EDMOND NAZARIAN – SPOTLIGHT DONOR

As a young boy growing up in Iran in the 1970s Edmond Nazarian’s prized possession was a UCLA jersey gifted to him by relatives living in the United States. Edmond remembers, “This was not a shirt you would play soccer in; it was something to be proudly displayed on a wall.” Even all the way across the world, UCLA’s reputation and prestige was, for Edmond, aspirational.

After moving to Los Angeles in May of 1992, Edmond was driving along Sunset Boulevard and when he came to the intersection at Hilgard, he was awestruck at the sight of the letters UCLA. “It was as if I was seeing an astronaut or someone I had admired all my life in person for the first time. I had to pinch myself.”

The following year, Edmond experienced a general sense of wanting to help others and consequently began asking around about donating blood. In the days before one could “just Google” information, Edmond relied on word-of-mouth and was delighted to learn that he could donate blood at UCLA. At his very first visit as a donor, Edmond met a man donating platelets for his daughter who was battling cancer. Edmond inquired as to what was involved and if he could become a platelet donor.

In 1993, platelet donation was a two-needle procedure and typically required more of a time commitment than it does now. Undeterred, Edmond said, “Let’s do it!” He returned within weeks to donate platelets and has been doing so ever since.

In addition to being a member of the UCLA platelet donor “family, “ Edmond studied political science and history at UCLA From 1995-99. In the spirit of keeping it in the family, Edmond’s daughter, Maneh, hopes to donate one day and will be joining the UC Community as a student at UCSB in the fall of 2019. Edmond’s association with UCLA as a graduate and especially as a platelet donor has been quite fulfilling. When talking about his ongoing commitment to donating, Edmond notes, “I know that the percentage of people who actually donate blood at all is small and the number of platelet donors is even smaller. I am super proud to be amongst that group!”

As of the spring of 2019, Edmond has donated over 256 times at the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center. Edmond remarks that donating at UCLA is “like I'm seeing-long lost cousins and I am welcomed with open arms.” We are delighted to have Edmond as a member of our UCLA Platelet donor family.

FUNDRAISING WITH THE UPC FOR THE BPC

The BPC UPC is fundraising for the winter holiday party!
BPC staff can support the effort by buying, candies, snacks, ice cream, and other goodies that are available for purchase. Ask Rosie about treat options and please share any suggestions that can help us grow the funds for a festive year-end celebration.

BLOOD FACTS

The ABO blood group system is used to denote the presence of one, both, or neither of the A and B antigens on erythrocytes.

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PREPARE TO BE SAFE

- UCLA uses BruinAlert to alert the UCLA community of a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation.
- UCLA Office of Emergency Management developed Bruins Safe.
- The app includes BruinAlert notifications and provides instant access to campus safety resources.
- Features include quick and easy connections to contact the UCLA Police Department, Friend Walk so a friend can track you as you walk to your destination, and many resources to help you both avoid and, when necessary, cope with crises.
- When an emergency occurs, will be updated by the UCLA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with explicit instructions pertaining to your safety.
- Bruin Alert: add a cell phone number to your profile under “Text Msg” to receive BruinAlert via SMS text message, the quickest way to receive emergency notifications.
- Website: UCLA website (https://www.oem.ucla.edu/) used as emergency resource.
- Twitter: follow UCLA BruinAlert via Twitter.
- Facebook: engage with the UCLA Office of Emergency Management and learn about training opportunities for the campus community.

And now for some history…

UCLA Blood & Platelet Center – The 70s

In 1972 there were merely eleven full-time employees handling all aspects of the UCLA blood bank’s operations (which focused solely on patient testing and transfusion).

In 1975, Dr. Jeffrey J. Eckardt pioneered the autologous blood program wherein blood was collected from patients preoperatively for subsequent reinfusion during their surgery. This procedure became a major part of the UCLA Blood Bank’s responsibilities and, in the first year of application of the new program, 139 autologous units were collected on a single bed in a cramped closet-size room adjacent to the Blood Bank on the A floor at CHS. This represented the first incarnation of UCLA’s donor center.

Around this time, UCLA also initiated a bone marrow transplant program. This coincided with the introduction of Haemonetics’ first automated blood separating machine: the Model 30 Hemapheresis Machine (M30), which allowed for the collection of leukocytes to be provided for transplants. This marked the beginning of UCLA’s apheresis program.

By the end of the 1970s, the M30 was approved and actively used for additional procedures including specific therapeutic apheresis protocols and for the collection of platelets known as plateletpheresis.

In the last years of the decade (1978-79 & 1979-80) the Blood Bank collected approximately 4,000 units of whole blood and performed over 1,000 combined plateletpheresis and therapeutic apheresis procedures annually. This set the stage for a huge growth era that significantly impacted blood product collection and transfusion. It would also lead to the ultimate renaming of the donor operations of the blood bank to the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center.

In 2018 the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center collected nearly 22,000 units of whole blood and over 7,000 platelet units.
SUMMERTIME PROMOTIONS

Receive Limited Edition donor gifts*
*while supplies last

July 1, 2019 - August 31, 2019

UCLA Blood & Platelet Center

Ackerman Student Union
308 Westwood Plaza, A-Level

Westwood Village
1045 Gayley Avenue, 2nd Floor

Blood Donors* will receive:
Phone Charger + 1 Movie Ticket or 2 Movie Tickets
*Eligible UCLA Employees will receive only one gift in addition to Blood Time.

Platelet Donors* will receive:
Wireless Ear Buds or Road Emergency Kit or 4 Movie Tickets
*Eligible UCLA Employees will receive one of the above gifts in addition to Blood Time.

To schedule your lifesaving blood donation appointment
call (310) 825-0888 x2, or email gotblood@mednet.ucla.edu
visit us online at www.uclahealth.org/gotblood

How many lives will U save?

UCLA Health