 stem cell donors, our medical team and the people who supported them throughout their donation journeys. No ordinary event, the evening was a celebration of life, hope and the quiet courage of saying "yes" to saving a stranger.

"When you realise
you're the only hope, you think:
'If not me, then who?'"

Carlos, DKMS Chile donor

Donors shared their stories, some of them nervous, some proud, but all deeply moving. Every experience was a reminder that no two journeys are alike. But what unites everyone is the same powerful connection: solidarity without borders.

It was a night of emotion and gratitude. Raising our glasses in a toast, we honoured the incredible individuals who make our mission possible – not just through their donations but through the example they set. "Made in Chile" is more than a name; it is a tribute to the spirit of a community committed to saving lives.

Fundraising initiatives to *strengthen our mission*

This year, two impactful events brought together communities with a single shared purpose: to give more patients in Chile a second chance at life.

In July, we hosted our very first art auction, Art to Give Life, at Club de Golf Los Leones. With over 40 works donated by renowned artists and the generous support of Denise Ratinoff and Fundación Huella, the evening turned creativity into compassion. Each bid was more than a gesture: it was a step towards hope for patients still waiting for a matching donor.

Later in the year, we proudly joined the Copa Juan Carlos Edwards golf tournament for the third time. This special 20th edition brought together supporters, survivors and sponsors to raise crucial funds to help beat cancer. This remarkable event was made possible by the generous support of Mariana Gildemeister, Fundación Huella, and sponsors and collaborators such as Tattersall, Huawei, Inchcape Américas, CASTAÑO, La Fete, Undurraga and Receta del Abuelo. Thanks to the dedication of our partners and the passion of everyone involved, the two events raised a combined total of more than 55,000 euros to support our lifesaving work.

> "Supporting DKMS in this tournament aligns with our focus on meaningful causes"
>
> Anita Jaramillo, Marketing Manager Inchcape

Casa Familia – Partnership for *hope* at DKMS Chile

For many families with children affected by blood cancer, Santiago is their only hope, as it's the only city in Chile where stem cell transplantation is possible. But medical treatment is not the only challenge on their journey to healing: many families have to leave everything behind to access care in the capital. Often, they have no place to stay and limited resources for support.

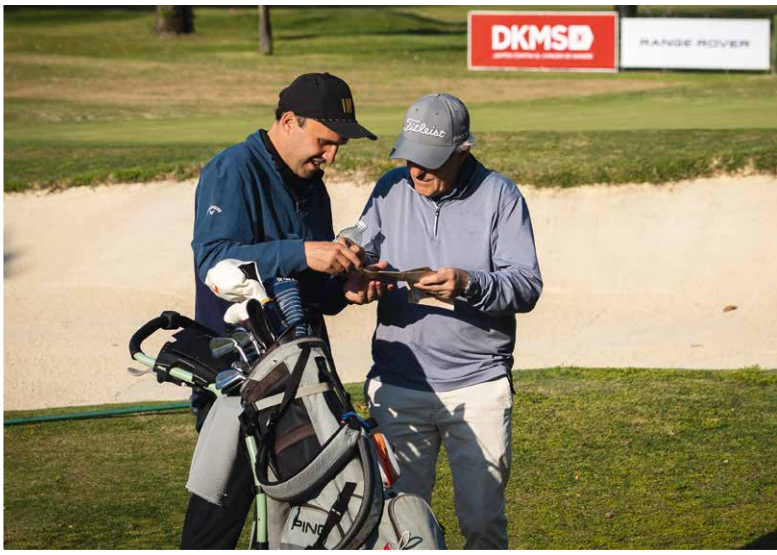
That's where Fundación Casa Familia comes in, offering temporary homes for around 85 paediatric patients and their caregivers a year – with more still waiting for help.

This year, we deepened our commitment to these families by partnering with Casa Familia to cover the accommodation costs for four children and their caregivers for at least 18 months each.

"Casa Familia has been a tremendous ally ever since DKMS Chile began. Now, it's our turn to help them ensure every child with blood cancer who is undergoing a stem cell transplantation has a safe place to stay during their treatment," emphasised our Country Manager, Ignacia Pattillo Garnham.

We were honoured to launch this partnership in the presence of strong allies and advocates, including Susanne Fries-Gaier, the German Ambassador to Chile; Dr Sung Hyuk Kim, from the Ministry of Health; Carolina Goic, President of the National Cancer Forum Foundation; Pablo Castillo, Director of Health for the Municipality of Ñuñoa; and leading medical experts from two of the country's top paediatric hospitals. Their presence reaffirmed our shared commitment to ensure no child ever has to face cancer alone.

Chilean DKMS Country Manager Ignacia Pattillo Garnham at the inauguration of the partnership with Casa Familia

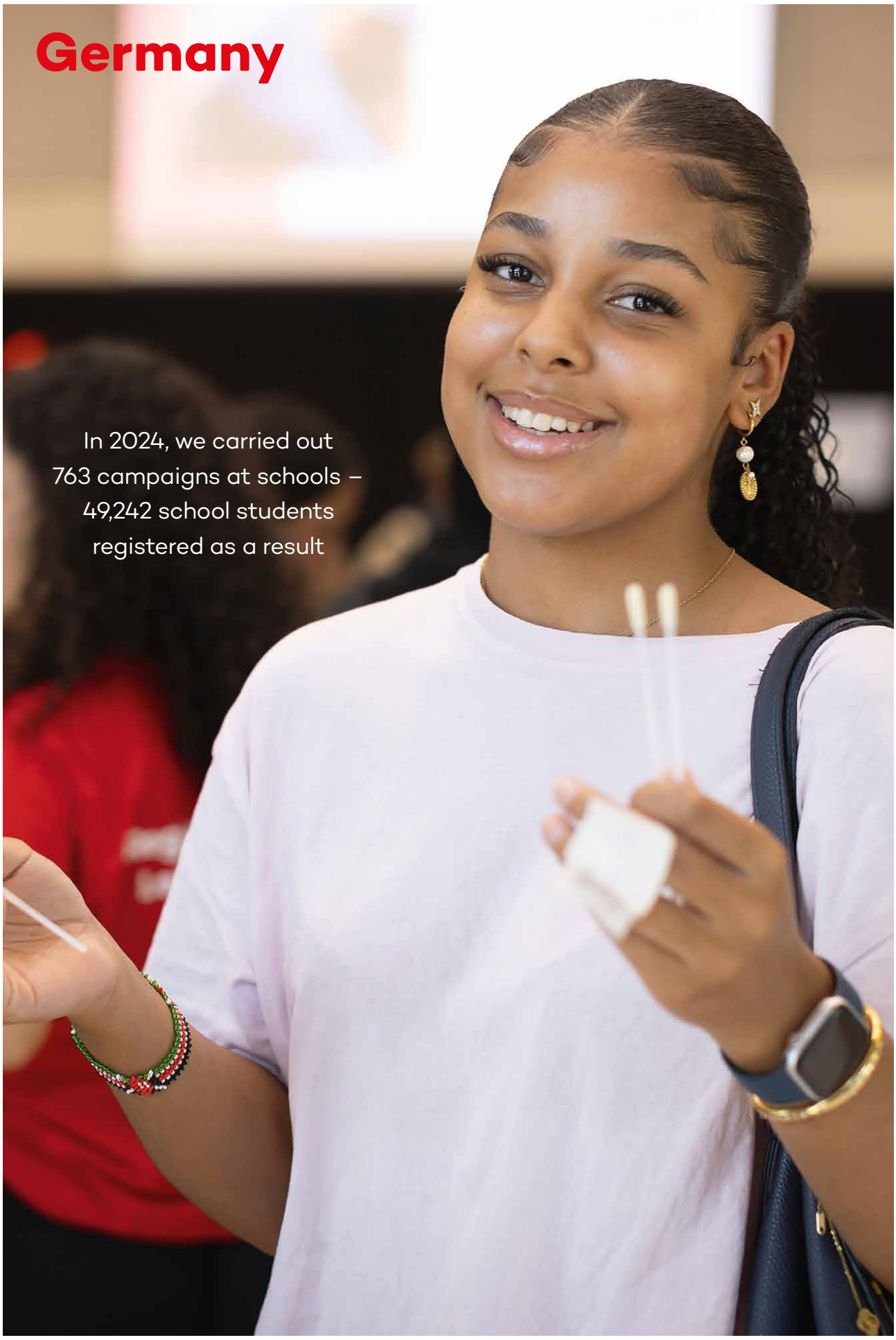


Record achievements

2024 was a record year, with 159 stem cell collections and numbers peaking in April, May, and August.

Of those, 103 were performed at our newly opened collection centre, marking a successful first year for the facility. During that time, we have greatly improved our response times: 70 percent of DKMS Chile donations are now delivered within a week of the request date, a marked improvement on 48 percent in 2023.

Germany



In 2024, we carried out 763 campaigns at schools – 49,242 school students registered as a result

Right *to the top* with young donors

"2024 was a truly impactful year for us at DKMS Germany. Thanks to the incredible commitment of our stem cell donors, we were able to give more patients than ever a second chance at life. This fuels our determination to go even further, and we've now set ourselves ambitious new goals: we want to reach out to and inspire even more young people to register as potential stem cell donors. To do that, we're intensifying our engagement in secondary schools, because the younger the donor, the better the outcome for patients.

But our mission goes far beyond donor registration, as financial contributions are becoming increasingly vital in enabling us to invest in cutting-edge research and innovative science to improve patient outcomes and expand access to transplantation, especially for those least able to afford it.

One thing is clear: the only way we can save lives is together. Every action, every donation, every individual counts."

Dr Elke Neujahr, CEO
Dr Deborah Buk, COO
Stephan Schumacher, COO

Dr Elke Neujahr

Dr Deborah Buk

Stephan Schumacher

Key Figures Germany

Overall as of 31 December 2024	**In 2024**
7,901,309 registered donors	344,443 recruited donors
99,100 second chances at life (stem cell collections)	6,627 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Young hearts make a difference

At DKMS, we've always known young people have the power to change the world. And in Germany, they're doing just that. Medical research shows that donations from younger donors often lead to better patient outcomes. That's why we launched our DKMS School Project over 20 years ago, to inform, inspire and empower students to step up and save lives.

Since 2004, around 600,000 school students across Germany have joined the database through our DKMS School Project initiative. More than 8,000 have gone on to donate stem cells, offering hope, and often a second chance at life, to patients and their families.

But the DKMS School Project is about more than just registration: it's about education too. We take the subject of stem cell donation straight into schools, with interactive lessons, digital tools and specially designed classroom materials that combine learning with action, so students gain an understanding of how the process works and why it matters.

When young people understand that they can be the reason someone survives, it changes the way they see themselves and the world. It shows them that being informed means being empowered, that small decisions can have huge, life-changing impact, and that solidarity is more than a word: it's something we can practice.

Dream Home lottery brings in huge donation

The very first Traumhaus lottery in Germany didn't just offer the chance to win a house; it gave hope to thousands of people too. Thanks to the incredible support of everyone who bought a ticket, the charity lottery raised an amazing 1.23 million euros to support DKMS's lifesaving mission. A huge thank-you to everyone who got involved.

That donation is more than a number: it means 24,600 new stem cell donor registrations, 24,600 new chances for patients worldwide to find a match and 24,600 reasons to believe in the power of community. "This amount is overwhelming – as is the solidarity that people have shown. We are thrilled and would like to thank everyone who made this possible by buying a lottery ticket," says Stephan Schumacher, COO of DKMS Germany. "Support like this is crucial in enabling us to continue our mission against blood cancer and making a difference together."

DKMS team celebrate the success of the charity lottery and the power of community support

The charity lottery raised an amazing 1.23 million euros to support DKMS's lifesaving mission. A huge thank-you to everyone who got involved

Looking in the mirror *with confidence again* – Our Look Good Feel Better programme

For many women and girls affected by cancer, the hardest battles aren't always the ones in hospitals. Hair loss, skin changes and the loss of eyelashes and eyebrows can deeply affect not just how they look but how they feel as well. A glance in a mirror can become a painful reminder of everything the cancer has taken. That's where the Look Good Feel Better programme comes in, offering free cosmetics classes. Participants learn practical tips for skincare, makeup and head coverings, not to aim for perfection but to rediscover a sense of normality, dignity and strength. It's not about the makeup but about self-care, confidence and the healing power of feeling noticed.

Since 2020, classes by Look Good Feel Better have also been available online, making it easier for participants to join from anywhere. In 2024 alone, 5,500 cancer patients enjoyed a moment of lightness, solidarity and encouragement at one of our 669 classes. Previously part of DKMS LIFE, Look Good Feel Better has been fully integrated into the DKMS Donor Center Germany since August 2024 and continues its work with renewed focus and commitment. Because when patients feel strong enough to smile at themselves in the mirror again, it's not just superficial but a part of the healing.

Moments of joy and self-confidence – the Look Good Feel Better programme helps patients feel like themselves again

Becoming *a potential lifesaver* between music and parties

Sometimes, the most powerful decisions are made in the most unexpected places, among bands, beats and festival lights, for instance. At Deichbrand, Glücksgefühle and Wacken Open Air, thousands of singing, dancing young people took a step that could one day save a life.

In 2024, DKMS took its message to the heart of these music festivals. In the midst of all the celebrations, festival-goers stopped by our bright red booth and paused for thought, asking themselves a simple question: "Could I be a match?" The answer was a resounding yes! Nearly 1,600 people registered as potential stem cell donors, 60 percent of them between 17 and 26 years old – the age group that's most urgently needed in the global search for matches.

Some donors who had already registered updated their contact details with us there and then, so we can reach them faster if a patient ever needs their help. A few of our new additions have already gone on to donate, proving that a spontaneous decision at a festival can lead to something truly extraordinary.

These events remind us that lifesaving action doesn't always look serious: it can be joyful, loud and glittery too!

India

Connecting lifesavers with those in need

Patrick Paul

"In India, DKMS is more than an NGO, it's a beacon of hope connecting selfless individuals with patients in urgent need of a second chance at life. In 2024, we are proud to say that our hard work and commitment produced 80,000 new registrations and enabled more than 40 donations. Every patient inspires and motivates us to keep going and continue our efforts to find suitable matches for as many of them as possible. We see the increasing requests from transplant centres across India and abroad as a sign of trust in our work and a reminder of the responsibility we share."

Patrick Paul, Executive Chairman

"We are proud to say that our hard work and commitment produced 80,000 new registrations and enabled more than 40 donations"

Key Figures India

Overall as of 31 December 2024	**In 2024**
180,394 registered donors	79,484 recruited donors
151 second chances at life (stem cell collections)	42 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Flash mob *rocks the mall*

In the lead-up to World Blood Cancer Day on 28 May, DKMS Foundation India partnered with Good Move Wellness & Studio to organise a vibrant flash mob at Bengaluru's Nexus Mall. The initiative aimed to raise public awareness around blood cancer and encourage people to register as potential blood stem cell donors. The 50 dancers drew the attention of mall visitors, sparking curiosity and engagement around our cause. During the two-day educational campaign, an engaging quiz on blood cancer offered key information about the disease as well as its impact in India, and the importance of blood stem cell donation. The event also hosted an on-site registration drive for potential donors.

A memorable flash mob at Bengaluru's Nexus Mall

The 50 dancers drew the attention of mall visitors, sparking curiosity and engagement around our cause

Waves of gratitude – Selva meets his lifesaver at the beach

A life-changing moment made possible by stem cell donation

Never in his wildest dreams – or grounded reality! – would eleven-year-old Selva have imagined his first visit to the beach would be when he gets to meet the woman who gave him a second chance at life. The resilient young boy from Tamil Nadu is a survivor of Fanconi anaemia, a rare and life-threatening genetic blood disorder. His lifesaving stem cell transplant came from 26-year-old Dr Smita Joshi, a clinical pharmacist from Bengaluru who had donated via DKMS Foundation India.

Selva's transplantation had been enabled by Smita's selfless act and the financial assistance of the DKMS Patient Funding Programme, established under the Improve Access to Transplantation initiative

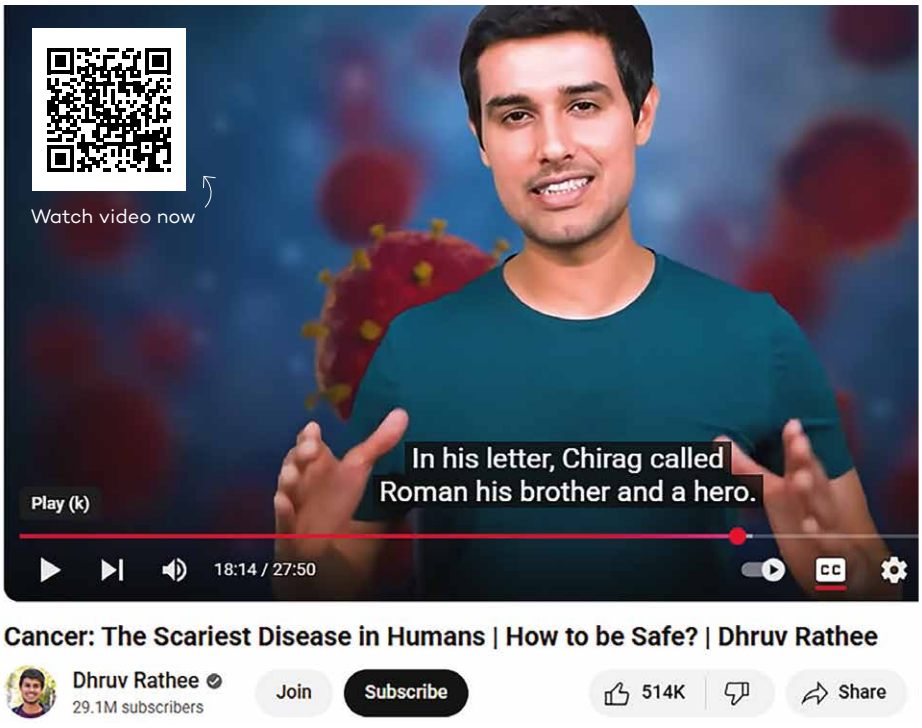
Their emotional meeting unfolded on the sandy shoreline of Chennai, where Selva had been happily playing with his family. Hugs and gratitude forged a moment of connection between donor and recipient. Selva's transplantation had been enabled by Smita's selfless act and the financial assistance of the DKMS Patient Funding Programme, established under the Access to Transplantation initiative. The next day, their story was shared at a press event highlighting India's urgent need for more stem cell donors.

It was a touching encounter that underscores the life-changing impact of stem cell donation and the critical, lifesaving role of donor registration.

To India from Germany – Chirag meets Roman

In an unforgettable moment of gratitude, 17-year-old Chirag, a young thalassaemia survivor from India, was united with the man who gave him a second chance at life – his stem cell donor Roman from Germany. Their story showcased the incredible impact of kindness and resilience, touching the hearts of everyone who witnessed their meeting. Chirag's journey serves as a reminder of the incredible power of human connection and the difference one person can make in another person's life. Through their encounter, Chirag and Roman have not only forged a lifelong bond but have ignited hope that illuminates the path for countless others in similar situations.

Chirag meets his lifesaver Roman in Bengaluru in 2024



Transformative collaboration with Dhruv Rathee

In 2024, we partnered with Dhruv Rathee, a leading Indian YouTuber and social media activist followed by over 25.3 million subscribers. His dedicated video on cancer, blood cancer and stem cell transplantation, which featured powerful survivor stories, sparked an extraordinary response for DKMS India.

Within just three days of its release, the video attracted **8.2 million views, 450,000 likes and 23,566 comments.** Most importantly, it led to over 30,000 requests for stem cell donor registration kits.

This collaboration significantly elevated public awareness of our mission, engaging a vast and attentive audience. It also triggered a remarkable surge in traffic to our website and across our social media platforms, particularly from YouTube, underscoring the power of influential digital voices in converting awareness into meaningful, real-world action.

Poland

998 firefighters from all over Poland climb Śnieżka, the highest peak of the Karkonosze Mountains, to promote bone marrow donation

15th anniversary of the DKMS Foundation in Poland

"2024 will be remembered as a time of deep commitment and collective action for blood cancer patients in Poland. DKMS donors gave 1,550 patients a second chance at life. We also recruited 119,433 new donors and received 30,000 monetary donations. Thousands of volunteers worked tirelessly across the country, with every gesture, donation and conversation showing just how much stem cell donation matters. 2024 was also special because it was the year we celebrated the 15th anniversary of DKMS Poland. It was an opportunity to reflect and thank everyone involved in our mission. In 2025, new challenges await. But we stand united and ready to keep giving hope."

Ewa Magnucka-Bowkiewicz, Country Manager
Agnieszka Wodzińska, Country Manager

"DKMS donors gave 1,550 patients a second chance at life. We also recruited 119,433 new donors and received 30,000 monetary donations"

Ewa Magnucka-Bowkiewicz

Agnieszka Wodzińska

Key Figures Poland

Overall as of 31 December 2024		In 2024
2,021,766 registered donors		119,433 recruited donors
14,757 second chances at life (stem cell collections)		1,550 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Marking World Blood Cancer Day

May is a special month for us, because it's a time of particular solidarity with patients with blood cancer. To mark World Blood Cancer Day, we organised an expert debate on the topic of psycho-oncology in the healthcare system and the issues, challenges and hopes involved. The panel talked about the needs of patients and their families, as well as support for medical staff and psychologists. This initiated a broader conversation on systemic changes to ensure comprehensive care throughout treatment and beyond, including outpatient care for haematology patients. To us, mental well-being matters just as much as physical health.

Expert panel discussion on psycho-oncology marks World Blood Cancer Day

Standing by patients in Poland

Despite improved access to advanced therapies and treatment methods, the Polish healthcare system still lacks a comprehensive approach to the care of blood cancer patients. It continues to grapple with underfunding in key areas such as infrastructure and modern medical equipment, but also in essential supportive care, including psychological, physiotherapeutic and dietary care. In response, the DKMS Foundation Poland has introduced a long-term programme to support haematology patients and medical centres in critical aspects of care.

Our commitment takes many forms, but our mission remains the same: to stand by patients from diagnosis through treatment to recovery. With hope. With care. With each other

Patients deserve more than treatment: they deserve comfort, dignity and hope. Since 2018, DKMS Poland has been working to improve the lives of people with blood cancer by supporting clinics, empowering patient organisations and offering care beyond the hospital gates. In 2024, we focused on four key areas:

Fulfilling dreams – We made 44 wishes come true for children in treatment. From bikes and computers to going on vacation, we provided moments of joy to remind young patients that there is always space for wonder, even in the hardest of times.

Better care in clinics – We supported 12 medical centres across Poland by providing modern equipment and improving conditions. Thousands of patients can now receive treatment in safer, more comfortable environments.

Strengthening patient voices – Our grant programme supported 21 projects by patient organisations that provide psychological support ranging from therapeutic camps to individual counselling. These projects help patients undergoing treatment to feel more resilient and less alone on their journey.

Psychological and nutritional care – We funded Poland's first nutrition clinic for blood cancer patients, offering free consultations and testing. More than 100 patients have already benefited from free psycho-oncological and dietary support.

Our commitment takes many forms, but our mission remains the same: to stand by patients from diagnosis through to treatment and recovery. With hope. With care. With each other.

Firefighters for life – From peaks to valleys

Saving lives is what firefighters do every day. But sometimes it means climbing mountains for a greater cause as well. In 2019 Sławomir, a firefighter from Łukowice, donated stem cells to a woman in Germany. "Anyone can be a hero," he says, "uniformed or not, because we all have the power to save lives." Inspired by this experience, Łukowice launched the Firefighters on the Trail campaign to encourage more people to register as potential stem cell donors. In July 2024, firefighters from across Poland gathered in the Karkonosze Mountains for the 4th edition of his campaign. 998 firefighters in 20 kilogrammes of gear set out to reach the summit of Śnieżka. The symbolic 20 kilogrammes represented the burden of blood cancer which patients must bear every day. Every step on the trail was a show of support for those hoping for recovery. Our partnership with the firefighters has already added over 6,000 new donors to our database – evidence enough that when it comes to saving lives, nothing, not even mountains, can stand in our way.

United for a common cause – The Firefighters on the Trail campaign is a show of solidarity with patients

#TeamDKMS in action

In 2024, 150 people – including patients, donors and DKMS staff – joined four charity races sporting our DKMS colours. Every kilometre was a show of solidarity, energy and compassion and helped fund medical equipment and crucial psycho-oncological support for patients in need.

People came together in the spirit of action, proving that community is one of our greatest tools in our efforts to overcome blood cancer.

South Africa

Strength in numbers – 100,000 potential lifesavers

In 2024, DKMS Africa achieved a major milestone: we added the 100,000th new potential donor to our database, opening up greater access to lifesaving matches for patients from underserved communities especially. This also reflects our commitment to improving outcomes and addressing health inequities – because behind this number are real stories and real hope, which show what's possible when communities unite for a common cause.

Akhona Ntotho, the 100,000th potential lifesaver

Together we give *hope*

"Our growth reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every patient, regardless of their background, has a better chance of finding a lifesaving match. By actively engaging diverse communities and raising awareness, we are breaking down barriers and building a donor pool that truly represents the diversity of those in need. What continues to move us is the willingness of South Africans to take ordinary actions that have an extraordinary impact. The spirit of ubuntu, or shared humanity and compassion, shines through in every step forward we take together."

Erna West, Country Manager
Chandré Phillipus, Country Manager

"The spirit of ubuntu, or shared humanity and compassion, shines through in every step forward we take together"

Erna West

Chandré Phillipus

Key Figures South Africa

Overall as of 31 December 2024	**In 2024**
117,016 registered donors	47,573 recruited donors
65 second chances at life (stem cell collections)	30 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Telling our story – A media milestone with SANEF

To amplify awareness of stem cell donation, we partnered with the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) to host a landmark media summit. This platform allowed us to advocate for greater coverage of blood cancer, donor access and patient stories. The outcome: increased interest and meaningful coverage in local and national media, especially from key regions like KwaZulu-Natal, which is home to one of our partner hospitals.

As we look ahead to our next 100,000 donors, we remain committed to ensuring every patient gets a second chance.

DKMS and SANEF spread the message of stem cell donation

Together, we've made powerful strides, mobilising faith communities, uniting sports fans and reaching national milestones. The spirit of ubuntu continues to drive us forward. As we look ahead to our next 100,000 donors, we remain committed to ensuring every patient gets a second chance.

Faith in action –

Muslim community steps up to save lives

When young brothers Ayyub and Abi-Taalib were both diagnosed with rare blood disorders, their survival depended on finding matching stem cell donors. But patients from minority backgrounds often face underrepresentation in registries, so their mother Bibi made a heartfelt appeal to the Muslim community. What began as a personal plea quickly grew into a powerful nationwide campaign.

Mosques across South Africa hosted drives after Jumu'ah prayers, and imams urged their communities to register as donors. Recognising that matches are more likely in people from the same ethnic background, the campaign highlighted the urgent need for diverse donor representation.

The response was overwhelming, with hundreds registering in person and online. The campaign not only brought hope to Bibi's family but also reminded us how shared purpose, faith, and compassion can mobilise entire communities to action.

What began as a personal plea quickly grew into a powerful, nationwide campaign

A family's love sparked a movement of hope, faith and lifesaving action

Breaking barriers – State patient funding programme

No family should have to worry about affording lifesaving treatment for their child. Yet, many paediatric patients in South Africa living with blood cancer or blood disorders who require a stem cell transplant face exactly that concern. While the country's public healthcare system fully covers the cost of stem cell transplants for patients who have a matching donor within their family, those in need of an non-related donor encounter two major barriers: finding a suitable match and covering the donor-related expenses.

To address this gap, DKMS supports paediatric state patients without private medical insurance by covering essential donor-related costs. This support includes critical steps such as:

- **Tissue typing the patient to identify the best possible donor match**
- **Verifying the donor through additional medical testing**
- **Collecting blood stem cells**
- **Safely transporting them to the patient's treatment centre**

We work in close partnership with three major public hospitals across South Africa: Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, Steve Biko Academic Hospital in Pretoria and Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban.

Launched as a pilot in 2022, the programme continued successfully through 2023 and 2024, enabling us to support four young patients in receiving the lifesaving transplants they needed.

Movement for change – *We make a difference*

Running for hope: Reaching new audiences through marathons

In 2024, DKMS Africa took to the streets, joining the country's biggest marathons to reach people where inspiration runs high and spirits are unstoppable.

Iconic events like the Two Oceans and Comrades Marathons spread our message via passionate partners like RCS Gugulethu AC and dedicated runners like Sipho Marima. Their support helped bring the lifesaving cause of stem cell donation to the heart of active, vibrant communities across the country. These events are not just about endurance but about hope, about showing that even in moments of challenge, we can make space for something greater. **And as the cheers echoed across the finish lines, so did our mission: to grow a more diverse, committed donor pool and give more patients a second chance at life.**

Unity in sport: DHL Stormers tackle blood cancer

Rugby is a unifying force in South Africa, cutting across social and cultural divides. That's why DKMS Africa partnered with Seabelo Senatla and the DHL Stormers to raise awareness. At a donor drive hosted at their training grounds, players and fans learned how they could support the cause.

Young adults aged 18–35 make ideal donors and are a core demographic in rugby. **And when sporting heroes lead by example, their communities quickly follow. This partnership broke down stigmas and sparked vital conversations about donation and health. The media, digital outreach and grassroots rugby club engagement spread the message far and wide, mobilising fans to join the donor database.**

United Kingdom

A huge *thank-you* to everyone for championing our cause in 2024!

Hasnein Alidina

Peter McCleave

"Last year, we backed a host of fantastic patient and supporter initiatives and registered more than 50,000 new potential lifesavers. Fair and equitable access to stem cell transplantation remains crucial to our mission, so we are determined to win more donors from underrepresented communities. We have every faith that in 2025, with your help, we can build on the foundations we laid last year to give even more blood cancer patients a second chance at life."

Hasnein Alidina, Country Manager
Peter McCleave, Country Manager

Key Figures United Kingdom

Overall as of 31 December 2024	**In 2024**
1,044,122 registered donors	50,265 recruited donors
2,596 second chances at life (stem cell collections)	331 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Giving back through fundraising – Matty's story

Every donor costs DKMS 40 GBP to register. Matty and his friends raised 4,345 GBP – enough for 108 potential lifesavers!

Matty was 25 when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. Six years on, he is thriving – thanks to a donor on the DKMS donor database. He now wants to give back to DKMS. "When a group of my friends and I decided to organise a charity golf tournament, we all agreed to support DKMS UK with it, because DKMS helped find my matching stem cell donor," says Matty. Every donor costs DKMS 40 GBP to register. Matty and his friends raised 4,345 GBP – enough for 108 potential lifesavers!

Matty on his treatment journey

Surpassing registration expectations – Tracy's story

"We were absolutely overwhelmed by the support!"

When Tracy, a 34-year-old mother from Omagh, Northern Ireland, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, she had four rounds of chemotherapy. She then relapsed and was told that she needed more chemotherapy, and that a stem cell transplant was her only chance for complete remission. Her family reached out to DKMS for help with organising a stem cell donor registration drive.

Volunteers spread the word on social media, distributed flyers to local businesses, churches and clubs, and shared the event via word of mouth in their tight-knit community. The event saw 600 registrations in the first four hours alone and generated so much interest that a second drive was held and DKMS flew in more swabs from England.

Thanks to the engagement of Tracy's community networks and the people of Omagh, this was to be DKMS UK's biggest registration event in recent years. Almost 1,500 people turned up to support Tracy and patients like her. 1,336 people made online kit requests, and 7,000 GBP was raised. Tracy's family were extremely moved by the huge turnout and overwhelmed by the strength of their community.

Tracy and her family – United by strength, hope and community support

From frontline to lifeline – Donor Paul's story

Paul Smith, 57, has dedicated his life to service. He's a former firefighter who has donated blood 83 times and joined the stem cell register over 20 years ago. He is an advocate for donor registration, particularly within Black and other UK ethnic minority communities.

In January 2024, Paul found out he was a match and his donation gave a young woman in the UK a second chance at life.

Paul's dedication goes beyond donating. He recently teamed up with DKMS UK at The Prince's Trust Youth Voice Programme's #Time2Inspire International Youth Day event. He connected with young people from the Black community through his powerful storytelling. "It's really important for people in our community," one participant shared. "More awareness should be raised, and I'd like to learn more about it." Paul's dedication is a testament to the power of one person's actions.

Paul's dedication is a testament to the power of one person's actions

Paul's journey from donor to advocate for stem cell donation

The *power* of representation – Tasneem's story

The South Asian community is underrepresented on the stem cell donor registry.

Tasneem, a mother and family doctor, is determined to change that by encouraging people to sign up, regardless of background or religion. She has very personal reasons for supporting DKMS: her son Yusuf was diagnosed with acute leukaemia five years ago. "During the time my son was going through treatment, I sadly saw children with cancer who passed away after not being able to find a match," she recalls. "It seemed so unfair. Being of South Asian origin myself, I saw this as an opportunity to help."

Tasneem ran several events last year, including a very successful donor registration drive, signing up 188 potential stem cell donors. She also helped to develop a partnership between DKMS UK and Islamic Relief. Her success shows the power of representation!

USA

Turning generosity into *hope*

Hannah De Simone

"We are determined to ensure every patient gets a second chance at life"

"Our journey so far has been a testament to the power of human kindness and the impact that a single act of generosity can have. To our donors, volunteers and partners, I say thank you for always being by our side. Your contributions, both big and small, make a difference in the lives of patients and their families. In a world where hope often seems like a distant dream, we are determined to ensure every patient gets a second chance at life."

Hannah De Simone, Country Manager

Key Figures USA

Overall as of 31 December 2024	In 2024
1,201,992 registered donors	39,102 recruited donors
5,990 second chances at life (stem cell collections)	387 second chances at life (stem cell collections)

Meet our new Medical Country Manager in the US

Her keen awareness of the entire stem cell donation process and witnessing the selfless commitment donors have for their patients continues to inspire her daily

We are thrilled to introduce Hannah De Simone as the Medical Country Manager of DKMS US. Hannah joined DKMS in 2013 as a medical coordinator, expertly handling all donation logistics to safeguard both patients and donors. Her keen awareness of the entire stem cell donation process and witnessing the selfless commitment donors have for their patients continues to inspire her daily.

With a background as a social worker and experience in leading nonprofit organisations in the US, Hannah brings extensive knowledge of the medical system to her new role. This wealth of experience makes her an ideal fit to lead and drive the mission forward at DKMS US.

Elijah meets the donor who *saved his life*

A magical moment happened in New York when 18-year-old Elijah met his lifesaver and bone marrow donor Nicholas for the very first time.

At 14, Elijah and his family could never have predicted that a persistent toothache would lead to a life-altering diagnosis of acute myeloid leukaemia, something Elijah described as, "the worst experience of my life. Everything just happened so fast, I didn't have any time to react."

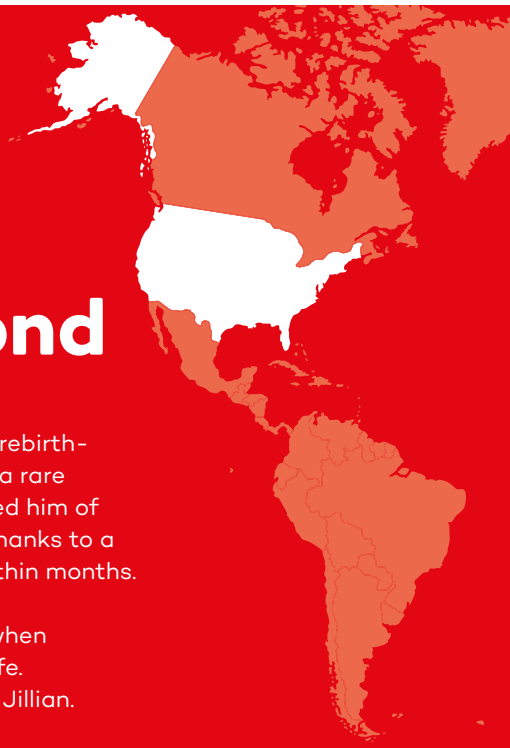
"Because of you,
I have a chance to look
forward to a healthier future.
Thank you for being
my hero"

Elijah was immediately hospitalised and began chemotherapy, staying at the hospital from November through to March. Despite the treatment, doctors told his family that he would need a bone marrow transplant to survive. Thankfully, a quick search turned up a perfect match, Nick.

At just 18 years old, Nick came across a social media ad for DKMS and decided to register as a donor. "I was motivated because I figured if all I need to do is a cheek swab, and I can possibly save someone's life, that would be amazing." It was a shock when five years later, he found out he was a match for a patient in need.

"Nicholas, I'm taking a moment to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your incredible generosity in donating your bone marrow to me. Your selfless act has given me a new lease on life, and I'm beyond grateful. Your kindness and willingness to help a stranger in need is truly inspiring. Because of you, I have a chance to look forward to a healthier future. Thank you for being my hero," said Elijah.

Elijah (fifth from the right) meets his lifesaving donor Nicholas (fourth from the right) for the first time – a moment full of gratitude and hope



From stranger to lifesaver – Grady and Jessica's remarkable bond

For Grady, a vibrant 14-year-old from Salem, New Hampshire, the journey to his "rebirth-day" began in August 2018, when he was diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy, a rare disease that attacks the nervous system. Without treatment, it could have robbed him of the ability to play basketball or cheer on his beloved New England Patriots. But thanks to a selfless donor and his community's support, Grady got a lifesaving transplant within months.

Years earlier, Jessica had been visiting a friend at Western Kentucky University when she signed up as a donor, never imagining she would one day save a little boy's life. "Our baby is here because of you and only because of you," says Grady's mother Jillian.

Grady and his family had eagerly awaited the day they could thank Jessica in person for her kindness. Owing to the global pandemic, their plan to meet in 2020 had to be postponed, but their bond continued to grow deeper as they stayed connected virtually. Their journey culminated on a breezy September day when Grady's family and Jessica finally met. They shared tears and tight hugs as they celebrated Grady's 6th transplant anniversary – a milestone marked by many basketball games, Patriots victories and the joy of a second chance at life.


Here to help delete blood cancers and disorders
DKMS
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER

Our global network – United by one mission

As at 2024, DKMS consists of various affiliated organisations all working together to fulfil a shared mission: to give as many blood cancer patients as possible a second chance at life.

The first DKMS entity was founded in Germany in 1991, followed by our umbrella foundation DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden in 1997. Over the years, we have seen remarkable growth in both reach and impact. Today, we manage the largest and most diverse stem cell donor database worldwide. With Donor Centres in Chile, Germany, India, Poland, South Africa, the UK and the US, we are a global leader in supporting patients with diseases of the haematopoietic system.

The DKMS Group gGmbH is the international organisation that coordinates the work of our seven Donor Centres worldwide. It also oversees our medical and scientific institutions based in Germany and India, which focus on improving treatments for blood cancer and blood disorders. These include the DKMS Life Science Labs in Dresden and Kolkata, the DKMS Collection Centers, the DKMS Stem Cell Bank, and the DKMS Registry.

Global operations:

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden	Tübingen
DKMS Group	Cologne, Tübingen, Dresden
DKMS Life Science Lab	Dresden
DKMS Registry	Tübingen
DKMS Stem Cell Bank	Dresden

Local operations:

DKMS Collection Centers	Cologne, Dresden
DKMS South Africa	Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban
DKMS Chile	Santiago de Chile
DKMS Germany	Cologne, Tübingen, Berlin, Dresden
DKMS India	Bangalore
DKMS Life Science Lab India	Kolkata
DKMS Poland	Warsaw
DKMS UK	London
DKMS US	New York, Charlotte, Dallas


1991


LEBEN SPENDEN
KNOCHENMARK SPENDEN
KOMMEN SIE ZUM BLUTTEST
Ort: Kapelle der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche
Termine: Donnerstag, 13. Mai 1993 12–20 Uhr
Freitag, 14. Mai 1993 12–20 Uhr
Samstag, 15. Mai 1993 10–18 Uhr
BERLINER RUNDFUNK
Jährlich erkranken bei uns 4000 Menschen an Leukämie, darunter viele Kinder. Viele können nur durch eine Knochenmark-Übertragung gerettet werden. Helfen Sie mit!
DKMS
Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei


2024
Love Life. Fuck Cancer.
DKMS

Looking back while *moving forward*

The early years of DKMS were wild, intense and truly pioneering. The structures we know today did not exist back then. There were no teams and no departments, and everyone just pitched in wherever help was needed. Our office felt more like a shared apartment: two rooms, bulky computers, a fax machine, a photocopier – and a whole lot of passion.

We did everything ourselves: from raising awareness and public relations to supporting patients and organising donor drives. After some events, we would spend hours driving blood samples to the airport in Frankfurt. At the time, cheek swabs were not yet in use, and since our high-performance lab in Dresden did not exist yet, the samples were sent to the US for analysis. I also still vividly remember my very first official event, for which I painstakingly created flyers – with scissors, glue and a photocopier.

What drove us? Enthusiasm and the belief that we could move mountains. Despite having very limited resources, we were highly motivated to improve the situation for patients with blood cancer. It felt almost like a rush – we were unstoppable.

A big part of that momentum came from the overwhelming public response. People wanted to help, to be part of the movement. I remember a child coming to us with a piggy bank: their kindergarten had collected donations for DKMS. We had set something in motion that many did not believe was possible. Could they really keep registered donors engaged over time? We did! And we even exceeded our own expectations.

Sabine Hildebrand

"What started in 1991 as a private initiative has grown into the world's largest stem cell donor database, with over 12.5 million registered donors. Since then, we've been able to give patients more than 120,000 second chances at life"

What started in 1991 as a private initiative has grown into the world's largest stem cell donor database, with over 12.5 million registered donors. Since then, we've been able to give patients more than 120,000 second chances at life.

Even though much of our work is now more structured and professionalised, the original spirit remains. The energy, determination and passion to give people a second chance at life still unite us today. And what motivates me personally is that even now, we still have the power to inspire people to stand up for each other.

Sabine Hildebrand is Director of International Donor Recruitment, Data Management and Campus at DKMS. She has dedicated more than 30 years to the organisation.

DKMS Foundation Board

Chair

Katharina Harf

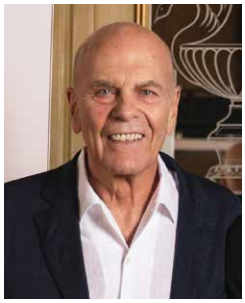
Vice Chair

Dr Elke Neujahr

The Foundation Board is responsible for strategic ideas, suggestions and visions that provide impetus for the operational business

DKMS Board of Trustees

Founder of DKMS



Dr Peter Harf

Member of the founding family

Viktoria von Wulffen

Longstanding consultant to DKMS

Professor Dr Thomas Klingebiel

The Board of Trustees is responsible for selecting and advising members of the DKMS Foundation Board on a range of topics. This ensures that the DKMS community can continue to rely on strong commitment and unwavering trust in our mission

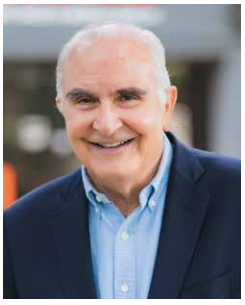
DKMS Medical Council

Chair

Professor Dr
Marcel van den Brink

The Medical Council advises the DKMS Foundation Board on medical issues, monitors developments in the relevant medical fields and initiates scientific programmes

Laurence David Atlas



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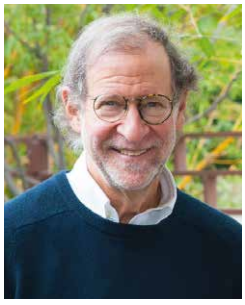
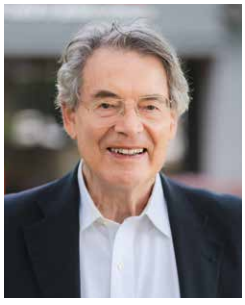
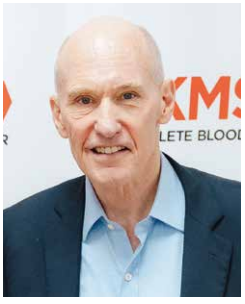


Stephen J. Forman,
MD



Professor Dr Dr h.c.
Dieter Hoelzer



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DKMS Global Executive Team

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Global CEO

Dr Julia Pingel
Global CIO

Bernd Weinel
Global CFO

Leadership of DKMS subsidiaries

DKMS Collection Center gGmbH	Dr Elke Neujahr, CEO Sirko Geist, COO
DKMS Life Science Lab gGmbH	Dr Elke Neujahr, CEO Dr Vinzenz Lange, CTO Thomas Schäfer, COO
DKMS Life Science Lab India	Patrick Paul, Managing Director
DKMS Registry gGmbH	Dr Julia Pingel, COO
DKMS Stem Cell Bank gGmbH	Dr Elke Neujahr, CEO Dr Alexander Platz, CMO Thomas Schäfer, COO
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Fundación DKMS Chile	Anette Giani, Country Manager Ignacia Pattillo Garnham, Country Manager
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DKMS USA	Katharina Harf, Executive Chair Hannah De Simone, Country Manager

All leadership positions as at August 2024

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Data privacy and information security

The protection of personal data is of the utmost importance for us. We ensure that all data protection regulations are complied with and regularly adapt our guidelines to new legal and technological developments.

Our employees are trained in handling (personal) data, and we use modern security standards to ensure the confidentiality and security of information.

We see data protection as a fundamental obligation toward our donors, patients, employees, and business partners.

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A heartfelt *thank-you*

... to everyone who has supported us over the years, whether as a lifesaver, a registered donor, through monetary contributions, or by offering your time and effort. To all of you, we extend our deepest gratitude.

Every contribution, no matter how large or small, has been vital in helping us fulfil our mission, and is genuinely appreciated by everyone at DKMS. We are truly honoured to be part of such a dedicated and compassionate community, united in its shared vision of a world free from blood cancer and blood disorders.

Thank you for being a part of
our journey.

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