

A Message from the staff Cell Biology Scientist:

I know many of you are wondering why it's taken so long to see the next newsletter. The short answer is, moving a laboratory is demanding work. It's taken a lot of time, resources, sweat and tears (some would say blood... sorry for the pun). This issue will talk more in depth about the move, as it's been our number one asked question. So far all our clients (old and new) who have stopped by have been very impressed. That's what we've aimed for. Let's get right to it.

-Matthew Wilgo, Cell Biology Scientist



Saving Cord Blood. Saving Lives.

The New Home of New England Cord Blood Bank

First and foremost, all is well here at New England Cord Blood Bank! We have all begun to settle into our new home in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The move of our facility was no small feat, but with our talented team of skilled professionals and world class contractors we did it! Now it is time to take a few moments and reflect on the move.

Moving any laboratory is no easy task, and moving an operation like New England Cord Blood Bank presented even more challenging due to the highly sensitive nature of our operations. The two biggest challenges were safely moving the extremely precious inventory of tens of thousands of cord blood, cord tissue, and reproductive units; and moving the laboratory equipment to maintain our processing capabilities. Many seemingly endless hours were spent planning for these tasks. The hard work was well rewarded.

All cord blood units are kept in very special deep freeze storage tanks which are connected to a continuous liquid nitrogen source. It is this liquid nitrogen that keeps the cells 'frozen in time' or in a state of 'suspended animation'. Our experienced cryogenic staff worked hand in hand with Airgas, North America's largest supplier of cryogenic equipment. We had redundancies for our redundancies. Tobin Scientific handled the move of our inventory, with specialized trucks specifically engineered for this task. Each unit was independently monitored to ensure the safety and integrity of each tank. Our new bulk liquid nitrogen tank was delivered on time, and what a sight it is. It is over 50% bigger than our old tank, and could supply all our storage needs for months even without power. With our permanent connections in place, this challenge was a resounding success.

Equally important was maintaining our processing capabilities. There was no time for a break, not even for a day. All those babies being born didn't know we were moving, and they sure weren't waiting for us! This required us to have two processing laboratories operating at the same time.



Before we could shut down operations at our old facility, we had to setup, test, and fully validate all our processing capabilities at our new site. We did this over the course of 6 weeks putting our hoods, centrifuges, autoclaves, and world class SEPAX machines through their paces. A number of control runs with donated cord blood units, and manufacturer reagents were used to accomplish each stage of the validations. Finally, on May 14th our Newton facility processed its last cord blood, and on May 15th we proudly began processing in Marlborough, MA. Even then we needed days of work to move the remaining equipment to the new facility, and that equipment was fully revalidated too!

To say the move was a Herculean task would not be too far from the truth. But you know what? It was worth it. You are worth it. You've placed your trust in us to protect one of the most valuable resources you have, your child's cord blood stem cells. We take that very seriously. Our new home in Marlborough is your new home too. Please visit our website to see some pictures of our state-of-the-art facility, and please stop by to personally admire our facility firsthand. We can't wait to see you!

AABB Annual Meeting 2015

While moving to a new facility was its own reward, it is nice to be recognized. Because moves of this type are rare, AABB accepted a proposal for an educational seminar at their upcoming meeting in October of this year. Our session is titled "I Like to Move It, Move It! Challenges in Moving Your Lab". Matthew Wilgo, Cell Biology Scientist, is the organizer and Director of the session as well as one of the presenters. He will be speaking in depth about the planning, execution, and implementation of New England Cord Blood Bank's move to its new facility. Also speaking will be Olive Sturtevant, of Dana Farber Cancer Institute's Cell Manipulation Core Facility. Olive will be detailing the design of new laboratories. Our lab director Dr. Grace Centola, Ph.D., is the session moderator, and will keep everyone on topic and on time. We are excited to be speaking alongside such an esteemed guest and institution.

In addition to the honor of presenting this seminar to an international audience we are also presenting a scientific poster for the second year in a row. Our poster is entitled "Factors Affecting Cord Blood Processing: Processing Methods and Volumes". Much of our presentation is centered on questions asked to us by colleagues at last year's AABB meeting. We've reviewed the data from thousands of different cord blood units, and are very excited to present our findings!



Did you miss an issue?

Did you miss an issue? Find previous newsletters at our website: www.cordbloodbank.com

Do you have a question you'd love to see addressed in a future newsletter? Please let us know, we'd love your feedback. We are here to serve your needs.

Dr. Grace Centola, Laboratory Director

Thank you for choosing NECBB to store your child's cord blood and tissue stem cells. Should you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone, or email me directly at: DrGrace@necryogenic.com

