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CORD BLOOD STEM CELLS TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS

Ryan Foo, age 5, in remission since transplant to treat Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

30th June 2004, Singapore – On 10th December 2002, a stem cell transplant using cord blood was carried out to save the life of a young boy, Ryan Foo. He was suffering from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL). The boy is now in remission and doing well.

Ryan was diagnosed with ALL, a potentially life-threatening condition. A bone marrow transplant was needed to treat his condition, but no match could be found.

“We came across articles on how cord blood stem cells had been used to treat various blood-related disorders, including leukaemia,” said Mr and Mrs Foo. “Cord blood stem cells also had a higher chance of successful matching as compared to bone marrow. We decided to conceive a second child and use the cord blood to save our son.”

In mid-2002, Mrs Foo discovered she was pregnant with her second child, Rachel. On her delivery, the cord blood was collected. It was then processed and stored in CordLife’s laboratory facilities. CordLife is today the cord blood banking subsidiary of Australian Stock Exchange listed CyGenics Ltd, a stem cell biotechnology company. CordLife, following its American Association of Blood Banks-compliant procedures and processes, tested the blood to ensure that there was no presence of bacteria and fungi contamination. These tests came back negative for contamination.

“We were elated when Rachel’s blood was shown to be a 100% match for Ryan,” said Dr Tan Ah Moy, Head & Senior Consultant, Haematology / Oncology, Paediatrics, Kangkar Kerbau Women’s and Children’s Hospital (KKH). “This meant that not only could the cord blood be used, the transplant would also have a higher chance of success. The transplant would also have a lower chance of complications, such as Graft vs Host Disease. We are very satisfied with Ryan’s progress since the transplant. The



healthy cells from his sister repopulated in his bone marrow and revived his immune system, depleted by the chemotherapy and radiotherapy used to treat the leukaemia.”

“As a parent, I can well understand the agony that Mr & Mrs Foo must have gone through. I am very happy that CordLife contributed towards Ryan’s recovery,” said Mr Steven Fang, Group Chief Executive Officer, CyGenics.

“Ryan is doing very well now at home. He just started school and is enjoying every minute of it. We still need to be careful and make sure he does not tire himself out, but this is nothing compared to those dark days when he was really sick. The decision to collect Rachel’s cord blood was the right one.” Said Mrs Foo.

Note to editors:

The following description of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia is adapted from the National Cancer Institute, US National Institutes of Health. The full description can be found at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/childALL/patient>

Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (also called acute lymphocytic leukemia or ALL) is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. This type of cancer usually gets worse quickly if it is not treated. It is the most common type of cancer in children.

Normally, the bone marrow produces stem cells (immature cells) that develop into mature blood cells. In ALL, too many stem cells develop into a type of white blood cell called lymphoblasts or leukemic cells. There are 3 types of lymphocytes:

In ALL, the lymphoblasts are not able to fight infection very well. Also, as the number of lymphoblasts increases in the blood and bone marrow, there is less room for healthy white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may lead to infection, anemia, and easy bleeding.



Statement by Dr Tan Ah Moy

Ryan was diagnosed to have acute lymphoblastic leukemia in August 2001. He was treated with chemotherapy. Unfortunately, he had a relapse of acute leukemia in November 2002 while on chemotherapy. His only chance of cure was a blood / marrow transplant. There was no matched marrow donor or cord blood unit available from the international / national registries. In October 2002, his sister's cord blood was found to be compatible with Ryan's. A cord blood transplant was successfully performed in December 2002 in Kandang Kerbau Women's & Children's Hospital. Today, one and a half years' post-transplant, Ryan is free from leukemia and enjoys a normal childhood.

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About CordLife

CordLife is a subsidiary CyGenics, a leading stem cell biotechnology company. The first private cord blood bank to be set up in Singapore, and among the first in Asia, CordLife operates American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) compliant tissue banking facilities, and provides tissue banking services, in particular cord blood banking, for the region. These banking facilities comprise full processing and cryogenic storage capabilities. For further information, please visit www.cordlife.com.

About CyGenics

CyGenics is a biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialisation of stem cell-related products, services, applications and technologies. From its headquarters in Australia, CyGenics operates three divisions: Singapore-based CordLife (tissue banking services, in particular, cord blood banking) and Cell Sciences (consumable cell culture products), and Cytomatrix (cell therapeutics and technology development) based in the USA. CyGenics is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, under the symbol CYN. For more information, please visit www.cygenics.com.



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