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DATRI CONNECT

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
- NOVEMBER 2023**



MANAGEMENT DESK

Dear Volunteers

Greetings from DATRI!

We are thrilled to reconnect with you through this newsletter and share the incredible milestones of our impactful journey. As we approach December 5, the International Volunteers Day, we celebrate the profound influence of volunteers in driving social change and transformation. Your unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in advancing our lifesaving mission.

In this edition, we are delighted to feature inspiring stories from fellow volunteers, showcasing their experiences and insights. One such story highlights the transformative power of volunteers in effecting positive change.

Meet Ramesh Subrahmanian, a dedicated DATRI volunteer, whose personal transplant experience has deepened his understanding of the challenges associated with finding an unrelated donor. Discover how Ramesh's journey inspired him to champion the cause of DATRI, making a significant impact on people's lives. Additionally, hear from Sai about his passion for volunteering and his advocacy efforts to promote blood stem cell donation.

Exciting opportunities await our volunteers! We are thrilled to introduce "Paramarsh," a pioneering pilot project from DATRI where volunteers play a pivotal role in counseling potential donors. Additionally, we invite volunteers to participate in pitching for DATRI at the Tata Mumbai Marathon scheduled for January 21, 2024.

As we eagerly welcome another year, we extend heartfelt wishes to all our volunteers for a joyous and fulfilling New Year!

Thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Claudia Rutt
Chief Financial Officer

Farzana Nasreen Ahmed
Manager- Volunteer Management



“A VOLUNTEER’S PERSONAL JOURNEY- THE NEED FOR BONE MARROW DONORS ”

Every year on December 5th, the global community comes together to celebrate International Volunteer Day, a dedicated occasion to acknowledge the selfless contributions of volunteers and their profound impact on communities worldwide.

At the core of volunteering lies the spirit of collaboration, uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds to address shared challenges and pursue common goals. It is a testament to the power of human connection, where individual efforts converge into a collective force for social transformation.

In India, volunteering boasts of a rich tradition deeply embedded in the country's cultural ethos of service and compassion. From grassroots organizations to large-scale initiatives, volunteers constitute the backbone of countless endeavors, tackling issues ranging from education and healthcare to environmental conservation and disaster relief. Many volunteers who have been with DATRI, share that volunteering is way to give back something to society. “The journey with DATRI has been filled with opportunities to learn, grow and give back. This cause holds a special place in my heart”, says Nishkanya Nagarajan.



Farzana Nasreen Ahmed
Manager- Volunteer Management

The impact of volunteering in India is undeniable. It empowers marginalized communities, promotes social inclusion, and contributes to the nation's overall development. Every act of volunteering, regardless of its scale, holds the potential to make a significant difference. Whether it involves teaching a child to read, assisting the elderly, or participating in community clean-up drives, volunteers are the silent catalysts behind positive change. Aditi Shedge, a volunteer with DATRI echoes this viewpoint, “The desire to seek my passion has brought me here; I aspire to be an individual contributing to society in every possible way through myself.”

On this International Volunteer Day, let us celebrate the extraordinary contributions of volunteers worldwide. May their dedication inspire us to join the ranks of those who give back, working towards making our communities more resilient, prosperous, and just. Together, we can create a world where volunteering is not just a day but a way of life.

Call to Volunteers: Join us in this Lifesaving Mission

On this International Volunteer Day, we extend a heartfelt call to volunteers to join us in this lifesaving mission. Your time, energy, and compassion can make a profound difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families. Together, we can save lives.

Here are specific ways you can volunteer for DATRI:

- **Register as a stem cell donor:** Take the first step by registering as a stem cell donor, either online or at a DATRI donor registration drive.
- **Organize a donor registration drive:** Gather your friends, family, or colleagues and organize a donor registration drive in your community.
- **Spread awareness on social media:** Utilize your social media platforms to share information about stem cell donation and DATRI. Use relevant hashtags to reach a wider audience.
- **Volunteer your skills and expertise:** If you possess specific skills, such as graphic designing, writing, or event planning, volunteer your expertise to support DATRI's initiatives.
- **Make a financial contribution:** Every donation, regardless of size, can help DATRI continue its life-saving work. You can contribute online or through fundraising events.



Together, we can make a significant impact in the fight against cancer.



"VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RAMESH SUBRAHMANIAN'S INSPIRING JOURNEY IN CHAMPIONING BLOOD STEM CELL DONATION IN INDIA"

"Life granted me a second chance, and I was determined to make the most of it by helping to raise awareness about blood stem cell donations in India and globally," says Ramesh Subrahmanian, Global Health Professional who is an Indian based in Singapore and a volunteer for DATRI.

Ramesh's journey with DATRI began after his diagnosis of lymphoma and subsequent stem cell transplant in 2019. Unaware of the challenges associated with finding a blood stem cell donor, he considers himself extremely fortunate. His doctor informed him that, in a global database of approximately 38 million registered donors, he had just one matching Indian donor. Luckily, the donor was both willing and healthy to donate his blood stem cells, turning the situation into what Ramesh describes as a "triple lottery."



Post-transplant, when Ramesh was back to full health, he felt compelled to give back for the miraculous gift he had received. Recognizing the need for support in India, he connected with DATRI, which is India's largest registry. Spending time with the organization, he learned about its mission and saw the opportunity to contribute.

"I am willing to be a spokesperson, an advocate, a fundraiser, and help DATRI in any small way as a volunteer," shares Ramesh. He has contributed generously to DATRI and shared his connections who can help DATRI in various areas of work.

Understanding the crucial role volunteers play in organizations like DATRI, Ramesh emphasizes their responsibility in creating awareness about blood stem cell donation. Increased awareness, he believes, leads to the recruitment of committed donors.

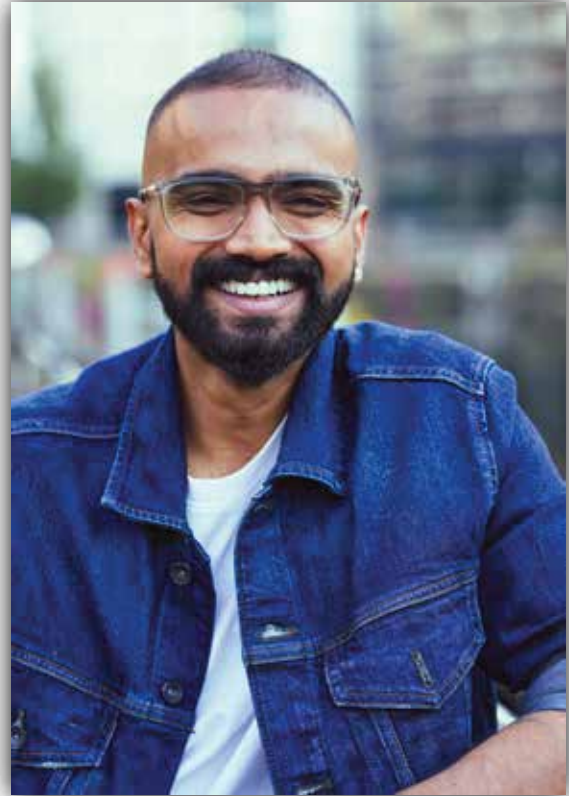
As the world celebrates International Volunteers Day on December 5, Ramesh echoes the theme of collective action. He believes that if everyone volunteers, the world would undoubtedly be a better place. "I am just adding a small bit to volunteering and hope I can help make a difference in the lives of those battling blood cancer and disorders."



A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY: ADVOCATING FOR BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS WITH DATRI

Sai Prasad works with Comcast, London and as a DATRI volunteer has been raising awareness on blood stem cell donation.

Over the past five years, my association with DATRI has been nothing short of transformative. What initially began as a short stint into volunteering to raise awareness about the critical importance of bone marrow transplants evolved into a profound journey that reshaped not only my perspective but also my identity. The pivotal moment that ignited this transformation occurred when I witnessed the poignant sight of a child celebrating her birthday within the confines of a hospital. This experience etched in my memory fueled a deep-seated commitment to understanding about bone marrow transplants and the profound impact they could have on the lives of those battling blood cancer and disorders.



Our identities are shaped by the choices we make and the experiences we accumulate. To effectively advocate for bone marrow donations, I took it upon myself to delve into the nuances of these transplants and the related ailments. While my initial focus was on garnering donor registrations, a realization dawned upon me: it was equally crucial to convey the 'why' behind bone marrow donations, elucidating how this act could be a beacon of hope, literally saving lives. The journey of advocacy commenced on an intimate scale, starting with heartfelt conversations with friends and family and gradually extending its reach to the professional sphere, using the power of storytelling.

Volunteering with DATRI has been a profound source of personal growth. Beyond the statistical accomplishments, it became a journey of conquering personal fears. The fear of speaking in public was replaced with confidence as I found my voice advocating for a cause that had become deeply personal. This journey reached new heights when I went to the UK for my Master's. Delivering my first presentation about bone marrow awareness at my workplace was more than a professional achievement; it was a rekindling of the fire that initially sparked my passion for volunteering.

The philosophy that 'lifting others up is the key to personal elevation' became more than a belief; it became a guiding principle. As I extend a heartfelt invitation for others to join DATRI's volunteering family, I emphasize the essence of collaboration needed to address the urgent needs of children patiently awaiting donors. In the profound words of John Lennon, "Life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans." This poignant reminder encapsulates the unpredictable nature of life and underscores the urgency to make a positive impact whenever and wherever we can.

Thank you for being a part of my journey. My hope is that this narrative resonates with you and inspires you to join the cause, contributing to the noble mission of saving lives through bone marrow transplants.



A JOURNEY OF IMPACT AND CONNECTION: MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE WITH DATRI

Since June 2022, I have actively participated in the noble mission of DATRI. Little did I know that this journey would not only provide me with invaluable insights into my studies but also introduce me to a community that has become a source of inspiration and fulfillment.

Contributing in a small yet meaningful way to a cause that transcends backgrounds and unites people brings me a deep sense of contentment. It goes beyond the academic realm; it's about connecting with humanity and making a difference.

Having participated in various drives, I have witnessed the transformative power of collective efforts. Looking ahead, I aspire to organize a donation drive with my college friends who are also dedicated volunteers at DATRI.



Priyadarshini
Volunteer

DATRI Blood Stem Cell Donors Registry

A recent highlight in my DATRI journey was the participation in the Terry Fox Run. Along with DATRI staff and volunteers I had to engage and convince people to register as donors. Our collective efforts resulted in a remarkable number of registrations. We took the opportunity to

educate participants about blood stem cell donation. The excitement and awareness generated during the event were palpable, making the experience truly unforgettable.

Beyond events, working with DATRI has been both professionally enriching and personally transformative. It has pushed me to break social boundaries, fostering meaningful interactions that extend beyond the confines of my academic pursuits.

I encourage others to consider joining DATRI for the heartwarming and enjoyable volunteering experience it offers. The sense of fulfillment derived from being part of a community dedicated to a noble cause is unparalleled.



JOIN US AT TATA MUMBAI MARATHON 2024 FOR LIFE-SAVING IMPACT!"

RUN FOR A CAUSE

Step forward to support patients suffering from life-threatening blood disorders and gift a life.

SCAN TO DONATE ▶

Contact:
Farzana Nasreen
DATRI Blood Stem Cell Donors Registry
+91 99620 48418 | farzana.a@datri.org

We are thrilled to announce that DATRI will be participating in the prestigious Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024, scheduled for January 21, 2024. The Tata Mumbai Marathon stands as one of the world's premier marathons, providing individuals with a unique platform to run and raise funds for meaningful causes. DATRI volunteers have played a crucial role in past TMM Marathons, contributing to fundraising efforts for our organization.

This is a call to all our dedicated volunteers who share a deep passion for being part of DATRI's life-saving mission. We invite you to participate in the Tata Mumbai Marathon, where you can make a significant impact by raising funds and spreading awareness about blood stem cell donation.

For more information about the TMM fundraising platform, please reach out to us at volunteering@datri.org.

We're counting on your support to make this initiative a success!



NUMBERS THAT MATTER

(From April 2023 to Nov 2023)

Total Active
Volunteers

265



Total Donor
Registrations

17,626



Total Fundraising
Rs. 30,29,024



Total Stem Cell
Donations

130

