

CordLife Continues Expansion with Opening of Southeast Asia's Largest Cord Blood Bank in Singapore

- **New facility offers triple the previous capacity to meet strong growing demand.**
- **Facility features the latest and most advanced umbilical cord blood processing and storage capabilities.**
- **Facility meets international standards and accreditation to support the growth in cord blood stem cell therapy.**
- **“CordLife Cares” Programme to offer needy families access to cord blood stem cell therapy.**

SINGAPORE, 10 April, 2008 -- CordLife, Singapore's first cord blood bank, today announced the official launch of the largest cord blood bank in Southeast Asia.

Located at The Galen at Science Park III, the new facility boasts a storage capacity of 36,000 cord blood units which is scalable up to 60,000 units. Triple the size of CordLife's previous laboratory, the new facility features the latest and most advanced capabilities in umbilical cord blood processing and storage. CordLife currently operates the largest network of cord blood banks in the region and its facility in Singapore is also the only AABB accredited private cord blood bank in Southeast Asia.

Said Ted Tan, deputy chief executive officer, International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), who officiated the opening, "With growing demand for cord blood banking in the region, CordLife is well-positioned to emerge as one of the leading providers of such services in Southeast Asia. Having already established a presence in regional markets such as Australia, Hong Kong, India and Indonesia, CordLife's new facility in Singapore will serve as a hub for its increasing network of services and operations in the region. IE Singapore will continue to work with healthcare providers such as CordLife, to promote the Singapore brand of healthcare overseas."

"The opening of the largest cord blood bank in Southeast Asia is a major milestone for CordLife. As the only AABB accredited private cord blood banking facility in Southeast Asia, our clients are guaranteed the highest standards to significantly improve stem cell therapy outcome," said Steven Fang, Group CEO, CordLife.

In conjunction with the official facility launch, CordLife also announced the launch of the "CordLife Cares" programme, the first and only of its kind in Asia. Targeted at the less fortunate, this initiative will offer families with a history of cord blood treatable diseases, the option of private cord blood banking sponsored by the company.



Cord blood, with its rich source of stem cells, is a ready source of stem cells which can be used to treat certain diseases or conditions. Cord blood stem cells can be used to treat over 80 diseases today, including leukaemia, immunodeficiencies, bone marrow failure syndromes and blood disorders, as compared to only 46 diseases seven years ago.

With the launch of “CordLife Cares”, these families potentially have access to genetically related stem cells, without the waiting time and high cost of obtaining matching cord blood from other sources which may cost as high as US\$26,000 (excluding other medical and clinical costs). Related cord blood stem cell transplants double the survival rate as compared to unrelated stem cell transplants; with a much lower rate of rejection, which reduces the need for costly drugs to be taken over a lifetime.

The “CordLife Cares” programme is open to residents of Singapore delivering their baby in Singapore, with a family history of cord blood treatable diseases, as well as a combined household income of less than S\$2,000 a month. As part of this programme, the baby’s cord blood will be collected upon delivery, processed and stored by CordLife until needed.

With the “CordLife Cares” programme, CordLife aims to provide assistance to needy families who meet the selection criteria, and will be working closely with the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS) to roll out the programme.

Added Fang, “With the increased number of cord blood treatable diseases over the years, we believe that everyone should have the option to bank their baby’s cord blood, regardless of their financial situation. The launch of “CordLife Cares” will provide needy families with babies who may have a higher likelihood of requiring a stem cell treatment in future, with the option to bank their cord blood.”

“The society will help to increase the awareness of this programme amongst our members, comprising more than 95% of the practising obstetricians in Singapore, so that patients who fit the criteria can benefit,” said Dr Beh Suan Tiong, President of OGSS.

CordLife’s aggressive expansion drive is attributed to increasing demand for cord blood banking services. CordLife crossed their 10,000th client mark in June 2007 and also saw a marked increase of 47% in client registration the same year as compared to 2006.

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About CordLife

CordLife is a regional cord blood bank that operates the world's largest network of cord blood banks with full processing and cryopreservation storage facilities in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and India as well as marketing operations in Macau, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The first cord blood bank to be set up in Singapore, and among the first in Asia, CordLife's state-of-the-art facility is the first and only private cord blood bank in Southeast Asia to be accredited by AABB and is also licensed by the Ministry of Health, Singapore. CordLife is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, under the symbol, CBB. For more information, please visit www.cordlife.com.

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