



**PLATELET
BIOGENESIS**

NEWS

PLATELET BIOGENESIS VISITS KRAFT FAMILY BLOOD DONOR CENTER

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (December 22, 2016) – The staff of [Platelet Biogenesis, Inc.](http://PlateletBiogenesis.com), a Harvard University spinout pioneering the commercial development of life-saving platelets without the need for human donations, made a visit to Kraft Blood Donor Center of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston on Wednesday, December 21 to donate platelets.

The visit came during the holiday season when there is peak demand for blood and platelet donations. Per the Red Cross, blood donations heavily decline from November to January. As platelets are only stored for a maximum of 5 days and require 2 days of processing before they are accessible to patients it's vital that there is a steady stream of donors.

More than 44,000 whole blood donations are required every day to meet current demands. On average, it takes 45 minutes per whole blood donation and healthy donors are eligible to donate every 8 weeks. Unlike blood donors, platelet donors are eligible to donate every 7 days. While platelet donation takes approximately two hours, donating apheresis platelets decreases the number of donors that patients are exposed to. Cancer patients at Dana-Farber often need platelet transfusions to replace those lost during chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery.

Justin Solle, Donor Recruiter at the Kraft Center, stated, "On behalf of all our patients, we are so thankful for the PBG group for helping give back this holiday season when the need for blood donors is at its highest." To make your donation this holiday season simply bring your photo ID, be at least 17 years of age, and avoid aspirin and blood thinning medication before your appointment.

"We had a blast! The team at the Kraft Center could not have been more caring and attentive." says Dr. Jonathan Thon, Co-Founder of Platelet BioGenesis. "All of us are working very hard to make donor-independent platelets a reality. In the interim - it's important to give."

About Platelet BioGenesis (www.plateletbiogenesis.com; twitter [@plateletbiogen](https://twitter.com/plateletbiogen))

Platelet BioGenesis is a pre-clinical stage biotech company that was spun out of Harvard in 2014 to produce donor-independent human platelets from pluripotent stem cells. Platelet BioGenesis has developed and patented a microfluidic bioreactor, and shown that functional platelets can be generated from human stem cell cultures at scale. The company was selected to participate in [MassCONNECT](#) (run by [MassBio](#)), was a 2014 [MassChallenge](#) Finalist, a [2016 BioSciKin](#) business competition winner, and has received support from the [Massachusetts Life Sciences Center](#), and the [NIH](#).

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About Kraft Family Blood Donor Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital (www.dana-farber.org/How-to-Help/Donate-Blood-and-Platelets.aspx#kraft-appointments)

The Center is located at 35 Binney St, Boston MA in the Jimmy Fund Building and is open 7 days a week. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, the Center can be reached at BloodDonor@partners.org or 617-632- 3206.

Contact:

Kraft Family Blood Donor Center

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