



Blood Products
Stem Cells
Human Tissues

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"thank you"**
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Photo: Richard Mayrand



Photo: Marc Couture

Envisioning **Héma-Québec** in 2020

The time has come to
prepare new directions
and an action plan for
the coming years.

Since taking office almost a year ago, I have been witness on many occasions to the enviable reputation of Héma-Québec. The organization fulfills its mission with great success and enjoys international recognition in the field of life sciences. Having reached the end of the 2007–2011 strategic planning, the time has come to prepare new directions and an action plan for the coming years.

Certain challenges must be met in order to maintain and assert our leadership. Developments in transfusion medicine, for one, are leading to the emergence of more personalized medicine, characterized by a better selection of therapeutic products based on the state of health of every patient. Héma-Québec's expertise is very much in line with this. Since 2008, our organization has performed genotyping on close to 28,000 frequent donors: this initiative already makes it possible to provide personalized blood products.

We are, however, operating within a context of growing economic constraints, and Héma-Québec, like any publicly funded organization, is not immune to this. It has therefore become necessary to review our structures, resources and processes in order to determine the adjustments re-

quired. This exercise has led us to envisioning what Héma-Québec will be in 2020.

It was found that, due to population ageing and the evolution of medicine, the organization will have to contend with the need for blood increasing at a faster rate than demographic growth. While this represents a challenge in terms of donor recruitment, it is also an opportunity to improve our practices based on the needs of recipients, the behaviours of donors and volunteers, as well as the evolution of science and information technology.

Moreover, certain discoveries could have a direct effect on the supply of blood components. For example, research is currently being conducted on a plasma protein—immunoglobulins (IgIV)—that could be used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Clearly, approval of such use could lead to a significant increase in the demand for plasma. This would have a great impact on the supply strategies, and we must therefore be prepared for it.

There are also many possibilities in the areas of stem cells and human tissues. Over 3,600 clinical trials are currently being conducted in this field. With its expertise as a regulated producer, Héma-Québec is well positioned in this rapidly

growing sector. It will, however, have to make greater investments in order to meet needs.

Héma-Québec has, since its creation in 1998, managed to meet the demand of hospitals and ensure a safe and sufficient supply for the entire population of Québec. We owe this fact to the extraordinary commitment of donors, volunteers, employees and partners of Héma-Québec. Certain things, therefore, will not change. Blood donation will most certainly remain a voluntary gesture, and a collective responsibility. The contribution of volunteers will remain just as essential and will even take on more importance.

In order to continue to excel, however, we will have to continue to innovate. We will also have to invest in automation. I am confident that with these changes, Héma-Québec will be able to meet the challenge. Thank you for being by our side. •

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean De Serres".

Dr. Jean De Serres
President and CEO of Héma-Québec

Julie needs you



Photo: Richard Mayrand

Julie is so positive that no one would suspect the intense battle she is waging against cancer. After two cord blood transplants, she learned in December 2011 that she was once again in relapse; but, she is still just as hopeful that she will finally find a bone marrow donor who will enable her to heal.

“I was eight years old when it was discovered that I had a rare and particularly aggressive form of Leukemia. I’ve survived as a result of two cord blood transplants and 158 blood transfusions,” says Julie Ouimette, 18 years old.

“She received a cord blood transplant since there is no compatible bone marrow donor listed in the international registries. To heal fully, she absolutely must find a bone marrow donor,” explains her mother, Natalie.

A journey fraught with setbacks

The diagnosis was given in the fall of 2002. After several weeks of back pain, a very frail young Julie was admitted to hospital with her worried family looking on. “Doctors gave me a grim prognosis. I needed a stem cell transplant and multiple blood transfusions,” she explains. Compatible cord blood was finally found in December 2002.

“That donation gave me a remission lasting five and a half years before the

cancer reappeared in May 2008. I was 14 years old then. I had to undergo another transplant, but there were complications. I suffered acute lung failure and fell into a coma. When I woke up, one month later, I had to contend with a neuropathy, a nerve disorder that left me with no sensation from my knees down to my toes,” she shares.

You shouldn't wait if you can give because the needs of patients can't wait.

Natalie recalls with emotion the ordeals that her daughter endured. “When she got out of intensive care in July, her heart and lungs were too weak to undergo a second transplant. I brought her home and we did a lot of exercises in the pool. Miraculously, in September 2008, she had managed to

recover enough strength to receive her transplant.”

A fighter

Three years later, the disease struck again. Despite all of the obstacles, Julie is not giving up. Quite the contrary, in fact, she displays a love of life and an optimism that are quite extraordinary. “Throughout my battles, I’ve received support from many donors. Their donations have helped me feel better. Each of them gave me more energy... And I’m alive today because of them,” the young woman declares energetically.

“My daughter’s strength is an inspiration to all of us and we firmly believe that she will be healed soon,” Natalie reveals. “For now, the disease is under control and we’re hoping to have a transplant by the end of March.”

Julie encourages all those who are hesitant to donate to consider her story since, while she rejoices in the fact that she is here to testify, she remembers the long periods of anguish that have marked her life and which she would not want to have to live through another time. “At the beginning, we couldn’t find donors for my first transplants. I was risking a lot... Sometimes, I also had to wait to receive platelets... You shouldn’t wait if you can give because the needs of patients can’t wait,” she insists. ●

Boom in demand in 2011

Summer is always a crucial time for blood procurement, but demand was particularly high this past summer, with a 5% increase compared to 2010. Héma-Québec had to collect 6,000 additional blood donations to meet the needs of hospitals.

Thankfully, the commitment and generosity of volunteers, organizing committees and donors made it possible to maintain the collective blood supply at an optimal level. In total, close to 72,000 donors, 7,670 of which were new, took part in one of the 520 blood drives organized between June 13 and September 4, 2011.

This growth continued into October before leveling off in November. In total, close to 143,000 bags of packed red blood cells were delivered between the months of June and December 2011, a cumulative increase of 3.3% compared to the same period the previous year.

The collective blood supply belongs to all Quebecers. Knowing that the probability of a person needing at least one blood transfusion during their lifetime is more than 50% and that roughly 80,000 patients need blood products to regain their health each year, it is crucial that we maintain the blood supply at a sufficient level.

Thank you to all of you, valued volunteers, donors and partners, for the generosity you have shown! •

To learn more about blood donation, call **1-800-343-7264** or visit Héma-Québec's Web site at www.hema-quebec.qc.ca.



DISTRIBUTION OF BLOOD DRIVES BY SECTOR



Mobile blood drives are the main procurement method, generating 86% of blood donations. They are supplemented by the blood drives conducted with mobile units and the donations collected at the GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres. The chart above illustrates the distribution of all the mobile blood drives by sector.

Plasma, platelets and red blood cells **Custom donations!**



Photo: Marc Couture

Blood is made up of a fluid called plasma in which three types of cells float: red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Each of these components plays a specific role; therefore, when a patient is transfused, he or she doesn't receive whole blood, but rather the component or components that he or she needs.

Almost nine times out of ten, these blood products come from a whole blood donation collected at one of our many mobile blood drives organized throughout the province. But sometimes, people choose to give only plasma, platelets or red blood cells. To do so, they must go to one of the three GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres (see text on page 6). These centres, located in Québec City, Laval and Montréal, are equipped with devices that are specialized in the

selective collection of certain blood components.

Why selective collection?

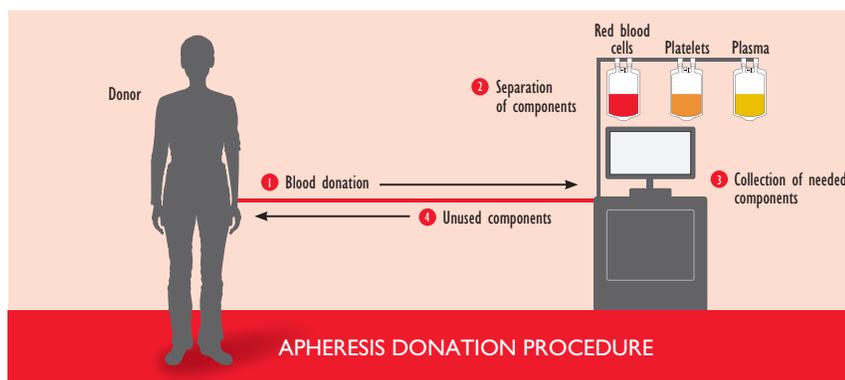
Blood product needs differ from one treatment to another. Platelets, for example, are useful in treating certain cancers, such as leukemia, and are often prescribed after chemotherapy. Plasma, for its part, is effective in treating severe burn victims; while red blood cells are most useful to people undergoing surgery and those suffering from anemia. In sum, it is the patients' medical condition that dictates the need for blood products.

Certain treatments can require a substantial amount of a certain component, and throughout the year, for

various reasons, one blood component can be more in demand than another.

Moreover, each component is present in different quantities in the blood. A bag of whole blood contains approximately 55% plasma, 1% white blood cells and platelets, and 44% red blood cells. Thus, five whole blood donations are needed to obtain the amount of platelets necessary for a transfusion. It is therefore easy to see the advantages of obtaining the required quantity of a product from a single donation.

Another advantage is the number of donations that a person can make. A whole blood donor can give six times per year (every 56 days); while a platelet donor can give up to 24 times (every 14 days) and a plasma donor can do so up to 52 times per year (every 6 days)! •



The process of donation by apheresis involves collecting the blood, separating it into its various components, and keeping only the desired components, returning the others to the donor. In other words, this method makes it possible to collect blood components in a selective manner.

For more information on the different types of donations, visit the Héma-Québec Web site at www.hema-quebec.qc.ca. From the home page, click on **DONATE**, then **Donation Types**.

GLOBULE Centres: 10 years already!

A success story



Photo: Marc Couture

In October 2001, Héma-Québec introduced the all-new concept of permanent blood donation centres, called GLOBULE, in the hopes of diversifying its blood procurement methods and offering better services to donors.

Since then, not only has this initiative provided a pleasant and friendly environment in which to welcome donors, but it has also helped increase the number of donors, the frequency of donations and the types of collections.

The GLOBULE Centres are at the forefront of specialized donations, such as apheresis, double red blood cell and multiple products (see text on page 5), and are, in this sense, complementary to mobile blood drives, which alone generate 86% of blood donations.

In 2010–2011, GLOBULE Centres received an average of 1,500 donors per week and collected over 90,000 products, numbers that have been constantly rising since their creation.

Anniversary dates

The first GLOBULE Centre was established in Place Versailles in Montréal in 2001. It was then renovated and expanded; a second GLOBULE Centre was then opened in 2003, in the Laurier Québec shopping centre, in Sainte-Foy.

Finally, the Héma-Québec facility in Saint-Laurent also housed one for a few years, before it was moved to the Centre Laval in December 2009 to meet donor demand in Laval and the North Shore.

To obtain the contact information for the GLOBULE Centres, go to www.hema-quebec.qc.ca, and click consecutively on **DONATE**, **Where to donate**, and **Globule – Blood Donor Centres**.

Blood donation

More accessible to deaf people

Since October 2011, Héma-Québec has been making blood donation more accessible to deaf people by calling on the services of Québec Sign Language (LSQ) or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

Using a telephone relay system, deaf people can now make an appointment to give blood with Héma-Québec, who will arrange for an interpreter to be present at the time of their appointment. The interpreter accompanies the deaf donor throughout the entire process, from the registration and interview with the nurse to the actual donation and rest time.

Héma-Québec worked in collaboration with the Centre québécois de la déficience auditive and Services régionaux d'interprétariat du Québec to develop this accompaniment procedure.

The Héma-Québec employees who accompany these donors have also received training to better understand the reality of deaf people. ●

Blood donation explained

In addition to improving deaf people's access to blood donation, Héma-Québec, in collaboration with the Fondation des Sourds du Québec (FSQ), provides information messages in LSQ and ASL aimed at informing deaf people about the blood donation process and eligibility criteria. They are available on the Héma-Québec Web site (www.hema-quebec.qc.ca) as well as on that of the FSQ (www.fondationdessourds.net).

Blood donors **remain indispensable**

A few months ago, an article published in *Nature* announced that researcher Mickie Bhatia and his colleagues from McMaster University in Ontario had successfully transformed human skin cells into blood cells. This was news that was well received by Héma-Québec's scientific team. "A great step forward, but we're still nowhere near the day when blood donors will no longer be needed!" said the Vice-President, Medical Affairs–Microbiology at Héma-Québec, Dr. Gilles Delage.

According to this study, a piece of skin measuring four by three centimetres would be enough to obtain the blood needed to perform a transfusion. This is a spectacular genetic and cellular reprogramming! However, it should be noted that the red blood cells created from human skin were injected into mice. It therefore remains to be seen whether the research findings will be confirmed in clinical trials on humans.

Even if these results turn out to be conclusive and the procedures are deemed safe, there will still be other obstacles to overcome, namely production costs and time frames. "In the short term, the technology still needs to be perfected; and in the long term, nothing will ever be less expensive than a blood donation... We can easily figure that in order for a person to receive blood cells from his or her skin, several weeks of work and around

\$50,000 will have to be invested per intervention," estimates cellular engineering scientist at Héma-Québec and adjunct professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at Université Laval, Nicolas Pineault. This means that urgent requests will still have to be handled using blood donations, since the time needed to produce blood cells in the laboratory will simply be too long.

Dr. Delage completely agrees: "Making a few red blood cells from skin is one thing, but making the process efficient enough to produce the 237,000 blood bags needed by patients annually is another. We are far from being able to provide this type of technological solution."

So who could benefit from this finding?

"The ultimate goal of this cellular reprogramming is not to create blood products with a limited lifespan, such as red blood cells or platelets, but to succeed in producing hematopoietic stem cells—the cells from which all the other blood cells develop—which offer an almost unlimited therapeutic potential," explains Pineault.

This breakthrough therefore opens up other prospects, namely for people with leukemia having to turn to an unrelated stem cell donor. Transfusing blood cells from their own skin would prevent

A great step forward, but we're still nowhere near the day when blood donors will no longer be needed!

graft-versus-host disease, a condition that occurs when the donor's cells perceive the recipient's cells as foreign and attack them.

Fifteen years from now, we can even envision cellular reprogramming being used to treat hereditary illnesses, provided that a therapy is first used to correct the defective genes, otherwise unhealthy blood cells would be reproduced. In other words, by combining gene therapy and cellular reprogramming, it would become possible to cure people suffering from sickle-cell anemia or an immune deficiency. "It would be a great achievement!" concludes Pineault. •

Positive outlook for Registry enrollment

The implementation of the mouth swab has had the desired effect. Enrollment in the Stem Cell Donor Registry increased by hundreds following its introduction. In the first eight months of the fiscal year 2011–2012, 2,477 new people signed up, which is 600 more than in the full twelve months of the previous fiscal year. What's more, most of the new registrants are in their twenties.

It should be noted that throughout the world, stem cell donor registries have to contend with lists of registrants aged 50 and over. This is a troubling situation in terms of the next generation not only because donors only remain on these lists until the age of 60, but also because, while there are other factors at play, generally, the younger the donor, the better the chances of survival of the recipient.

Collective challenges

With a view to having a younger average age of registrants in its stem cell donor bank, Héma-Québec revised the “age” criterion for enrollment in the Registry in 2011, changing it from 18–50 years old to 18–35 years old, thus following in the footsteps of Europe, where the maximum enrollment age is already set at 35 years.

Apart from age, there is also the issue of diversity. Very few people from the cultural communities are currently enrolled in the Stem Cell Donor Registry. In order to obtain the desired compatibility for a stem cell transplant, it is important to find a donor that most closely resembles the recipient genetically, which necessarily involves ethnicity. •



Are you enrolled?

Hundreds of patients in Québec and thousands throughout the world count on the Stem Cell Donor Registry to find a compatible donor. For many of them, a stem cell transplant is their last chance to beat a serious illness.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and healthy, you can volunteer to make a donation by enrolling with Héma-Québec's Stem Cell Donor Registry. It simply involves giving a bit of your time and being willing to donate stem cells to any person in need of a transplant.

To sign up, fill out the form available on Héma-Québec's Web site at www.hema-quebec.qc.ca, under the section **Stem Cells**. Once you have completed this step, Héma-Québec will send you a kit by mail for you to complete the mouth swab.

The Public Cord Blood Bank is becoming more diverse

Since the creation of the Public Cord Blood Bank in 2004, Héma-Québec has managed to qualify and make available for transplant more than 6,000 units of cord blood. However, while the cultural communities represent a growing proportion of the Québec population, the units of cord blood in inventory mostly come from White women.

Knowing how important the degree of donor-recipient compatibility is to the success of stem cell transplants, Héma-Québec set out to modify its recruitment strategy in order to increase the number of donations coming from ethnic groups, and, in turn, have a diverse cord blood

bank that adequately meets the needs of all Quebecers.

It is in this perspective that the Public Cord Blood Bank entered into an agreement in April 2011 with Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal (HSCM), where a large percentage of women who deliver are of ethnic origin.

In December 2011, the addition of the cord blood collection program at HSCM coupled with the awareness-raising efforts among future mothers and the obstetrics personnel of partner hospitals had already led to the rate of registration of mothers from the cultural communities jumping from 14% to 20%. •

DARLING,
UMBILICAL CORD
BLOOD DONOR

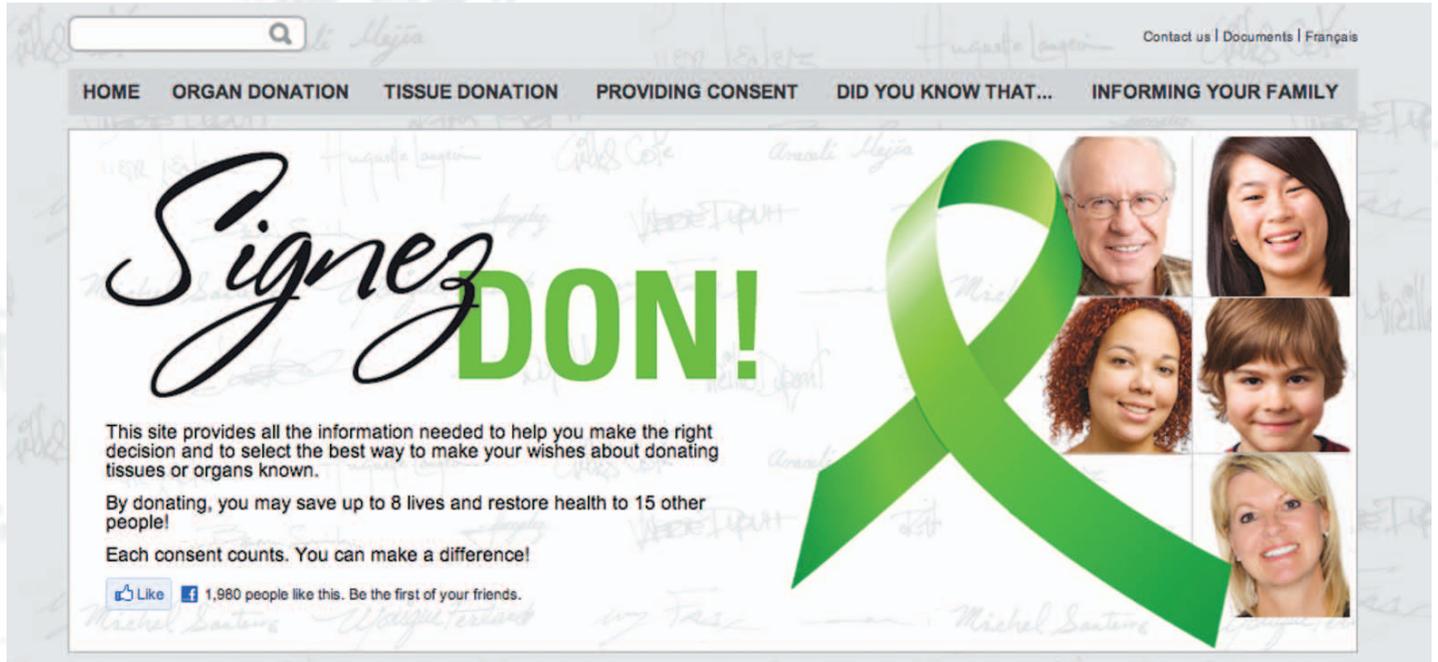
Who can give cord blood?

Only healthy women aged 18 years and older carrying a single baby (no twins) can register with the Public Cord Blood Bank, provided that they do so before the 36th week of pregnancy and are delivering at one of the following hospitals:

- St. Mary's Hospital Centre
- Sainte-Justine Mother and Child University Hospital
- Royal Victoria Hospital
- Québec University Hospital Mother and Child Centre
- Cité-de-la-Santé Hospital
- LaSalle Hospital
- Sacré-Cœur Hospital of Montréal

To obtain the registration form, call **514-832-5000**, ext. **253**
or toll-free **1-800-565-6635**, ext. **253**.

Have you made **your wishes known?**



A year ago, Québec created the *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus*, a centralized database managed by the Régie de

Excellent news: more than 250,000 Quebecers have registered their consent.

l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) that enables Transplant Québec and Héma-Québec to quickly check, at the request of a physician or authorized person, if a person has

given his or her consent to organ and tissue donation. Excellent news: more than 250,000 Quebecers have since registered their consent.

Want to do the same? It's easy! Simply sign the Organ and Tissue Donation Form sent to you in the mail along with your health insurance card renewal notice. You can also order it from the Régie by calling 1-800-561-9749.

There are two other ways to make your wishes known:

- you can sign the *sticker* sent by the RAMQ with the health insurance card renewal and stick it on the back of your card;
- you can register your consent in the *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus* of the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*. •

Visit www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca for more information.

Critical needs

Every year, organ donations allow for an average of around 400 transplants to be performed on people in need of an organ. Unfortunately, the gap between the number of people in need and the number of organs available is ever-increasing. Every year, dozens of people die before undergoing a transplant. At the end of 2011, more than 1,250 patients were waiting for a transplant.

Transplant Québec and Héma-Québec would like to remind you of the importance of registering your consent and, most importantly, informing your loved ones of your decision. Every consent counts, especially given that only 1% of deaths allow for the option of organ donation.

Shorter wait time for corneal transplants

JOSÉE, MOTHER
OF LAÉLA, CORNEA
TRANSPLANT
RECIPIENT



Photo: Marc Couture

The partnership agreement concluded in 2009 between the Québec Eye Bank and Héma-Québec has truly produced results.

The waiting list for Quebecers in need of a corneal transplant was reduced by more than a quarter in 2011. More specifically, the number of people waiting for a corneal transplant dropped from 730 to 536 in one year, an achievement that was made possible thanks to a new approach to supplying corneas.

“The partnership agreement concluded in 2009 between the Québec Eye Bank and

Héma-Québec has truly produced results. Héma-Québec’s intervention has made it possible to better respond to the needs of patients waiting for a corneal transplant,” said Dr. Michèle Mabon, ophthalmologist at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital.

“These figures are very encouraging, first and foremost for the people who need a corneal transplant. They show that Héma-Québec’s contribution in this area is having a real impact, and it’s a wonderful way for us to mark our ten years in human tissues,” added Dr. Jean De Serres, President and CEO of Héma-Québec.

Héma-Québec has been responsible for donor qualification, eyeball collection and the regulatory framework governing these activities for three years. It also assigns corneas to surgeons. It assumes this mandate as a result of a partnership agreement concluded with Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital for the management of the Québec Eye Bank in Montréal. In January, a similar partnership agreement was reached in the Québec City region with the

Centre hospitalier *affilié* universitaire de Québec (CHA).

Better known for its role in managing the collective blood supply of Quebecers, Héma-Québec has also been acting as the supplier of human tissues for transplantation since December 2001. In addition to the collection of eyeballs for use in corneal transplantation, the organization makes available to hospitals skin grafts, heart valves and musculoskeletal tissues, such as tendons and bones.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Yves Bolduc, expressed his great satisfaction with the efforts deployed and the results obtained by Héma-Québec. “Once again, it has demonstrated its technical competence and sense of organization, to the benefit of clinicians and patients. Héma-Québec deserves our complete trust for its remarkable work in both tissue transplantation and the blood supply.” •

What was **your first time like?**

NIRVAIR

DOES IT **TWICE** RATHER THAN **ONCE**



To watch the video: www.hema-quebec.qc.ca



Before giving blood for the first time, it's normal to ask yourself questions or to be scared: of the needle, of contracting an illness, of not being able to go through with it or, quite simply, not having the time. But what is it really like? Héma-Québec met with 18–39 year-olds to get their version of the facts and shares their stories with you on its Web site, under the *Videos* section.

These short videos are the result of an awareness campaign launched in social media networks between the months of November 2011 and February 2012. They depict donors overcoming their fears or wor-

king toward doing so and are aimed at dispelling any fears related to blood donation.

For example, you will see Nirvair, who shares her first experience, and Guillaume, who has made a commitment to donate blood for the first time this year even though, according to him, he's a bit of a "wimp." With his engaging and friendly personality, he challenges the audience by asking: "Are you up to the challenge?"

Héma-Québec would like to thank Desjardins and the Héma-Québec Foundation for funding this campaign. •

Scan this code with your smart phone to access the video.



Portrait of donors

Sixty-two percent of blood donors are over 40 years old. Recruitment of young blood donors is therefore a major challenge for Héma-Québec, which must also cope with a stagnating number of donations per person.

To reach and retain 18–29 year-olds, Héma-Québec ensures a regular presence in cegeps and universities. In doing so, it has managed to increase their presence in the

collective blood supply over the past few years. Close to 25% of blood donors are in this age range today, whereas only 17% were in 2005.

While Héma-Québec is scoring points among youth on campus, it is struggling to retain them once they have entered the workforce. Those aged between 30 and 39 years old only represent 13% of blood donors.

New TV ads

Recipients say “thank you”

Martin, Marilyne, Ludovic, Lucas and Uzema – all recipients of blood products – are the new stars of Héma-Québec’s TV ad campaign. In five 30-second spots, they share their experiences to show the important role blood products play in the lives of those who are ill.

These ads are a departure from last year’s ads, which focused on the donors. In an effort to raise public awareness of the importance of donating blood, Héma-Québec is shining the spotlight this time on the individuals at the heart of its mission: the recipients.

The images were shot in flashback mode, reminiscent of home movie segments. The frame moves and the picture is a little fuzzy to create an authentic look. •

Scan this code with your smart phone to access the *Videos* section of Héma-Québec’s Web site.



Below is an overview of the ad campaign:

Lucas

“I love the theatre more than anything else in the world. I’ve always liked to act and I love being on stage. That’s why I decided to study acting.

Seven years ago, I found out that I had cancer. I received dozens and dozens of blood transfusions over almost two years.

It’s so simple and important to give blood. I learned that a long time ago. Thank you for donating and please continue to give.”



Uzema

“I have thalassemia, which is a serious form of anemia. And so I need a blood transfusion every three weeks.

I love Indian and Middle Eastern dance. My passions are writing and cooking. I love literature as much as I do roller coaster. But more than anything else, I like being with my family and friends.

I receive a lot of blood transfusions, and often think of the generosity of the donors. Because of them, I am able to live a normal life. Thank you for giving.”



Ludovic

“Ludovic has sickle-cell anemia. He needs blood transfusions to stay healthy.

He is an ordinary little boy who loves soccer, golf and all kinds of sports. He also likes to play with his friends and even to play tricks on his parents.

Because blood transfusions are an important part of our son’s life, we often think of all the generous donors. Thank you for giving.”





Photo: Florentina Costache

Do you know your blood type?

It is with this question that the members of the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers (ABDV) attract visitors to their information stands set-up most often in shopping centres or other public places where events are held, but sometimes also in cegeps and universities or near various blood drive locations.

In addition to handing out pamphlets and answering visitors' questions, the volunteers allow people to find out their blood type through a free test performed on site in a few minutes.

"More than four Quebecers out of ten do not know their blood group. By informing them, we hope to raise their

awareness about the importance of giving blood," says Florentina Costache, Director of Operations, ABDV.

These stands are an accessible and educational communication medium, implemented to help the public better understand the world of blood. Recall that 1,000 blood donations are needed per day to maintain the collective blood supply in Québec at a sufficient level.

Over the past 10 months, the Association has set-up over 60 stands throughout Québec and reached more than 3,000 people. •

Eurêka Festival

The participation of ABDV volunteers in the "Eureka—Science here, there and everywhere!" festival in the Old Port of Montréal in June 2011 turned out to be a huge success.

During the three days of the festival, more than 620 people visited the ABDV stand to find out their blood type and close to 450 children had fun while learning about blood during workshops modeled on the BLOOD RED! educational kit.

DONORS

	0-	0+	B-	B+	A-	A+	AB-	AB+
AB+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AB-	•		•		•		•	
A+	•	•			•	•		
A-	•				•			
B+	•	•	•	•				
B-	•		•					
0+	•	•						
0-	•							

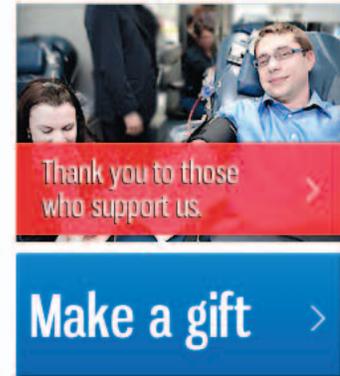
RECIPIENTS

Blood Types

There are eight blood types in all. Group O- is a universal donor and group AB+ is a universal recipient. Conversely, group O- can only receive blood from the same group.

Before performing a transfusion, compatibility must be ensured between the donor's blood type and that of the recipient, otherwise the patient's condition may be aggravated. Compatibility tests are therefore carried out at the hospital before each transfusion.

For more information on these stands, call 514-832-5000, ext. 223 or write to florentina.costache@hema-quebec.qc.ca.



New Web site for the Héma-Québec Foundation

Have you noticed? The Héma-Québec Foundation has completely revamped its Web site! Not only has it been updated from a technical and visual standpoint but, most importantly, it is now better adapted to the needs of donors.

The purpose of the new portal is to optimize browsing as well as facilitate the online donation process. Not only does the Foundation team update the content of the Web site much more frequently, but it also provides four online donation forms, making it easier and more secure

than ever to donate and choose where your gifts will go.

The Héma-Québec Foundation has also implemented a monthly donation program. This option, which can be accessed from the *Make a gift* section, provides the advantage of allowing you to plan your donations. Moreover, as a monthly donor, you benefit from the option of paying through pre-authorized bank debits.

Lastly, the new Web interface provides access to all of the content generated by the Héma-Québec Foundation. You will

therefore find information on its various donation programs and the projects funded through your support; a calendar of benefit events that may interest you; a page dedicated to the numerous donors; its annual reports; a link to its Facebook page; and much more! Keen observers may have already noticed its new slogan: *Give life. Differently.* By all accounts, the Web site—fondation.hema-quebec.qc.ca—is increasingly becoming an essential tool for the friends of the Foundation! •

A ball to save lives!

The Héma-Québec Foundation benefit evening is back! This year, the *Celebration of Life* organizing committee is inviting you to attend a grand urban ball: on Thursday October 25, at 6:00 p.m., at L’Arsenal, located at 2020 William Street, in the Griffintown district of Montréal.

This fundraising evening is a unique opportunity to experience an event like no other while contributing to saving lives! All of the profits generated by this evening will go towards the cellular and tissue therapy project.

The cost is \$500 per person. For more information or to reserve your ticket, write to: josee.perrier@hema-quebec.qc.ca.

The mission of the Héma-Québec Foundation is to provide financial support for the creation and development of innovative projects that will help to keep Héma-Québec at the forefront of knowledge and services in all its areas of activity and expertise, allowing them to do more, do it better and do it faster.



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