

Children Obtain FREE
Bone Marrow
Transplant in Italy



Plasmapheresis filled
with untapped
promise - CPPC Boss
Furquan Stafford Sr

AFRICAN SICKLE CELL NEWS & WORLD REPORT



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**One Year After
Transplant, Nigeria's First
Adult Bone Marrow
Recipient Awaits Verdict**

RESEARCH
ARTS
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**PAllen Jones:
Why I Only
Cry At Night**

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MARROW
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Stafford Sr

PLASMAPHERESIS: The Reverend Gentleman Who Found His Calling In Life

Reverend Fourquan Stafford Sr, 39, studied Pre-Nursing at McCook Community College, Nebraska and Nursing at Texas Southern and Georgia State Universities. After working in the plasma industry for a few years he established the C.P. Plasma Center, Inc., and soon transformed it into one of America's top plasma companies. He speaks with **Fatai Sulayman** on the usefulness of plasma for various health conditions.

It's not as if there were no companies doing plasmapheresis before you got into the picture. When and why did you establish the CP Plasma Centre?

I started working on CPPC back in 1994 when I was a phlebotomist at the American Plasma Company, Inc. in Houston, Texas. I would come in early and stay late studying the SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and other materials as it relates to the operation of a FDA-licensed plasma collection center. I worked in various positions (Lab Tech, Receptionist, and Processor) to learn the fundamentals of operating a plasma center. I discovered that African-Americans were the face of plasma donations and there has never been a single plasma center owned by an African-American. It was then that I became inspired and knew from God that this was my purpose and calling in life.

Tell us more about plasmapheresis and its use in improving human health.

Plasmapheresis is the removal of blood plasma from the blood circulation. It is a medical procedure which is performed outside the body. After plasma separation, the blood cells are returned to the person undergoing treatment, while the plasma, which contains the

antibodies, is first treated and then returned to the patient in traditional *plasmapheresis*. During *plasmapheresis*, blood is initially taken out of the body through a needle. The fundamental necessity for collecting quality plasma is collection from a healthy population and storing it quickly in a freezer. After testing, the frozen plasma is then manufactured into a variety of plasma-based treatments. Human plasma is rich in a number of proteins. Proteins extracted from plasma, including albumin, clotting factors, immunoglobulins are used to make therapies that treat genetic diseases such as hemophilia, acute conditions such as burns, shock, fighting certain cancers including leukemia, and those who have had a bone marrow transplant. Plasma protein therapies are used during cardiopulmonary bypass surgery and to treat pediatric HIV and sickle cell.

How does it feel to be the first African-American to establish a plasma center?

The plasma collection industry is a tough regulated industry. My goal is to exceed FDA expectations, build a profitable business and produce a quality product. As long as the globe continues to turn there will always be a need for blood and plasma products.

However, there are many African-Americans who have accomplished more, who are more talented, experienced, and more educated than I am.

How risky is it to donate plasma? Are there any limits to the usefulness of plasmapheresis in alleviating the human health condition?

Donating plasma is safe. Each donation is done with a new sterile needle, harness and bowl. Medical experts and industry insiders are continuing to discover new medical uses for plasma that is prolonging the lives of people worldwide. Our watchword at CPPC is *'There's Life in the Blood'*. It comes from a biblical passage; Leviticus 17:11 - *'For the life of the body is in its blood.'*

African-Americans are not renowned for being great whole blood donors. Is it the same experience with donating plasma?

African Americans are last at whole blood donations because donating whole blood is for volunteers. They are first in plasma donations because

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of ready cash. Plasma donors are paid about \$22 each time and you can donate two or three times a week.

In 2011, May 19 of every year was declared Rev Furquan Stafford Day in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia in recognition

of the important work you are doing. How are you planning to mark the first anniversary?

Prayer and a slice of carrot cake with family. I have learned to just flow with life because God's plan is always unforgettable.

How do you compare American and African governments' handling of the sickle cell problem (in terms of research/public enlightenment and provision of social services to citizens with sickle cell)?

There have been improvements in each government's response to sickle cell. But there is always room for improvement, especially in the area of funding for R&D.

I also believe that professional athletes and entertainers of African descent should become more active in raising funds and awareness.

You had a fairly rough childhood. Yet it toughened and prepared you for who you are today. What advice do you have for people going through rough times of any sort?

If rough times, bitterness, resentment or anger is what you are struggling with today, read Joseph's story in the Bible and learn from his courage. God has a blessing waiting for you at the end of your trials.

'I believe professional athletes and entertainers of African descent should become more active in raising funds and awareness'

Plasma Exchange Good For Critically Ill Sickle Cell Patients

Boga C, Kozanoglu I, Ozdogu H, Ozyurek E. Source: Department of Hematology, Baskent University Faculty of Medicine, 06490, Ankara, Turkey

Red cell exchange transfusion is the recommended therapy for patients with sickle cell disease who have complicated vaso-occlusive episodes. However, the role of the therapeutic plasma exchange in the management of the potentially life-threatening complications in patients with (SCD) is not well known.

To determine whether plasma exchange had a cumulative effect on the red cell exchange in patients with

SCD who developed multi-organ failure during the post red cell exchange period, we performed plasma exchange in the nine episodes of multi-organ failure of 7 patients with sickle cell anemia. The median age of those patients was 21 years (range, 9-50 years). The criterion of the multi-organ failure was defined as organ failure of two or more organs i.e. lung, liver, or renal, established according to *Acute Physiological and Chronic Health*

Evaluation-II (APACHE-II) criteria. The average total plasma exchange volume was 1.0 times the patient's plasma volume.

The patients had a good outcome, with a survival rate at 86% after one year of follow-up. Plasma exchange may have cumulative benefits in the treatment of severe illness in patients with SCD underwent automatic red cell exchange therapy.

Takes Two To Tango

Rich and famous people stay in hotels and find it irresistible to filch. The boss of a public institution talked a hotel maid into keeping quiet about the unopened hotel wine he hid in the drawer. She acquiesced but later changed her mind and threatened to report to security. Afraid the matter would damage his reputation, Mr. Jack fled, in the process leaving behind his phone.

Having had a rethink, the maid decided not to report the matter, but took Mr. Jack's phone as a trophy. Again she decided to return the SIM card but not the phone itself. She sent this message with the SIM. 'Dear Damaging Director, please confirm you got your SIN card back.'
He replied, 'That makes the two of us!'