

## NEWS RELEASE

### **StemCord first in Singapore and region to introduce split storage in cord blood banking** *- StemCord to further its presence in the region with partnerships*

**Singapore, 21 July 2006** – StemCord Pte Ltd, the first private cord blood bank to be licensed by the Singapore Ministry of Health, today announced its decision to invest three quarters of a million dollars to introduce split storage for the cord blood banked with the company.

Dr Ang Peng Tiam, Director and Co-Founder of StemCord, said: “With split storage, the cord blood of each client will be stored in two separate locations for added security. Should one facility be affected by a calamity, the cord blood stored at the other facility will be safe. The new StemCord laboratory will be set up in about nine months’ time or earlier if and when we achieve our target of 10,000 banked samples.”

This initiative will benefit both existing and new customers, and is only possible because cord blood banked with StemCord is stored in multiple vials. It is a key emphasis of the company from the beginning, to put in place measures that will maximise the potential of the cord blood banked with StemCord. While all vials are needed for any current treatment, having them in separate vials allows for the flexibility to use only what is needed. This is because once thawed, cord blood cannot be refrozen.

Cord blood is a rich source of stem cells, and stem cell transplant now represents a very important milestone in medicine as it can provide a cure in some diseases, unlike other treatment options, which can only provide temporary relief.

StemCord has observed greater awareness and acceptance among the general public in considering cord blood banking as a form of biological insurance. Set up in March 2002, the company collected 800 samples within the first year and now has over 7,000 samples stored at its laboratory in Singapore Science Park, making it the largest cord blood bank in Singapore.

Dr Ang added: “More are considering cord blood banking as an integral part of the overall lifestyle choice for their family. Cord blood banking is now extremely affordable at less than 70 cents a day!”

However, there is only one chance to harvest cord blood as a biological insurance – at the birth of a newborn child.



**STEMCORD** PRIVATE LIMITED  
Hope for the Future

## **Future Growth in the Region**

StemCord plans to expand its reach and establish a stronger presence regionally. The company has seen a 20-fold increase in samples collected from its overseas markets in the last two years. It is now in discussion with potential partners in Thailand and Vietnam, and hope for agreements to be finalised within the year.

Dr Ang said: “The industry is still very much in its infancy in Singapore and around the region. We anticipate a huge growth in the years to come, especially from our foreign market sector, driven by greater awareness of the benefit of cord blood banking.”

## **StemCord 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The split storage announcement is made in conjunction with StemCord’s 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A roadshow titled ‘A Tribute to Women’ will also be held from 21 to 23 July 2006 at Suntec City Entertainment Atrium (outside Carrefour). Apart from a ‘sensory’ rich exhibition on the growth stages of a foetus, there will be demonstrations and public forums on pertinent topics related to women such as maternity yoga, women related cancer, cord blood banking and cosmetic surgery.

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### **About StemCord**

StemCord Pte Ltd is Singapore's first autologous, private cord blood bank to be licensed by the Ministry of Health, Singapore. The founders, renowned practicing medical oncologists and hematologists, saw many cancer patients who needed stem cell transplants and were frustrated that the option was not always available. Thus, they started StemCord on 6 March 2002 to offer an added biological insurance for future generations.

Using the stringent criteria set by the American Association of Blood Banks, StemCord adopts the highest standard of quality control in protecting the viability of the stem cells stored with the bank. The company has more than 7,000 customers now and is the largest and most established private cord blood bank in Singapore/region.

StemCord’s headquarters is in Singapore and it has offices in Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines. For more information about StemCord, visit [www.stemcord.com](http://www.stemcord.com).