

NANCY BRANDON'S STEM CELL TREATMENT - UPDATE

August 17, 2008

Dear Friends and Family.

It has been 11 months since I first traveled to Costa Rica hoping that the stem cell treatments offered at *The Institute for Cellular Medicine* www.cellmedicine.com would help my body rally against Parkinson's disease. This treatment used my own stem cells which were extracted from the bone marrow in my hips. The harvested stem cells were then isolated and multiplied by adding a special growth factor. A few days later, over 100,000 stem cells were re-introduced into my body via a small cut that was made in my femoral artery. Several large syringes full of stem cells were injected into my bloodstream. This particular treatment was developed after researchers discovered that certain stem cells in our bone marrow are flexible (not assigned to be a specific kind of cell). These cells are able to identify areas of the body that need regeneration and automatically go where they are needed. Once there, they are able change into the specific type of cell needed to accomplish the repair or regeneration. I happily observed this phenomenon happening in my body after receiving one stem cell treatment.

THE STEM CELL TREATMENT WORKED TO REGENERATE & REPAIR MY BODY

For example, I have had warts on my hands since I was a young child. They had changed shape and size frequently, but they had never totally healed. The day after I received the stem cell treatment, I awoke to find my warts had turned into pure white puffy pillows. By dusk the next day, they had completely dissolved. A dramatic change in a scar was another sign that the stem cells were working to repair damaged areas in my body. While in the process of moving, my knee was cut on a large glass tabletop. This accident happened when I was in my mid-twenties, so for close to thirty years my knee had a large dark scar and was sunken in at the site of the injury. A few days after the stem cell treatment, the site puffed up and the dark scar turned pure white. After about two months, the puffiness started to go down in the areas where the cut was not so deep. What was left after the puffiness subsided was a light colored scar that was flush with the surrounding skin. (The deepest area of the scar is still slightly puffy.) Also, my nails, skin, and hair look healthier, and my overall vitality and flexibility have increased. Since the stem cell treatment, I often have people comment on how good I look, even when I'm not feeling well.

IT APPEARS THAT THE STEM CELLS DID NOT MAKE IT PAST THE BRAIN'S PROTECTIVE BARRIER

Ironically, the one problem that the stem cell treatment did not affect at all is the Parkinson's. Although my quality of life has greatly improved due to all of the other wonderful regenerative things the stem cells did for me, it has been challenging and more than a little depressing to still have to endure the symptoms of Parkinson's disease every day. In addition, the medication I take to generate dopamine in my brain causes me to become agitated and display dyskinesia (involuntary movement) and at other times it leaves me feeling empty and unable to move at Needless to say, this problem has greatly limited my ability to feel independent or make spontaneous decisions.

SYNTHETIC DOPAMINE - HARD TO LIVE WITH - HARD TO LIVE WITHOUT

It is apparent that the medication I take is part of the problem and yet, I have not found a doctor or clinic who feels willing/able facilitate the drug withdrawal process to see what would happen. My neurologist feels that going off the dopamine could create more problems than it solves. But, I was feeling like this may be my only hope for moving towards healing. I was planning to try to convince the Director of *The Hippocrates Institute* (a wonderful raw food - Wellness Center and Spa in West Palm Beach, Fla.) to help me do the medicine withdrawal idea as a clinical study, when I was contacted by a man who was considering going to *The Institute for Cellular Medicine* for treatment for Parkinson's. Through our conversation I learned some valuable new information.

A PROMISING NEW STEM CELL TREATMENT

The Institute uses me as a referral, so I have served as a listening ear for several people and have shared my story with them as well. I always encourage people to try the treatment, as everyone gains the more we learn. And yet, as more time passed, it became harder for me to encourage the potential patient to have the treatment since it had not helped with my Parkinson's symptoms at all. This time, when I told the caller my story, he was not surprised. He had just learned that the Institute has developed a new protocol for treatment as it seems that the blood/brain barrier was prohibiting the cells that were injected into the bloodstream from entering the brain. The new procedure uses umbilical cord blood stem cells and injects them directly into the spine. The stem cells then freely flow from the spinal fluid into the cerebral fluid. Upon learning about the new stem cell treatment, I immediately contacted the clinic in Costa Rica. Doctor Lara, whom I had worked with in 2007, confirmed that this new treatment is available and that I am a good candidate to receive it. He explained that it is given in five injections over two week's time.

MY SUPPORT FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH MAY EARN CREDIT TOWARDS A SECOND TREATMENT

I explained that I do not have the money to pay for an additional treatment as I still owe \$9,000 on the \$25,000 loan I borrowed for the first treatment. Dr. Lara confirmed that there was usually an additional charge for a second treatment, but because I have served as a referral for the Institute, he offered to speak to the Director of the project on my behalf. I am still waiting to hear the final decision from the clinic. I feel hopeful that, because I will be in the country for an extended amount of time, I will be able to work something out with them.

THE LAW OF ATTRACTION - VISUALIZE WHAT YOU WANT AND IT WILL COME TO YOU

Meanwhile, I was thinking of how I might do work exchange to stay in a hotel San Jose when I remembered some dear friends whom I stayed with during my first visit to Costa Rica. They live in Cahuita, a small town located on the Southern Atlantic Coast of Costa Rica (about 4 hours by bus from the Stem cell Clinic). I contacted them to see if they had a room available to rent in their home. My friend was so excited because she needs to return to the States (her husband has already left to take care of family matters). She was looking for someone to housesit for an extended period of time. We each felt that we were the answer to the other's prayers. How wonderful is that!

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED ME IN PHASE I OF MY HEALING JOURNEY

Many of you participated in my earlier fund raisers and made generous donations during my initial plea for funds to finance the first treatment. The response I received during this time was so incredible it was more than I ever could have imagined. I was consistently overwhelmed by the support and words of encouragement that I received from friends, family, and even some wonderful people who didn't know me personally. When the donations were rolling in, it was a common sight to find me sitting in my car in the post office parking lot sobbing with joy and gratitude over the heartfelt wishes and generous donations. My gratitude is beyond what I can express in words.

From my previous fund raising efforts, I was able to raise \$16,000. Although I enjoyed organizing and attending the events, it was also tiring and stressful in many ways. After completing the third event, The Wellness Expo, I decided that it would benefit my personal wellness to stop my fund raising work and simplify my life.

ENTERING PHASE II OF MY HEALING JOURNEY

Since April, I have been resting and reflecting on how to further proceed on my healing journey. Today the answer seems very clear. Returning to Costa Rica is the right thing for me to do now. If I can raise the funds to get back to Costa Rica, I will have a very sunny, warm, and low cost place to stay for the winter. This alone holds increased joy and healing potential. I am also very happy that a musician friend is willing to try to make it work to join me in Costa Rica, as singing with friends has been a large part of my healing work. It will be great to be back in this beautiful country. If am given another chance to heal through stem cell treatment it could be even better!

THERE IS STILL ROOM AT THE INN

If you are interested in coming to Costa Rica for healing, singing, surfing, snorkeling, fishing, bird watching, etc, please contact me for details. I (and hopefully a friend or two) will need to arrive in Costa Rica in early Sept. to be ready to take over the house in mid September. Go to <http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p169081> to see pictures of one of the houses on the property. We may also have an open room or two in the main house (not pictured).

FUNDRAISING IS THE GENTLE ART OF TEACHING THE JOY OF GIVING" Hank Russo

I will organize fund raising concert within the next two weeks. I will send another email with the details of the fundraising event as they solidify. If you are unable to attend the event but would like to help, I still have my post office box for stem cell donations. Also, if anyone has extra frequent flyer miles we are hoping for two tickets. We can fly anytime of day September 6th through Sept. 14th. I recognize that it is NOT a time of plenty for many of us right now. I also know that when a lot of people, each do a little bit, big things can happen. Please don't give if it is not easy for you. On the other hand, if it is easy, please give generously for Ralph Waldo Emerson reminds us that *"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself"* Please send donations to: NBSCT, P.O. Box 353, East Lansing, MI 48823. Contact me through email nanbran48823@yahoo.com or call 517-505-2150.

Bless you all for your continuing love and support. In Love and Gratitude,

Nancy