



**DR. RANDAL WADA** President and Medical Director, Hawaii Cord Blood Bank  
Interviewed By Rasa Fournier

## Saving Lives With Cord Blood

**Where did you receive your schooling and training?**

I received my medical degree from Emory University, completed my pediatric internship and residency at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, post-doctoral research fellowship in cancer immunology at UCLA, and clinical fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at UCLA.

**How did you come to work with the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank?**

I founded the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank in 1998 with Jana Hall, Ph.D., at what was then Kapiolani Health Research Institute. I have worked since then as a volunteer. We wanted to do something to help improve the chances for Hawaii patients to find matching donors, so that they could have access to stem cell transplants for the treatment of aggressive blood cancers and other life-threatening diseases. We were able to launch the program through a combination of grants, generous donations, and support from

Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children. It has since grown to involve all birthing hospitals on both Oahu and Maui.

**What is the purpose of HCBB?**

Many people know that bone marrow transplants save the lives of patients suffering from a wide range of cancers and blood disorders. However, not everyone has a match within their family. Those who don't can turn to the national Be the Match Registry and its local branch Hawaii Bone Marrow Do-



Hawaii Cord Blood Bank team (from left) Lisa Wong-Yamamoto, Linda Watanabe, Dr. Randal Wada, Lynette Matsumoto and Allison Sears  
BODIE COLLINS PHOTOS

nor Registry. Even at that, patients of minority and especially mixed ethnicity can have a hard time finding a donor, and even can die waiting for a match to be found.

That's where cord blood comes in. Umbilical cord blood collected after a baby is born contains the same kind of stem cells found in bone marrow — in fact, these cells are more forgiving than bone marrow, so the match doesn't have to be perfect to be successful. Cord blood cells can be collected and stored in public "banks" for decades without losing their

**Akamai**  
PEST Solutions

THINK GREEN. LIVE GREEN. TREAT ORANGE!

**100% ORGANIC Orange Oil Drywood Termite Treatment**  
Hawaii's Orange Oil Pioneers Since 2005

**Ground Termite Treatment Available**

**\$500 OFF**  
Orange Oil Treatment & Any Subterranean Termite Control  
Expires 8/31/16. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

**NO BAGGING OR DISCARDING FOOD**

Servicing All Islands  
**Free Estimates**  
(808) 754-3393 or 693-PEST (7378)  
akamaipestolutions.com

HAWAII'S BEST 2014  
HAWAII'S BEST 2015

**ORECK**  
MAGNESIUM® RS  
BAGGED UPRIGHT

**Not Only Light, but Powerful**

Weights less than 8 lbs.\*

7 YEAR WARRANTY\*\* 5 ANNUAL TUNE-UPS

With its SlimSwivel™ design, Magnesium® RS is our top choice for every floor type from frieze carpet to hard floors.

**ORECK® OF HAWAII**  
1130 N. Nimitz Highway • Ph. 566-5939  
Nimitz Center by Eagle Café  
MONDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-6PM • SUN. CLOSED

**ALOHA HARVEST**

**COMPASSION IN ARTS COMPETITION**

Open to Hawaii Students Grades 7 to 12  
Postmark Deadline: Friday, October 7  
Awards for 9+ Different Categories  
Opening Exhibit: October 21 @ 6 PM

2016 THEME:  
**compassion + aloha**  
for the hungry & less fortunate

Guidelines & Submission Forms available at  
[www.alohaharvest.org](http://www.alohaharvest.org)  
Call 808-537-6945 or Email [mele@alohaharvest.org](mailto:mele@alohaharvest.org)



## Donating Process Is Simple

effectiveness, and they are readily available to patients anywhere around the world.

At Hawaii Cord Blood Bank, our mission is to support measures aimed at improving patients' access to transplant, which includes the collection and public banking of umbilical cord blood from Hawaii's ethnically diverse population. Simply put, we raise awareness of cord blood donation among expectant mothers here in Hawaii, and work with physician and nurse volunteers at hospitals across the state to collect and bank cord blood units.

**How are cord blood units acquired? What process do they go through in order to**



Cord blood units ready to ship

**be useful, and what are they used for?**

Cord blood is collected from the umbilical cord during the third stage of labor, after the baby is born and the cord is cut. This leftover blood normally would be discarded. The procedure

takes five minutes or less, and is painless, completely safe for both mother and baby, and free of charge. We are grateful to the physicians and nurses involved in labor and delivery at Kapiolani, Queen's, Tripler, Kaiser Permanente, Castle and Maui

Memorial who volunteer their time to collect the cord blood units on our behalf.

If the cord blood unit meets requirements, it is processed and stored by freezing at an ultra-low temperature. A donated cord blood unit can be matched and used in a lifesaving transplant months or even years after the actual collection. We often say that while becoming a mother is giving the gift of life to your child, by choosing to donate your cord blood, you have the chance to give the gift of life a second time.

**How can a person go about donating their umbilical cord?**

Expecting mothers interested in donating their baby's

cord blood will go through a simple prescreening process. Basic prescreening questions and consent forms are available for download on the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank website, or you can ask to be enrolled when you are at the hospital giving birth. Your doctor also can provide you with more information on donating your cord blood.

**Can you say something about the benefit of contributing to Hawaii's unique population?**

More than 23 percent of residents in Hawaii report two or more races, versus just 2.4 percent for the country as a whole. Hawaii's diverse population puts us in a unique position not just

to help ourselves, but also to help patients around the world.

HCBP donors have provided matches for more than 180 patients across the U.S., as well as Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, Turkey and Australia. By celebrating their baby's birth through the donation of what have might otherwise been thrown away, Hawaii's families are allowing us to help save lives.

**Where can we direct readers who would like more information?**

For more information about the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank Program, call 983-2265 (BANK), our toll-free number at 1-855-583-3085, or email [info@hcbp.org](mailto:info@hcbp.org).

**SHIP NOW TO  
THE PHILIPPINES**

**(BALIKBAYAN BOXES &  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS)**

**Need help  
moving?**

Reserve now,  
we can move you  
locally, across U.S.  
& International.

**10%\***  
**OFF ALL  
SERVICES**

\*Restrictions apply.  
Call for more details.  
Offer Expires 8/31/16

OTI / NVOCC License #021386N

Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) approved balikbayan shipper

**Millennium express & Travel INC**

94-235 Hanawai Circle • Unit #2 • Waipahu • HI • 96797

**(808) 699-4329**

**[www.Millenniumexpress.biz](http://www.Millenniumexpress.biz)**

**PINK MARTINI**



**FRI. SEPTEMBER 2**

**7:30PM**

**BLAISDELL CONCERT HALL**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

**BLAISDELL BOX OFFICE & TICKETMASTER OUTLETS**

**1-800-745-3000 TICKETMASTER.COM**



**simply prepaid** **T..** **UNLIMITED**  
**RETAILER** **TALK**  
**TEXT** **\$35**  
**WEB**  
**starting at**

**Switch to T-Mobile**  
**Upgrade to a**  
**NEW phone every year**  
**Lease any phone in store**  
**Starting at \$10 a month**

\*Cancellation and disposition fees apply. Deposit required. Upgrade at anytime. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.



- No Contracts, No Credit Checks, NO OVERAGES!
- Handset Specials, Accessory Specials
- We Unlock Phones, Repair Phones and We Buy USED Phones!

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**Monday - Saturday 9am - 7pm**  
**Sunday 9am - 5pm**  
**(808) 841-1200**  
**1880 N. King Street • Honolulu, HI 96819**

**yelp**

