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**For immediate release**

## **Cord Blood Banking Giant CordLife To Develop Stem Cell Therapies with the Most Advanced Facility in India**

- CordLife to develop non-controversial stem cell therapies through its global partners and tie-ups with local institutions.
- CordLife officially launches India's largest and most advanced cord blood bank with storage capacity for up to 1,50,000 cord blood units to support such stem cell therapies.
- The Group is committed to make stem cell therapies and cord blood banking accessible, pan-India over the next few years that will cost approximately 30 crore.

**KOLKATA, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2009** -- CordLife, the leading network of private cord blood banks in Asia Pacific, officially launched India's largest and most advanced facility in Kolkata. The new facility is also the Group's biggest thus far.

An Australian Stock Exchange listed company, CordLife received the 2007 World Economic Forum 'Technology Pioneer' award for developing stem cell therapies. In addition, the Group operates a network of globally accredited cord blood banking facilities in Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia to support the company's aspirations to develop stem cell therapies for heart ailments, diabetes and skin trauma. The latest facility based in Kolkata is the largest in the group with a storage capacity of up to 1,50,000 cord blood units. Licensed by the Drug Controller General of India, CordLife is able to collect cord blood units from all Indian states and cities.

"The new CordLife facility in India is by far our most advanced built to date. It was built in line with world-class quality marks such as the American Association of Blood Banks, Therapeutic Goods Administration and ISO. Our investment in these standards is a necessary requirement to support stem cell therapies globally. We are confident that the applications of cord blood stem cells will grow in India," said Mr Steven Fang, Group CEO, CordLife Ltd.

Cord blood, with its rich source of non-controversial blood stem cells, can be used to treat over 80 diseases today; including certain cancers such as leukaemia and breast cancer, blood disorders like thalassemia major and other immunodeficiencies. A boy with leukaemia was saved after receiving his sibling's cord blood stem cells which were collected and processed by CordLife Singapore. CordLife Indonesia recently released six cord blood units for the successful clinical treatment of second degree burn trauma patients. Heart patients in the Netherlands also benefited from CordLife's support. The future looks bright as researchers worldwide continue to unlock the potential of stem cells especially in the field of regenerative medicine.

"Cord blood has become a very common source of stem cells for transplantations today. Thanks to stem cells, thousands of patients around the world have received a new lease on their lives. We are pleased to be able to offer this miracle of life to the Indian community," said Associate Professor Mark Kirkland, Medical Director of BioCell, an associate of CordLife Ltd. He was recently named 'Researcher of the Year' in Barwon, Australia for his pioneering work in redirecting the differentiation of stem cells into heart cells.

CordLife will be bridging technologies from within the group's portfolio and its global partners in Netherlands, Australia, Indonesia and India. This will be done through tie-ups with institutions locally to spur therapeutic applications in India. CordLife is committed to spend approximately 30 crore to make stem cell therapy a reality, and cord blood banking accessible throughout India.

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#### **About CordLife Sciences India**

CordLife Sciences India Pvt. Ltd. is majority owned by CordLife Ltd in partnership with Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd to become the first majority foreign owned cord blood bank in India. CordLife obtained its 5 year operating license from the Drug Controller General of India in March 2008. The biggest and most advanced addition to the CordLife network, this Kolkata facility is also the largest in India, with storage capacity of up to 1,50,000 cord blood units. For more information, please visit [www.cordlife.com/in/](http://www.cordlife.com/in/).

#### **About CordLife Group**

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 Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia and India, as well as marketing offices throughout Asia. 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 Singapore's Ministry of Health. CordLife was awarded the prestigious World Economic Forum 'Technology Pioneer' in 2007. CordLife is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, under the symbol, CBB. For more information, please visit [www.cordlife.com](http://www.cordlife.com).

#### **About American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)**

AABB is an international association representing individuals and institutions involved in activities related to transfusion and cellular therapies, including transplantation medicine. AABB member facilities are responsible for collecting virtually all of the nation's blood supply and transfusing more than 80 percent of all blood and blood components used in the United States. Since its inception in 1947, AABB — formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks — has continued to support the highest standards of medical, technical and administrative performance; scientific investigation; and clinical application through standard setting, accreditation, education, advocacy and other activities. The association is also dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation. For more information, please visit [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org).

#### **About Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**

The TGA carries out a range of assessment and monitoring activities to ensure therapeutic goods available in Australia are of an acceptable standard with the aim of ensuring that the Australian community has access, within a reasonable time, to therapeutic advances. For more information, please visit [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

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