

Mission: Possible

A blog dedicated to the fight against blood cancers.

Stanford Researcher Makes Change!

Posted on July 12, 2011

Today's post comes to us from one of our Stanford Researchers, Dr. Suparna. Dr. Suparna helped her daughter participate in [The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients](#) program at her school a few years back. This year, she was determined to do her part even though her daughter's school was not participating. Over the course of a few short weeks, Dr. Suparna and her daughter kicked it into high gear, gathering pennies from everyone they could for their own Pennies for Patients Drive. Read on for her story!



My research focuses on bone marrow transplantation for treatment of lymphoma. However, I had a more personal experience with [leukemia](#) and [lymphoma](#) recently when two children in my daughter's school were diagnosed with leukemia, and the members of the community started the Pennies for Patients program in the school.

The medical research funded by [The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society](#) has helped to find cures for pediatric blood cancers. My daughter and I collected pennies from our neighbors and Girl Scouts troop members and friends to support the Pennies for Patients program, as I know from my research how medical progress can help save lives.

There has been great progress in standard treatments like chemotherapy, which has significantly increased the survival rate for children with leukemia and lymphoma. However, I know from my research that there is more work to do. When standard treatments fail to keep the disease from coming back, then bone marrow transplantation is an option. This is the area of my research. After the chemotherapy, bone marrow from a healthy patient is transplanted, and this provides a new healthy immune system that helps keep the cancer cells from reappearing.

Each new procedure can introduce a new set of problems to be solved. For example, the donor immune cells that kill the cancer cells also attack the patient's healthy organs, like the liver, gut, and the skin, causing acute [Graft versus Host Disease](#). About 60% of the patients suffer from the complications of this disease, which can often be life threatening and fatal. In animal studies of bone marrow transplantation, we have identified a type of white blood cell from the donor that kills the lymphoma cells without causing Graft versus Host disease. We have developed a lymphoma model in mice where lymphoma continues to grow even after bone marrow transplantation. In our ongoing research we are trying to use these white blood cells to kill the growing lymphoma cells. The goal: steady progress in the cure rate for all with leukemia and lymphoma.

I strongly support this program as it creates awareness among children to help The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission in finding cures for these deadly diseases.

For more about the Pennies for Patients program, or to find out how your school can participate in next year's campaign, [check our website](#), or contact Brenda Hendricksen at Brenda.Hendricksen@lls.org or (408) 490-3116.

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2 Responses to *Stanford Researcher Makes Change!*



Tonmoy says:

November 25, 2012 at 1:04 am

Such a nice effort you have made in your part helping children survive from those diseases

[Reply](#)



Shree Iyer says:

January 13, 2013 at 12:32 pm

Our thoughts, prayers and support is with you for your research to help kids survive from these diseases! Thanks.

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