



April 28, 2010

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS
405 HILGARD AVE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1405

Dear UCLA Students,

I am taking the unusual step of contacting you in support of a specific special interest program because this appears to be an opportunity to provide a bit of education to the general campus on an issue that is under-publicized, yet of substantial significance to many of people.

The group Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) will be holding a drive to register potential bone marrow donors next week, May 5 – 7, during Bruin Health Week. The group's campaign has a dual aim. One is to educate members of the campus community about the issue of bone marrow donations, the critical use of bone marrow transplants in some courses of cancer treatment, and to register anyone interested in becoming a potential donor. The second aim hits much closer to home. The group will be attempting to find donors who can donate specifically for the benefit of a Bruin named Janet Liang who is currently battling leukemia through multiple rounds of chemotherapy. A3M provides a compelling picture of this young woman:

Although she has suffered through multiple rounds of chemotherapy, adjusted to a complete new self image without her lovely locks of hair, faced isolation due to her compromised immune system, she still maintains her optimism, humanitarianism and good nature. She started a grassroots movement and writes about her experiences in her blog (<http://www.janetgliang.com/>) and maintains a website (<http://www.helpingjanet.com/>) to help other cancer patients like her and to spread the word and educate the public about the need for more marrow donors.

I am told that Janet's only hope for a true cure is through a bone marrow transplant, and this process requires a very specific matching process of donor to recipient, with ethnicity being a critical factor. The reason I agreed to write this letter is that, given the importance of ethnicity in finding these matches, I feel it is important for our students, faculty, and staff to be aware that only 8 million individuals are registered bone marrow donors, and that the need for registered potential donors among members of any minority population, especially of Chinese ancestry, is critical.

Completing a bone marrow donation now is a much simpler proposition, so I hope you will consider registering as a potential donor, and if it helps to put a face on someone who might be helped, please think of Janet Liang.

With warmest regards,

Janina Montero
Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs