

**DONORS GIVING LIFE**

I was very pleased to read the touching article about Jim and Pernel McGuire and Jim's liver transplant. It is wonderful to see such love between brothers. I, too, am a transplant survivor, but did not and still do not know my donor.

In August 2004, I went to my doctor for a routine physical. My red blood cell count was extremely low and my doctor ordered a battery of tests. After several weeks of testing and a visit to a hematologist, I was diagnosed with a rare bone marrow disease called myelofibrosis-a, in

donor is identified, there are two methods for "harvesting" marrow. The older method is to actually remove marrow product from the donor in a surgical procedure. The newer method is to extract stem cells from the blood system after several days of injections to stimulate stem cell production. The stem cells are separated from the

blood and transplanted to the patient through transfusion. It is a relatively painless process for the donor and can save a life. It is far less invasive to the donor and is done on an out patient basis. It has certainly saved mine.

I hope that many of you will consider becoming donors.

—Lawrence D. Hirsch



James McGuire's application for life insurance got rejected. And for that he will always be grateful.

donating life

NO NAME-CALLING

I often disagree with Roxie Bacon's beliefs but her attacks in her opinion page in the July–August issue of the ARIZONA ATTORNEY hit an ironic nerve. When I received the issue, I had just sent in

my newspaper column, which this month stated regrettably that modern debate often degenerated into name calling and that dissent is very valuable. (In fact, dissent is why we have the Bill of Rights.)

Her article focused on the defeat of legislation that would have established "three international schools" in Arizona. After stating reasons why it should have passed, she personally attacked three legislators who were opposed to it rather than address any concerns they may have had. I know two of the three elected officials she listed and they are not, as she implied, xenophobic simpletons.

Calling people names like "myopic" or "ignorant, frightened and regressive," may be personally satisfying; but it does little to advance serious debate. It also has no place in a professional journal.

—Gerald A. Williams
Glendale

which fibrose material builds up in the marrow, stopping the normal production of healthy red blood cells. There is, unfortunately, no drug that will cure or treat the disease. I was able to get some symptomatic relief by taking thalidomide and prednisone, although my red cell count continued to be low—no higher than 60 percent of normal.

My wife, Iva, and I visited the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance in December 2006. The SCCA is part of the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center ("the Hutch") and is respected worldwide for its work in bone marrow transplants. We decided to go ahead with the transplant in February 2007 and came to Seattle in early April. A successful stem cell transplant would cure my disease. An anonymous, third-party donor was found who was a "perfect match" for me. I went into the hospital on May 7, was transplanted on May 15 and was released from the hospital on June 6. I have been in Seattle under treatment ever since. We have been told we can return to Phoenix and will be coming home soon.

Unlike Jim McGuire, I do not know the identity of my donor. I may never know. Iva and I will remain eternally grateful for his act of generosity. We have learned a great deal about bone marrow transplants and the process which a donor must undergo in order to donate. It starts with a simple cheek swab so certain DNA screening can be done. A donor undergoes blood testing if a match is possible. Once a potential

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