



“What a coincidence! My husband is also a younger twin!” Qiu Yaping, the wife of the donor You Junyu, feeling excited, heard the story of donee Fan Gencen and found many coincidences.

Both donor and donee are the same age and both have a single child, in each case a boy. They also have similar body-build and are both tall and thin. Moreover, the biggest coincidence is that they are both the younger child of their respective twin brothers!

### **The Athletic New Baby Dad May Have the Compatible Gene But Difficulty Identifying a Donor**

Fan Gencen, the recipient of hematopoietic stem cells, is a professional soldier. He was energetic and participated in the marathon and completed the race. His son was one month old. Fan was at the peak of his life. Unexpectedly, Fan soon started



**Donor You Junyu and recipient Fan Gencen are both twin brothers, and they are similar in stature.**

coughing non-stop, and nothing seemed to improve his condition.

What he thought was a minor cold was instead a leukemia diagnosis! The doctor diagnosed him with acute myelogenous leukemia, and Fan Gencen said, “The information I found about leukemia was very discouraging, which made me very desperate. I live a normal life, eat normally, exercise regularly, and cannot accept the fact that I am sick,” said Fan. He is even more worried that he will not be able to accompany his one-month-old child to adulthood.

The doctor told me that only a hematopoietic stem cell transplant would give me a chance of survival. Fan Gencen and his brother are identical twins, and their genes are similar. His brother should be the best transplant choice. However, the doctor explained that if his brother’s hematopoietic stem cells were transplanted into Fan Gencen’s body, the body’s immune system would not be able to recognize that “these are not my own stem cells” due to the brothers’ genes similarity. If cancer cells develop again, there will be no immune response, which may lead to the recurrence of leukemia, so it is not suitable to use the brother’s hematopoietic stem cells.



**Originally an athlete and a professional soldier, Fan Gencen found it difficult to accept that he had leukemia, having a special concern over the future of his child who just turned one month old.**



### **A Stranger Who Also Has a Twin Brother Saved a Life with His “Just Do It” Mentality**

Unable to find a suitable match among relatives, the attending physician applied for a hematopoietic stem cell match at the Tzu Chi Bone Marrow Stem Cell Center for Fan Gencen.

Fan Gencen was undergoing chemotherapy while waiting for some good news. Soon, a matching donor, You Junyu, was found in Tzu Chi's bone marrow database.

You Junyu works at the airport as a night shift attendant. He initially started doing blood tests to create a profile in the database, having befriended a police officer from the Aviation Police Bureau who is a Tzu Chi volunteer. During a chat, he shared the information that setting up a bone marrow database can save lives. After checking the information online, he registered to participate in the process.

When he received a call from a volunteer informing him that the match was successful and hoping that he would agree to donate, You Junyu said that he did not expect to be so lucky and remembered that the chance of matching was very low. But he was not particularly excited. He was very calm and thought it was a good thing

and the right thing to do. At that time, he casually asked his girlfriend Qiu Yaping (now his wife) for an opinion. Despite her concern about the impact of donation on his body, You Junyu decided to donate. In order to fulfill his selfless act, his girlfriend accompanied him to Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital to complete peripheral blood stem cell donation.

### **Touched by Two Families, a Cycle of Kindness**

The day before Fan Gencen received the stem cell transplant, he received annihilation therapy, which turned all his white blood cells back to zero. He said to his wife, “I wonder if I can survive this?”

When the hematopoietic stem cells were injected into Fan Gencen's body, he looked at the stem cells and felt extremely grateful, “I finally have a chance to live!”

During his illness, family members worked together to share the work load. His wife told him firmly to treat the disease with peace of mind and that she would take good care of their child. Mrs. Fan said that she had seen the story of leukemia on TV and never expected that it would happen to her husband. She hoped for a miracle to help him overcome the difficulty.

His mother traveled north from Kaohsiung to stay with him in the hospital. Fan's mother said that she didn't know how leukemia is treated. Although she was very nervous and anxious, she forced herself to be strong and calm. She encouraged Fan Gencen by reminding him that since medical science is advanced, he shouldn't think too much and relax. "Mom will definitely have a way to make you better."

His mother still treated him like a child. Although she was very worried, she tried her best to encourage and comfort him. Fan Gencen, who was already a father, was very grateful for his mother's diligent care during his illness. He said that only after raising a child can he appreciate the kindness of his parents. He feels very guilty that he still needs his mother to take care of him because of his illness.

After the donation, You Junyu received a thank-you card from Fan Gencen. He remained calm as usual, but his wife was very moved when she saw it, especially by the sentence on the card that said, "On the edge of death, where I am most helpless and hesitant, to have received salvation. I can now accompany my son to grow up." She also shared the card with her sisters and friends, and everyone was very moved when they saw it. Her husband's good deed saved a father's

life, which is equivalent to saving a family!

### **Transformation after Rebirth and Understanding of Life**

Fan Gencen has been a vegetarian for more than ten years. When he was critically ill, he tried hard to survive. He received chemotherapy, blood transfusions and other treatments, which inevitably made his body unsettled. He had insight into the pain and fear that animals endured before they are killed and turned into table food, which made him feel even more uncomfortable because all living beings have senses and are equal.

"I didn't know Tzu Chi before and had no contact with it." When he was at the most desperate stage of his illness, Fan Gencen received a hematopoietic stem cell transplant and was reborn. He was grateful for the donor's selfless act and the volunteers' accompanying attention. Because of the transplant, he now understands that Tzu Chi is a group of volunteers who are committed to doing good deeds silently, and he also saw Tzu Chi's kindness and great love.

During the tea time of the 2022 Meet and Greet event, the two families talked about their everyday lives and expressed gratitude and care for each



**After You Junyu and his wife, Qiu Yaping, donated their hematopoietic stem cells to Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital, they took a group photo with Vice President Lai Junliang and accompanying volunteer brothers and sisters.**

other. Recipient Fan Gencen said that after receiving the stem cell transplant, he could not eat spicy food. It took a year before he could eat spicy food again. It turned out that the donor, You Junyu, does not eat spicy food regularly. I didn't expect that even eating habits would change after stem cell transplantation.

After going through the critical moments of life and death, Fan changed his perception on life. Before getting sick, he expected to do everything perfectly. After recovering from the illness, he no longer strives for perfection in everything, but will prioritize his family and health in order to seize the moment.