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AVERA TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE

Avera 
Transplant Institute

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**Avera
Bone Marrow
Transplant
Program Earns
Re-accreditation**

The Avera Transplant Institute’s Bone Marrow Transplant Program has been awarded renewed accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) for demonstrating compliance with the FACT-JACIE International Standards for the full scope of bone marrow transplant programming. One of 183 FACT-accredited bone marrow transplant centers in the nation, this represents Avera’s third three-year accreditation for autologous (own cells) transplant, and the second three-year accreditation for allogeneic (donor cells) transplantation.

“Accreditation is an important industry standard. It demonstrates our continued competency in transplant services, and also gives patients under our care assurance that their transplant center is on par with other centers nationally,” said Dr. Kelly McCaul, Board-Certified Hematologist with Avera Medical Group Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant. “This accreditation means that our bone marrow transplant program is nationally and internationally recognized as providing the same high standard of care that is offered anywhere else. Other bone marrow transplant programs, even at larger institutions, cannot score any higher than we have, and so it’s full assurance that patients can receive the same level of care closer to home.”

Avera believes FACT Accreditation will make patients aware that our facility strives to achieve the highest quality care for cellular therapy programs.

Golf Benefit for Compassion in Action

On September 14th, a golf benefit for Compassion in Action was held at Spring Creek Country Club, where over 100 golfers participated in the event. The Avera Transplant team was on hand to answer questions about becoming a bone marrow donor, as well as helping golfers get registered to be on the National Marrow Donor registry (Bethematch.org). Rod Lamfers was instrumental in getting this event organized and encouraged the golfers to sign up to be on the registry, since it was through this database that he found his donor. We are happy to report we had over 30 golfers sign up to be on the registry that day. Each person who signs up has the power to help and the power to give hope. The more people who join the 'Be the Match' community, the more patients we can help battle their disease.

Two families who were affected by Leukemia were instrumental in starting Compassion in Action and have now teamed up with the Avera McKennan Foundation. It was created to raise funds to support patients and families awaiting a bone marrow transplant with financial expenses.



ANNUAL REUNION PICNIC HELD

In September, the Bone Marrow Transplant program held its annual reunion picnic at McKennan Park. Though rain clouds darkened the skies, the sun did come out so that the patients and families could gather for an evening of socializing with new friends and get reacquainted with others they have known for years. Post and pre-transplant patients were encouraged to join the event. Attending families came from as far away as Sioux City and Presho, SD. Some of the guests were transplanted recently, while others had celebrated their 9th anniversary as a transplant recipient. Carol Rogers, Art Therapist from Avera McKennan, attended and helped guests make key chains, bracelets and necklaces, which they could take home. The picnic is held each year to kick off the start of the Bone Marrow Transplant Support Group which meets at the Prairie Center, the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Mandatory and Research Reporting for Bone Marrow Transplant

As a transplant patient, how can you help advance science? Your information is a significant part of the data we collect to learn more about transplant. The program obtains this information by looking in your chart and talking to your doctor, but your privacy is maintained by using a number instead of your name when reporting this information. If you move or change physicians, it is important to let us know so we can keep up with how you are doing. You can give this information to your transplant physician or call the Program Offices toll free at (866) 686-1062 and let us know how you or your physician can be contacted.

An organization called the Center for International Bone Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) collaborates with the global scientific community to advance hematopoietic cell transplantation and cellular therapy research worldwide. A combined research program of the National Marrow Donor Program® and the Medical College of Wisconsin, CIBMTR facilitates critical research that has led to increased survival and an enriched quality of life for thousands of patients. The prospective and observational research is accomplished through scientific and statistical expertise, a large network of transplant centers and a clinical database of 340,000 transplant recipients.

CIBMTR holds the contract for the Stem Cell Therapeutic Outcomes Database (SCTOD), awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The SCTOD is part of the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, authorized by the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-129).

As the contract holder, the CIBMTR is charged with collecting data on all allogeneic (related and unrelated) hematopoietic cell transplantations (HCTs) performed in the United States, and on all HCTs done with products procured through the program but performed outside of the United States.

The SCTOD database allows analysis of program use, center-specific outcomes, size of donor registry and cord blood inventory, and patient access to HCT.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.marrow.org

www.bmtinfonet.org

www.explorebmt.org

<http://bloodcell.transplant.hrsa.gov>

www.INSPIREforsurvivors.org

Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Patients and Flu Shots

Twelve months after transplant, most patients must receive all of the childhood vaccinations. The year gives the new immune system time to develop. The flu shot is the exception, however, and should be obtained at least 6 months after transplant and annually thereafter for the life of the patient. Transplant patients should only receive inactivated influenza vaccine. Check with your transplant doctor and then make sure you have your flu shot!

Class Offerings at the Avera Cancer Institute

• **BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP**

Group for individuals, and their caregivers, who have gone through or may be undergoing a transplant.

2nd Thursday, September through May, 5:30–7 p.m.

At the Prairie Center • **Call (605) 322-3000 or (800) 657-4377.**

Scheduled guests and topics:

- March 10, 2011 — Transplant Physician or Nurse Practitioner
- April 14, 2011 — Marcia Jones from Integrative Medicine
- May 12, 2011 — Fatigue

• **MASSAGE THERAPY**

Services and Fees:

- 15 minute massage each Monday, 2-4 p.m.
by Teri Drymalski, LMT • NO COST
- Full Body Massage: 30 minute – \$45, 60 minute – \$65.

Located within the Care Store on the first floor of the Prairie Center.

Call (605) 322-8470 for an appointment.

• **NUTRITION CLASSES AND CONSULTATIONS**

Learn to maximize your nutrition and discover ways to manage side effects of treatments.

Individual Nutrition Consults available by calling (605) 322-7929.

At the Prairie Center

• **LOOK GOOD...FEEL BETTER**

A class for women that deals with the outward side effects of chemotherapy and radiation on hair and skin.

2nd Tuesday from 1–3 p.m.

4th Wednesday from 4–6 p.m.

At the Prairie Center

• **A TIME TO HEAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

12-week education and support program for individuals who have undergone cancer treatment. Two programs are offered in the Spring and Fall. A Time to Heal for All Cancers is designed to meet the needs of men and women who have gone through treatment for any form of cancer. This group also encourages participation of a caregiver.

Call a Social Worker for details: (605) 322-3000 or (800) 657-4377

• **CLIMB®...CHILDREN'S LIVES INCLUDE MOMENTS OF BRAVERY**

A unique 6-week education and support program for children ages 5-12 who have a parent, grandparent or loved one who is newly diagnosed with cancer.

For additional information, call Melanie at (605) 322-3000 or (800) 657-4377

• **TO BE WELL WITH DR. KELLY McCAUL**

This educational session is held monthly at Caribou Coffee. Discussion focuses on one of the following topics each month; Lymphoma, Leukemia, Myelodysplastic Syndrome or Multiple Myeloma

Call Ask A Nurse to sign up, 1-800-AT-AVERA.

- Coming soon will be Glenda Baker on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. leading breathing exercises and Qi-Gong in the infusion centers.

Avera Transplant Program Highlights

- The Avera Transplant Team received a grant from the Avera Foundation and now provides “Journey Totes” to our patients. These bags contain various items that can be of use during the transplantation process, such as a thermometer and a water bottle. It is also useful to help organize appointment information and educational material for our patients.
- The program staff moved with the Avera Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Clinic to the Prairie Center building. A private, comfortable room is now reserved for patient education and consent meetings. The room also has a big screen TV and laptop computer to make presenting the materials easier for both the transplant coordinator and the patient and family. Thanks to those who came to the Prairie Center Open House to see our new space!
- The Avera Transplant Team provided a meal for the current residents of the Walsh Family Village in December as part of the Avera mission.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Sarah Schuster, RN

Transplant Coordinator

Sarah Schuster is a full time transplant coordinator. She is a RN with oncology certification and experience working with transplant patients as a hospital nurse. Her job involves organization of the many things that take place to make a transplant happen. She is the first link to the patient and also keeps a close eye on things to assist the physician. She also visits with the transplant patients following transplant. Sarah is a busy wife and mother with one young son. When not at work, she and her family enjoy boating and camping.

CONTACTS at the Avera Transplant Institute

Avera Transplant Institute

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More Information

For more information about the Avera Transplant Institute and to view Medical Minutes and interviews with patients and physicians, go to **www.AveraTransplant.org**.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED