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**Blood and Marrow Transplant Program of Mayo Clinic, Nemours Children’s Clinic and Wolfson Children’s Hospital Earns National Accreditation Renewal**

*JACKSONVILLE, Fla., November 14, 2013*- The Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program of Mayo Clinic, Nemours Children’s Clinic, Jacksonville, and Wolfson Children’s Hospital has been awarded a three-year accreditation renewal by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). The foundation awarded the accreditation renewal after thorough site visits at all collection, transplantation and laboratory facilities at the three locations.

“We are pleased that Mayo Clinic, Nemours Children’s Clinic and Wolfson Children’s Hospital have met the requirements of the Foundation and have been granted accreditation for their joint Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program,” said Phyllis Warkentin, M.D., FACT medical director.

“The teamwork and cooperation between all three organizations in the program has never been better,” said Blood and Marrow Transplant Program Director Michael Joyce, MD, PhD, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Nemours Children’s Clinic, Jacksonville. “FACT accreditation is a promise to our patients that we are adhering to and meeting the highest standards in the field. The hematology/oncology physicians, nurses, laboratory and support staff of Nemours, Wolfson Children’s and Mayo Clinic work very hard to achieve maintain these standards.”

The joint program was created in 2001 to allow for greater collaboration in physician and staff expertise, research and clinical protocols. Wolfson Children’s Hospital and Nemours Children’s Clinic, Jacksonville, will celebrate their Blood and Marrow Transplant Program’s 20th anniversary next year. Many patient referrals to the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program come from physicians in Jacksonville, across Florida and south Georgia, across the United States and internationally. Since it was established, the combined program has transplanted patients with a variety of illnesses including leukemia, neuroblastoma, sickle cell disease, bone marrow disorders, multiple myeloma, lymphoma, brain tumors, Ewing’s sarcoma, and amyloidosis. Stem cell sources include the patient, immediate family members, volunteer unrelated adult marrow donors or donated umbilical cord blood donor units. More than 970 transplants have been completed during this time.

The program shares a single cryopreservation laboratory (where hematopoietic stem cells are frozen and processed) at Mayo Clinic. Mayo maintains the program’s adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit, and Wolfson Children’s Hospital maintains Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant beds on the Hematology/Oncology Unit in the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Tower. The joint program shares information systems, quality and other clinical and administrative staff.

“We are excited to receive this accreditation. It is a welcome recognition and ‘badge of honor’ for our program. It also informs and assures our patients, referring physicians and insurance companies of the highest standards of patient care and laboratory practices in our program,” said Vivek Roy, M.D., hematologist/oncologist at Mayo Clinic in Florida and medical director of the adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Program

Current medical directors for the program include Michael Joyce, MD, PhD, overall program director and the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant program medical director, Nemours Children’s Clinic and Wolfson Children’s Hospital; Vivek Roy, MD, medical director of the adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, Mayo Clinic in Florida; Abba Zubair, MD, PhD, medical director of the adult Apheresis Program and the Cryopreservation Laboratory at Mayo Clinic in Florida; and Jeffrey Goldstein, MD, medical director of the Pediatric Apheresis Program at Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

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***About FACT***

*In December 1994, the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) and the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) merged their Standards into a single document covering all aspects of hematopoietic cell therapy (collection, processing, and transplantation). The two societies established FACT in order to develop a voluntary Inspection and Accreditation Program based on the joint Standards. FACT promotes quality medical and laboratory practice of cellular therapy through its peer-developed standards and voluntary inspection and accreditation program.*

*In 2006, FACT, in collaboration with the Joint Accreditation Committee–ISCT & EBMT (JACIE), developed international standards in the field of cellular therapy.  JACIE was founded by the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) and the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT), the two leading scientific organizations involved with cellular transplantation in Europe.*

*The FACT Inspection and Accreditation Program was developed by Dr. Phyllis Warkentin, FACT Medical Director, the FACT Directors and Officers, as well as the ISCT and ASBMT Regulatory and Standards Committees.  The first edition of the FACT Standards was published in September 1996, and the first inspections began in September of 1997 with the first programs awarded accreditation in 1998.*

**About Mayo Clinic** *Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit worldwide leader in medical care, research and education for people from all walks of life. For more information, visit* [*www.mayoclinic.com*](http://www.mayoclinic.com) *and* [*www.mayoclinic.org/news*](http://www.mayoclinic.org/news)*.*

**About Nemours**

*Nemours (NAH-mors) is an* [*internationally recognized children’s health system*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/about/why/awards.html) *that owns and operates the* [*Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children*](http://www.nemours.org/locations/delaware/naidhc.html) *in Wilmington, Delaware and the* [*Nemours Children’s Hospital*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/locations/florida/nch.html) *in Orlando, Florida along with major pediatric specialty clinics in* [*Delaware, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/locations.html)

*Established as* [*The Nemours Foundation*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/about/story.html) *through the legacy and philanthropy of* [*Alfred I. du Pont*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/about/story.html)*, Nemours offers pediatric* [*clinical care*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/service/medical.html)*,* [*research*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/research.html)*,* [*education*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/service/health.html)*,* [*advocacy*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/about/policy.html) *and* [*prevention*](http://www.nemours.org/content/nemours/wwwv2/service/health.html) *programs to all families in the communities it serves. For more information, visit* [*www.Nemours.org*](http://www.Nemours.org)

***About Wolfson Children’s Hospital***

[*Wolfson Children’s Hospital*](http://www.wolfsonchildrens.org) *in Jacksonville, Florida, serves as our region’s pediatric referral center and only hospital just for kids. The 213-bed, patient- and family-centered hospital features an environment filled with bright colors, warm smiles and the latest children’s medical technology. At Wolfson Children’s, nationally recognized pediatric specialists representing nearly every medical and surgical specialty work with pediatricians to provide care for children of all ages with congenital heart conditions, cancer, neurological disorders, orthopaedic conditions, behavioral health disorders, and more. The hospital is staffed by pediatric nurses and other healthcare professionals specially trained to work with children. Wolfson Children’s pediatric partners include Nemours Children’s Clinic, the University of Florida Jacksonville, and Mayo Clinic Florida. For additional information, please visit wolfsonchildrens.org.*