



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Delete Blood Cancer DKMS Group Reaches Six Million Donor Registrants**  
*High School Student Sets a Record as She Swabs in an Effort to Save a Life*

**New York, NY February 5, 2016** – The Delete Blood Cancer DKMS Group announced today that it reached a new milestone in the number of overall registered donors last week. Miriam Mata, an 18-year-old high school student from Pompano Beach, Florida, who registered online, became the six millionth person to register as a potential bone marrow donor with the Delete Blood Cancer DKMS Group since its inception. This remarkable accomplishment, symbolizing the support for blood cancer patients around the globe, was set in motion by a simple act: Miriam heard an ad about becoming a bone marrow donor while listening to music on Spotify. Encouraged by the 30 second spot, Miriam decided to go online at [www.DeleteBloodCancer.org](http://www.DeleteBloodCancer.org) and register that day. While there continue to be thousands of registration events held across the globe each year, online registrations have come to account for almost half of all registrations.

With over 50% of U.S. patients in need of a bone marrow transplant unable to find their perfect match within the national/international donor pool, a global approach towards registrations is a necessary course of action. Due to effective donor recruitment activities and largescale awareness campaigns, the DKMS family is proud to have registered more than one million potential donors across the globe in 2015 and looks to expand upon this success in 2016.

"Because of our global efforts in recruiting donors worldwide, we are proud to announce our six millionth donor today," says Sandra Bothur, COO DKMS German bone marrow donor center. "Every single registration takes us a little closer to our vision: to delete blood cancer."

Every 35 seconds someone in the world is diagnosed with a form of blood cancer and this critical issue must be addressed with an approach that transcends borders. The HLA characteristics, the defining factors used to match donors to patients, are genetic and differ by region; therefore a global approach towards donor recruitment is necessary. This need is particularly significant in the United States, where the majority of the population's genetic roots reach across the globe. From 2005 until 2014, more than 13,000 patients in the U.S. were treated with stem cell transplants from abroad, accounting for over a third of all transplants facilitated in the country and underscoring the importance of international cooperation.

As for what the record-setting donor thinks about the potential impact of her actions, it comes back to what she believes is the obvious response. "If you have the opportunity to save someone's life, anywhere in the world, why not?" Miriam asks. "It's someone's daughter, friend, dad, and you could be the difference for them. That's the best feeling in the world!"

To learn about local drives in your community or to sign up to receive a registration packet in the mail visit Delete Blood Cancer's website, [www.DeleteBloodCancer.org](http://www.DeleteBloodCancer.org). Registration only takes a few minutes and involves filling out a form and swabbing the inside of the cheeks. If you cannot



become a donor you can still help by providing a financial gift to Delete Blood Cancer DKMS to support its mission to eradicate blood cancer.

**About Delete Blood Cancer | DKMS**

Delete Blood Cancer DKMS US is part of the international DKMS Group of donor centers. Our mission is to build the number of suitable bone marrow and stem cell donors, because we believe that no life should be lost due to an inability to find a donor match. We have registered more than 6 million potential donors and helped to facilitate more than 54,000 transplants around the world. But we're not stopping there. We lead the fight against blood cancer by working with families, communities and organizations to recruit donors and provide more patients with second chances at life.

For more information or to register as a bone marrow donor, please visit [DeleteBloodCancer.org](http://DeleteBloodCancer.org).

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