



## SABMR NPC, Reg No 2013/152553/08

### Physical Address:

J57, Old Outpatients Building,  
Groote Schuur Hospital,  
Observatory, 7925, Cape Town  
South Africa

### Postal Address:

PO Box 13353,  
Mowbray, 7705  
Cape Town  
South Africa

Registered as a Nonprofit Organisation:  
Reg No: 004-300 NPO

**Tel:** +27-21-447-8638

**Fax:** +27-21-404-6395

**Email:** [admin@sabmr.co.za](mailto:admin@sabmr.co.za)

**Website:** [www.sabmr.co.za](http://www.sabmr.co.za)

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DONOR STEM CELLS DURING COVID-19

The SABMR and other registries around the world are rapidly modifying procedures to align with COVID-19 restrictions. At this point there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted by blood products or haemopoietic stem cells. However, as a precaution, the SABMR has introduced new donation procedures. When possible, stem cell collection will be delayed for four weeks if a donor has been overseas to a high-risk area or in contact with someone who has been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus.

Many of our donors for South African patients come from overseas, some of which are from high-risk COVID-19 countries. This means we must be extremely careful in planning the transfer of stem cells. With extensive flight cancellations worldwide, we are strategizing with the government and local and international transplant centres to get stem cells across borders without putting South African citizens at risk of COVID-19.

As conscious global citizens, we should all be doing our part to be mindful of those around us and abide by medical recommendations. Unfortunately, patients in need of bone marrow transplants cannot afford to wait, which means that registries around the world cannot afford to stop operating. In response to new border restrictions and shutdown procedures, the South African Bone Marrow Registry must use innovative thinking to ensure that our patients can still receive the lifesaving transplants they need.

#### **The costs below refer to products procured from an international donor**

##### Pre- COVID-19 costs for International Donor Transplants:

- PBSC or Bone Marrow collection fee: € 14 500.00
- International Courier fee: +- € 3 000.00

##### International Donor Transplants during COVID-19:

(Standard Collection with cryopreservation at international collection centre (if no passenger flight))

- PBSC or Bone Marrow collection: € 14 500.00
- Cryopreservation standard fee: +- € 3 500.00
- Transport from international Cryo facility to South Africa: -+ € 5 000.00

Under the current extremely volatile exchange rates this equates to an increase from R200 000 to R500 000.

Please help us by donating funds towards this cause during this difficult period.

Alternative exchange rates and additional fees might apply when procuring products from foreign countries outside of the European Union.

For information relating to a specific case, please contact the South African Bone Marrow Registry directly on 021 447 8638 or by emailing Harvest Coordinator, Jane Ward: [jane.ward@sabmr.co.za](mailto:jane.ward@sabmr.co.za).

Dr Charlotte Ingram  
CEO and Medical Director

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