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The Coleman Foundation Professor of Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation



Advancement of Medicine

In 2025, we spearheaded research on allogeneic stem cell transplantation in patients with systemic mastocytosis, a rare disease. We collaborated with our national large registry, the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research, or CIBMTR. Our study yielded intriguing findings, including a significant overall survival benefit for people with this rare condition. The research was published in the prestigious high-impact journal *British Journal of Haematology* and funded by the Coleman Foundation endowment.

Sunita Nathan, MD, also collaborated with our cardio-oncology experts and published important manuscripts detailing cardiac risk factors after stem cell transplantation.

Dr. Nathan and I continue to conduct training sessions on cell therapies. Not only for our internal hematology and oncology fellows, but also Cook County and Mount Sinai fellows. I am also actively involved on the advisory board of The Mastocytosis Society. I also served on the *British Journal of Haematology* Associate Editorial Board.

Research

Our group was a big part of a large, multicenter study evaluating if a targeting drug, gilteritinib, in a specific type of acute myeloid leukemia would improve outcomes, such as less relapse and longer survival. The study results have been published in very important journals, including *Journal of Clinical Oncology and Blood*. Notably, the study demonstrated that the use of maintenance therapy in a specific population indeed improves transplantation outcomes.

Conferences

We are preparing the 4th Midwest Cellular Therapy Conference with Loyola University and the Medical College of Wisconsin in April 2026. This is an important, highly attended conference on



advanced hematologic malignancies, focusing on cell therapy. The conference selects 16 prominent speakers from some of the top programs. This year, we will add a cell processing laboratory training course to the conference.

Publication Highlights – Abbreviated

- **Ustun C**, Zhang MJ, Peterson A, Baek A, Agha M, Alkhateeb H, Chhabra S, Coltoff A, de Lima M, Gandhi A, Ho V, Kassim A, Lin A, Gowda L, Borthakur G, DeAngelo DJ, McGuirk J, Mensah F, Nadiminti KV, Nishihori T, Pantin J, Trunk A, Uberti J, Marcucci G, Gotlib J, Akin C, Hamadani M, Pullarkat V, Valent P, Grunwald M, Juckett M, Oran B, Saber W, Burns LJ. Allogeneic haematopoietic cell transplantation in advanced systemic mastocytosis in the new era: A CIBMTR study. *Br J Haematol.* 2025 Dec;207(6):2486-2495. doi: 10.1111/bjh.70154. Epub 2025 Sep 22. PMID: 40983528; PMCID: PMC12519450.
- Levis MJ, Hamadani M, Logan BR, Jones RJ, Singh AK, Litzow MR, Wingard JR, Papadopoulos EB, Perl AE, Soiffer RJ, **Ustun C**, Oshima MU, Uy GL, Waller EK, Vasu S, Solh M, Mishra A, Muffly LS, Kim HJ, Stelljes M, Najima Y, Onozawa M, Thomson K, Nagler A, Wei AH, Marcucci G, Chen C, Hasabou N, Rosales M, Hill J, Gill SC, Nuthethi R, King D, Mendizabal A, Devine SM, Horowitz MM, Chen YB. Measurable residual disease and posttransplantation gilteritinib maintenance for patients with FLT3-ITD-mutated AML. *Blood.* 2025 May 8;145(19):2138-2148. doi: 10.1182/blood.2024025154. PMID: 39775763; PMCID: PMC12105721.

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

We are planning to relocate to our new Cellular Processing Laboratory, which will enable us to commence manufacturing our cells. In this context, we are procuring essential devices, including a flow cytometer. The endowment will help us acquire this machine.

With Gratitude

We are extremely grateful to the Coleman Foundation for their support over the years and decades. The endowment helps us expand our academic function, including research and education. I am immensely thankful to the foundation, and we work very hard to use this resource for our patients so that they can receive the very best available care.