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CORDLIFE GROUP CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CORD BLOOD BANKING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

SINGAPORE, 1 September 2021 – Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife” or the “Company” and together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”), a consumer healthcare company catering to families and one of the leading pioneers of cord blood banking in Asia has reached an exciting milestone. This year, the Group celebrates their 20th anniversary – two decades of quality stem cell banking, innovation and advancements in the consumer healthcare industry.

Through their suite of services across the different networks and operations across Asia, this milestone marks the Group’s steadfast commitment in providing reliable healthcare solutions for the entire family and delivering excellence in cord blood banking and more.

Meeting the needs of families, two decades of innovation and technology

Established in May 2001 and officially listed on the Mainboard of Singapore Exchange (“SGX-ST”) in 2012, the Group is one of the pioneers in the cord blood banking industry in Asia. Working with obstetricians to collect cord blood post-delivery, the fundamentals of Cordlife lie in the passion of its people who have equal emotional engagement when it comes to helping people live healthier, happier and longer.

Since its inception, Cordlife has been steadfastly adhering to the philosophy of doing the right thing for their clients. Constantly striving to provide value, they have garnered the trust of over 550,000 parents in Asia till date. Following its first successful cord blood transplant in Singapore in 2002, Cordlife has been committed to saving lives. The Group has worked cross-border with 23 healthcare institutions in 11 markets to help clients from six markets use their cord blood and cord tissue for treatment. Over the course of the last 20 years, Cordlife has transcended its boundaries geographically and scientifically by actively participating in clinical trials while also strategically partaking in stem cell expansion collaboration efforts in the region.

Drive for excellence, one of Cordlife’s core values

The healthcare sector has always been prone to waves of transformation and diversification. Equipped with a relatively large degree of willingness to make strategic and bold moves, Cordlife understood the importance of focusing on activities beyond their core functions. As a result, Cordlife expanded its services beyond cord blood banking to **Cord Lining** banking, followed by **Eyescree™** and **OptiQ** consecutively.

Cordlife is the sole provider of banking umbilical cord lining (UCL) which stores two additional types of stem cells- mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) and cord lining epithelial cells (CLEpSCs) that can only be harvested and expanded using the patented CellOptima™ technology. Storing UCL allows for greater possible regenerative medicine in the future and also an added advantage for conditions that currently have no known cure.



Dwelling on the importance of safeguarding a child's windows to the world, Cordlife has also invested in innovative photoscreening technology to close the gap in understanding paediatric vision. Thus, setting in motion the wheels for *Eyescreen*[™], which helps parents identify visual problems in their children from as young as 6 months old. This is advantageous as it allows for early intervention including glasses, patch therapy and surgery for conditions such as amblyopia, myopia and astigmatism.

With increased screen time and lesser time spent outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic, paediatric screening is of vital importance as experts foresee an increase in myopic children.¹ With the resumption of services post Circuit Breaker measures imposed in 2020, Cordlife experienced an increased take-up rate of *Eyescreen*[™].

Understanding the importance of keeping the vision alive and as a natural progression of services, Cordlife collaborated with Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) to launch *OptiQ*, Asia's first corneal lenticule banking service. This breakthrough technology and medical revolution enables individuals undergoing certain refractive eye surgery using lenticule extraction method (e.g. SMILE) for myopia or astigmatism, to cryopreserve their corneal lenticules for potential treatment of presbyopia and other ocular conditions in the future.

Cordlife's people, ambitions, and the journey ahead

In a world fuelled by technology, Cordlife has also strived towards deepening their digital capabilities. To further serve the needs of its clientele and to strengthen community engagement, Cordlife has gone digital with the launch of their informative app, ***Moms Up***. Bolstering their long-standing presence in lending support to mothers' pre and post-partum journey, the app lends community and health support in various stages of motherhood. *Moms Up* is a one stop solution platform that offers localised advice for women between 25 and 44 on conceiving, pregnancy and post-delivery support for mother and infant. Cordlife hopes to optimise its reach to potential and current clients alike to provide resources and seamless shopping catered to expectant moms and moms.

Additionally, as families increasingly recognise the importance of stem cell banking as potential protection against diseases, the app also provides a one-stop platform for clients to access their information and stay updated with the latest services available. Soon, clients can expect a wider range of easily accessible innovative lifestyle products and medical technology support services integrated through this app.

Earlier this year, Cordlife cemented yet another milestone through a partnership with SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC). The collaboration aimed at testing a novel technology expands the number of blood-forming stem cells from stored UCB in a first-in-man study in Singapore. This is the first time a home-grown UCB cell therapy is being tested on humans. The technology has the potential to increase treatment options for patients requiring stem cell transplant.

¹ Ng KG (2020, September 15). Reduced Time Outdoors Due To Covid-19 Could Aggravate Myopia In Some: Experts. SingHealth.Com. <https://www.singhealth.com.sg/rhs/news/tomorrows-medicine/reduced-time-outdoors-due-to-covid-19-could-aggravate-myopia-in-some-experts>



Commenting on the Group's 20-year milestone, **Ms Tan Poh Lan, Group CEO and Executive Director of Cordlife Group** said, "Our Group has come a long way from where we started. Primarily, we take most pride in the confidence that we have instilled in our global clientele who trust us to provide world-class reliability for their family. The dedication we have channelled towards healthcare has been consistent and is also the driving force behind our achievements thus far. The road ahead is long and tedious but each member of our team, past and present has made a difference to the Group and today, I would like to commemorate their unwavering support as we reach this momentous milestone."

Cordlife's milestones, accolades and achievements

In the past two decades, Cordlife has expanded its operations and created a foothold across Asia. As a result of attaining excellence in its field with consistency, Cordlife has gained market leadership in most of the markets it operates in, including Singapore.

In their pursuit and commitment to quality, Cordlife's cord blood banking facilities in Singapore and Hong Kong attained dual-accreditation by AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) and by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT).

The Group is one of the pioneers in private cord blood banking in Singapore and amongst the first in Hong Kong to have released cord blood units for transplants and other therapeutic use. In Singapore, Cordlife also became the first to release cord blood units for the treatment of cerebral palsy. In addition, in April 2013, Cordlife launched Sepax[®]2, a Swiss-made FDA-approved, GMP-compliant automated stem cell processing system that maximises automation while ensuring consistently high cell recoveries.

Cordlife also has a strategic alliance with CordLabs Asia Pte. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of CellResearch Corporation Pte. Ltd., which gives the Group the exclusive rights to market their technology in relation to the provision of umbilical cord lining storage services, training and the transfer of the know-how, in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand.

In 2007, Cordlife was one of the 3 companies in Asia to be awarded the prestigious 'Technology Pioneer' status by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum for advancing the field of adult stem cell cellular therapy, cord blood banking and technologies. In November 2013, Cordlife was named as the "Most Transparent Company 2013" in the Retail & Household Goods Category. Cordlife was also honoured by Forbes Asia as one of the "Best Under a Billion" in 2015.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cordlife.com>.

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ABOUT CORDLIFE GROUP LIMITED

Established in May 2001, Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife”, together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”) is a leading company dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of mother and child. The Group is listed on the Mainboard of the Singapore Exchange in 2012 and is a pioneer in private cord blood banking in Asia. Cordlife owns the largest network of cord blood banks in Asia with full stem cell banking facilities in six key markets namely Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and the Philippines. In Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia, Cordlife operates the largest private cord blood banks and it is amongst the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. In January 2018, Cordlife became the market leader in Hong Kong with the acquisition of the largest private cord blood bank in the country, Healthbaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co., Limited. Through its majority-owned subsidiary in Malaysia, Stemlife Berhad, Cordlife holds an indirect stake in Thailand’s largest private cord blood bank, Thai Stemlife. Cordlife has also established its presence in Myanmar, Vietnam, Macau, Brunei and Bangladesh. Beyond cord blood, cord lining and cord tissue banking, Cordlife offers a comprehensive suite of diagnostics services for the family including urine-based newborn metabolic screening, non-invasive prenatal testing, paediatric vision screening and family genetic screening services. Quality and customer focus are amongst some of the cornerstones of Cordlife. For more information, visit <http://cordlife.listedcompany.com>.

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