

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF BONE MARROW DONATION AND DONOR REGISTRATION

SUBMITTED BY: University of Pittsburgh Nursing Student Association

WHEREAS, every year more than 10,000 Americans get life threatening diseases that can only be cured with a bone marrow or cord blood transplant from an unrelated donor; and

WHEREAS, of individuals who need a marrow or blood cell transplant, approximately 30% find a familial donor; the remaining 70% must seek HLA-matched unrelated donors; and

WHEREAS, the patient's doctor most commonly requests a peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation, which is non-surgical and outpatient; and

WHEREAS, since 2003 the majority of donors (72% in 2007) have been asked to donate PBSC; and

WHEREAS, all medical costs for the donation procedure are covered by the National Marrow Donor Program; and

WHEREAS, there remains relatively little awareness of the opportunity and the need to register, particularly among non Caucasian populations; and

WHEREAS, by increasing healthcare professionals' knowledge about donation and transplantation and qualifying them to disseminate information, education has produced a positive response to increase the insufficient number of donors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to better educate themselves and, in turn, the public about bone marrow donation and donor registration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to consider registering themselves as bone marrow donors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its chapters to consider hosting a bone marrow registration drive as part of their community health agenda, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote awareness of bone marrow donation and registration, including publications in *Imprint* and on its website, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the United American Nurses AFL-CIO, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the House Congressional Nursing Caucus, the Office of the Surgeon General, the National Nursing Network Organization, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.