**2nd World Marrow Donor Day celebrated worldwide on 17th September 2016**

**[Insert your location and date here]** The World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA), a global association of blood stem cell, marrow and/or cord blood registries or organisations representing 28 million blood stem cell donors from 55 different countries, announces the celebration of the second World Marrow Donor Day (WMDD) on the 17th of September. Following last year’s successful first ever celebration of the day, WMDA decided to continue thanking donors worldwide on the 3rd Saturday of September annually. The primary purpose is to thank all donors worldwide and highlight the global cooperation in blood stem cell transplantation. Worldwide, blood stem cell and cord blood organisations are organising events to share in the celebration and to emphasize that 28 million donors is still not enough.

[Insert a quote from someone in your organisation here]. Michael Boo, President of the WMDA, also shared his excitement about the decision to celebrate World Marrow Donor Day annually, “Every day, patients receive a second chance at life thanks to the selfless acts of ordinary people. We are thrilled to celebrate every volunteer marrow, stem cell and cord blood donor and those that hope to become one. Each person who gets involved gives patients hope—not just in one country, but around the world.”

**Background**

Since the first bone marrow transplant performed in the 1950s, over a million patients have received a transplant of blood stem cells for the treatment of a wide variety of blood cancers and other diseases of the blood and bone marrow. Often, transplantation using healthy cells from a donor or cord blood unit may be the only chance of cure. When there is no suitable donor within the family, an unrelated donor, who could be from a completely different part of the world, may be the best match for the patient. The WMDA’s global network of organisations makes cooperation and a global exchange of information possible. This strong collaboration has helped hundreds of thousands of patients internationally.

**[You can insert a description of your event here]**

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**Note for the press**

**[Insert an ‘about section’ of your organisation here]**

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**Media Contact:**

Insert: Name of contact person in your registry

Insert: Telephone

Insert: E-mail

**About World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA)**

Worldwide, over 50,000 patients per year are looking for a matched donor outside their family. Nearly 50% of the patients that find a donor find his or her perfectly matched donor in another country. WMDA works towards a global standardization by establishing an accreditation programme for organisations that provide blood stem cells for patients in need of a transplant. The accreditation programme ensures the welfare of the donors and high-quality stem cells for patients worldwide.

To learn more about WMDA or WMDD, visit: [www.wmda.org](http://www.wmda.org) or [www.worldmarrowdonorday.org](http://www.worldmarrowdonorday.org) or [www.facebook.com/worldmarrowdonorday](http://www.facebook.com/worldmarrowdonorday)

**WMDA**

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