

Affinity of Marrow  
Stem Cells Donation

# Saving Lives First; Wedding Ceremony Second

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It takes courage to donate life-saving bone marrow, especially during the epidemic. Recently, Fang Jiawei showed such courage in going through lymphocyte donation after a blood stem cells donation in 2021.

Buddhist Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center staff got a phone call from the transplant hospital early this year (2022) that her donor recipient's recovery was not going well, and a lymphatic marrow

cells transplant offered the best chance of recovery. Fang was in the middle of her wedding ceremony preparation when she received the call, but she agreed without hesitation to assist in the life saving opportunity. After donating her lymphatic marrow cells, she then continued with a personal project: choosing a wedding dress for her photo. Being a baking fanatic, Fang prayed for the donor recipient's speedy recovery in time for her homemade pastries.

**He/she Needs Me;  
then I Should Save Him/Her**



**After completing the second donation, putting life saving duties before a major personal event in her life, Fang rushed to pick out the wedding dress and take wedding photos. Fang is beautiful and kind-hearted, and together with her husband, they support saving people first, hoping to provide the stem cells with a sense of happiness to the other party's best resilience.**

With her long wavy hair and a crescent-like smile on her face, Fang came once again to Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital accompanied by Tzu Chi volunteers. This was her second transplant dedicated to saving the same individual. When she received a request for a second donation, she immediately agreed to cooperate with a transplant schedule for the patient treatment, and completed the lymphocyte donation as scheduled.

“In my heart, I worry about the other party when I heard of the news. I was very nervous, so I wanted to save a person to the very end. As long as I can, I should save him. I hope he will recover soon, so I quickly agreed.”

## **A Wedding Can Wait, Saving a Life Cannot**

During the epidemic, Fang was actually a bride-to-be when she received a second donation notice. The date of the medical test happened to be near the time she chose her wedding dress so she made arrangements to take time off from work. She put her personal plan on hold because she believes in saving people first. There is nothing more important than that.

Fang's husband and family were fully supportive and blessed the bride-to-be for the good deed. For the first peripheral blood stem cells transplant, the groom-to-be accompanied her and sent blessings to the recipient. During her second donation attempt, which coincided with their wedding, he had no complaints at all. The whole family fully cooperated and supported her with kindness and love. Under the umbrella of love and happiness, the bride and groom did not forget to do good deeds to give others a chance for rebirth.

## **Saving Another Does Not Hurt; So Why Not Do So**

The first donation of hematopoietic stem cells was completed at the end of 2021. This second donation procedure



**When Fang Jiawei donated peripheral blood stem cells at the end of 2021, her other half accompanied her step by step. During the second time she donated lymphocytes, he was unable to travel with her due to epidemic prevention; but he still gave her full support and blessings. While enjoying their happiness, the two never forget to do good deeds to give people a chance to be reborn.**

was to strengthen the recipient who received the first transplant, the main value being with the lymphocytes. The patient had improved after receiving Fang's hematopoietic stem cells last year; however, unfortunately the cancer relapsed a few months later and more reinforcements were needed to help the hematopoietic stem cells implanted in the patient's body fight cancer cells. So the transplant hospital turned to Tzu



Chi Stem Cells Center and submitted a request, hoping Fang would help the patient on the road to recovery.

Fang re-entered the hematopoietic stem cell collection lab. The same nurse and the same medical examiner repeated the same steps and procedures. Everything was very emotional. She said, "It felt like memories were brought back!"

Lymphocyte donation does not require administration of leukocyte growth hormone before donation, and the collection time is relatively short, about two to three hours. The separated lymphocytes during the collection process are about 200cc, and other components (such as red blood cells) are sent back to the donor. The extracted part of the lymphocytes can be replenished in a short time without causing an imbalance of blood components or chronic absence. Although the brave Fang is not afraid of needles, when the nurse applied anesthesia on her hand, she still felt a little anxious, because she knew that this needle was the key to the life of another person.

As for whether the donation would affect her health, Fang smiled and explained that she did not worry at all. Recalling the donation of a few months prior, she did not feel any discomfort afterwards. Therefore she had no hesitation or worries at all. "I didn't feel



**In October 2021, Fang Jiawei completed the donation of hematopoietic stem cells. This was the first time she took a photo with her own hematopoietic stem cells after the donation.**



**In 2022, Fang entered the hematopoietic stem cell collection lab of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital again and donated stem cells again to save a life.**

anything different after the donation. Donation processes are really nothing, so I come and go being very relaxed.”

### **Passionate About Making Desserts and Wishing the Recipient Good Health**

“I hope he recovers, so that he can eat the desserts I made!” Fang loves making desserts since she was a child, especially pastry bread. She also chose to study food management. In the future, she hopes to open a dessert bakery and share her homemade delicacies.

After her first donation of peripheral blood stem cells, Fang Jiawei and her other half completed a notarized marriage. During the second donation of lymphocytes, the timing coincided with her wedding photo op; her marriage and the recovery of the donor recipient are also life important events, which coincided. The serendipity was incredible. She chose to bless each other’s lifelong important events with a different kind of happiness. Her hematopoietic stem cells and lymphocytes all carry the happiness and love of pink bubbles. With sincere blessings, the bride and groom genuinely and sincerely gave the recipient a gift of life to recovery. Fang also hopes that she will have the opportunity to meet the recipient in a few years. She sincerely prays that the recipient will recover soon,



**Fang Jiawei loves homemade delicious desserts and looks forward to owning her own dessert bakery one day.**

and looks forward to the day when they meet each other, so she can give her home-made desserts to share the joy of life.