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February, 2010

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A number of registries have asked us for an updated (new nomenclature) table. Within the next few weeks we will make these tables available as a download.

[1] <http://www.bmdw.org/index.php?id=downloads>

UPDATE FREQUENCY

- **Ready for daily updates**
One of the change requests (CRF012) we have received and now implemented, was the update frequency for cord blood data in BMDW. To make this possible, we have revised the BMDW update process. Currently we are updating the BMDW database on a weekly basis. But everything is in place to change that to a daily update, effectively processing every new file a donor registry or cord blood bank submits overnight. We already have informed the cord blood banks of this change, and a small number of cord blood banks are already submitting updates on a weekly basis.

NOMENCLATURE

- **File format changes**
We are preparing for the upcoming WHO Nomenclature changes[1], and as a first step, we have adapted the file format for data delivery[2], for participating donor registries and cord blood banks. BMDW will be ready for the nomenclature changes, and will accept both old and new nomenclature for one year, starting April 1, 2010.

[1] <http://hla.alleles.org/announcement.html>

[2] http://www.bmdw.org/index.php?id=file_formats

- **HLA reference table**

A download with valid HLA nomenclature information is available on the BMDW website[1]. To implement the new nomenclature, we have prepared a second HLA reference table with new HLA nomenclature, and a mapping table for conversion purposes.

MATCH PROGRAMS

- **Recipient data elements and filtering**
Users have requested to add a number of recipient related fields, not necessarily for matching purposes, but for their own work-flow, and to be able to manage their recipient list more efficiently. As a result, the recipient list now shows an 'Urgent', 'Last updated' and 'Last searched' column, and users can show recipients based on their urgency, or ordered on a few of the other recipient related information, like ID, last name or the last search date.
- **Extra donor and CBU information**
In the first week of February we installed a number of updates for BMDW, as a result of the implementation of some change requests. One of the long standing requests was to add more donor and/or cord blood unit information. With this latest update users may now select to include sex, age, CMV data, and blood group

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information for both donors and cord blood units. This is an option that has been added to the users' preferences. Please note that the default values for this preference is off.

- **Different CBU Match results**

In addition to a small number of general improvements, we have implemented a different method of assigning the match categories for the cord blood match. Until now, all loci were treated identically to determine the match category for the unit. The match category for cord blood units is now based on HLA-A, and -B split level, and DRB1 high resolution level. Allele mismatches on HLA-A or -B no longer force cord blood units to a lower match category, but allele mismatches are highlighted in the search results.

- **Separation of CBU data**

With the increased update frequency, we had to separate the cord blood unit data from the donor data in the BMDW database. As a result the option to include cord blood units in the search results for the regular match or mismatch programs has been dropped: the important thing to note is that the regular match and mismatch programs now only report donors.

WEBSITE

- **Minor changes**

As a result of the increased update frequency, the update date, as shown on a number of pages on the BMDW website has been removed. The pages showing number of donors and/or cord blood units, are now the actual number of donors/cord blood units, and no longer referring to the numbers on a given update date in the past.

- **Articles**

We will be adding a section to the website with relevant articles and publications.

ORGANIZATIONAL

- **New General Director at Europdonor**

As of July 2009, Carine Mijnarends has been appointed as General Director of the Europdonor Foundation. Machteld Oudshoorn is now appointed as Clinical Director of the Europdonor Foundation.

Carine will also be actively working with the BMDW team, so you may see her name here and there, or meet her at a future event.

- **New participating CBU bank**

As of 2010-01-28, we welcome the 'Alarvita BioLife Corporation' n BMDW as a new cord blood bank. Their cord blood units will be listed in the BMDW cord blood match results as 'Taiwan - Taipei 3 CORD', with registry code 'TICB'. You can find the contact details of the 'Alarvita BioLife Corporation' on the BMDW website.

- **Next meetings**

The BMDW Office is preparing the next Advisory Committee and Editorial Board meetings, in Dublin, Ireland, on June 16, 2010. Editorial Board members and Advisory Committee members are welcomed to join us there to attend the meeting.