

March 24, 2014

Cure CP Announces Newest Fundraising Campaign for Groundbreaking Cord Blood Research for Cerebral Palsy

Initiative launched on March 25th: National Awareness Day for Cerebral Palsy

ATLANTA, Ga. - **Cure CP**, a non-profit organization committed to curing cerebral palsy, is excited to announce its second major fundraising initiative, supporting new pre-clinical studies led by internationally renowned Duke Medicine physician and NIH investigator, Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg. This initiative is being launched on **March 25, 2014**, the **National Awareness Day for Cerebral Palsy** in the US.

“The overall goal of this research is to develop a novel, innovative and transformative approach to treat patients with cerebral palsy and acquired brain injuries using cellular therapies derived from banked human umbilical cord blood,” said Dr. Kurtzberg, professor of pediatrics and pathology and director of the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Kurtzberg has long worked to expand the supply of cord blood to more patients who could potentially benefit from the cells, but were unable to have their own cord blood banked at birth. For many young patients, collecting and storing their own cord blood in what is called autologous blood banking is often not possible because of sickness, fetal distress and other complications at birth. Unfortunately, these babies are the most likely to develop neurological conditions and associated life-long disabilities, including cerebral palsy. Adults with CP also miss out on cord blood therapies because banking was not an option until 20 years ago.

Dr. Kurtzberg and her team are working to overcome this obstacle by establishing the therapeutic potential and safety of donated cord blood and derivative cellular products. These cells would be used to treat unrelated patients in what are known as allogeneic transplants. Dr. Kurtzberg and her colleagues intend to identify the most effective cell populations within the cord blood and cellular products, establish techniques to administer the cells, and determine how best to preserve their therapeutic activities.

After addressing the preclinical questions with an animal model study, the researchers would potentially move forward with a phase I, proof-of-concept,

clinical trial of allogeneic cord blood administration in children with cerebral palsy.

Dr. Kurtzberg has an extraordinary resume of achievements as an international pioneer in cord blood therapies. In 1993, she performed the world's first transplant using cord blood from an unrelated donor at Duke University Medical Center, saving the life of 4 year-old child with leukemia. She is currently completing the first stem cell clinical trial conducted for cerebral palsy in the US.

Cure CP has committed to raise \$100,000 this year to support the launch of this groundbreaking investigation. In 2013, Cure CP raised \$100,000 to help start a cerebral palsy clinical trial comparing the use of bone marrow stem cells to banked umbilical cord blood cells.

For more information please contact Lizette Dunay, lets curecp@gmail.com.

About Cure CP:

Let's Cure CP is a non-profit organization (501c3) committed to funding the support of Cerebral Palsy (CP) research. We seek to undertake and support initiatives at research institutions around the country that focus on developing new therapeutic methodologies for the treatment of Cerebral Palsy. Read more at www.lets curecp.org.