

Race matters for stem cell transplants

If you become ill with a blood cancer or other disease that requires a stem cell transplant, here's an uncomfortable fact: Your race matters. Diversity is a strength in much of life, but it's a curse when finding a stem cell donor match.

For a successful transplant, donor and recipient must have nearly identical genes regulating certain immune cells. These genes evolved in response to the disease threats people faced long ago. "Tell me where your ancestors lived 500 years ago, and I'll tell you who your potential donors are," says Jeffrey Chell, an internist who leads the National Marrow Donor Program, also known as Be The Match.

Read the full, original story here: [Race matters when a patient needs a stem cell or marrow transplant](#)