

***From Terminal
Cancer to 30
Year Survivor***

Mel Mann

MBA, M.Ed.

Major, US. Army Retired





Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)

A rare, slowly progressing and uncommon type of blood-cell cancer that starts with a change (mutation) with a single cell in the bone marrow.



Signs and Symptoms:

Joint or bone pain

Fatigue

Excessive sweating during sleep

Pain or fullness below your ribs on the left side (Spleen)

Painless lumps in your armpits, groin, neck, or belly

Incidence, Causes, Stages, & Diagnostic Lab Tests

Average Age at diagnosis: 64 years

Rare: 8,800 cases in US & 35,000 cases globally annually. Potential problem for investment in research.

Cause: Unknown

Phases:

- **Chronic Phase (CP):** Increased number of WBC but less than 10% of blasts in peripheral blood or bone marrow
- **Accelerated Phase (AP):** Blasts 10-19%
- **Blast Phase (BP):** Blasts greater than or equal to 20%

Diagnostic Lab Tests

- **Blood Tests:** CBC, Blood cell examination (Peripheral Blood Smear) under microscope
- **Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy:** check for abnormalities. (Cytogenetic)
- **PCR:** Most sensitive test.



Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy

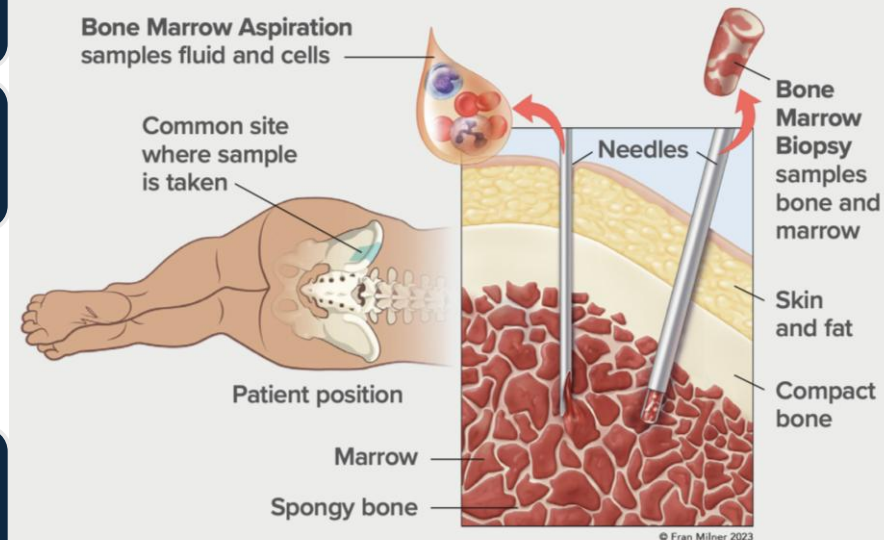
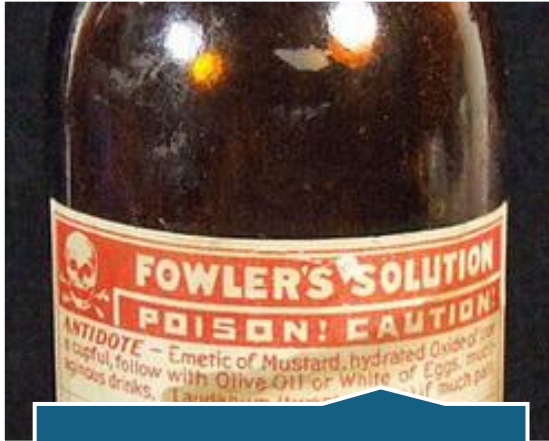


Figure 1. Left: The place on the back of the patient's pelvic bone where a bone marrow aspiration or biopsy is done. **Right:** One needle goes into bone marrow to get a liquid sample for aspiration (left) and the other needle goes inside the bone for a bone biopsy (right). The needle for aspiration is thinner than the one for biopsy.



CML Therapy Timeline at Time of Mel's Diagnosis



1865 -- Fowler's Solution



1953 -- Busulfan



1964 -- Hydroxyurea does not reduce Philadelphia chromosome



1969 Cytarabine (ARA-C) does not reduce Philadelphia chromosome



1978 -- Allogenic BMT: Possible cure, but highly dangerous



1986 -- Interferon: Reduces Philadelphia chromosome in 15-20 percent of patients



SOLDIER IN URGENT NEED OF A MARROW DONOR!



Melvin has dreams for a successful career in the US Army. Those dreams as well as his life may soon end if a marrow donor cannot be found. He has CML, a type of Leukemia. His best hope for a match would be someone of African American heritage. All it takes is a simple blood test to tell if you can help. Please register to give the "Gift of Life!"



MELVIN MANN
NEEDS BONE MARROW



Gratitude for donors is for

Thanks mostly to the military, Cumberland County goes down in the record books. Fort Bragg and the Fayetteville area held the nation's most successful bone marrow drive.

More than 10,000 people — 9,000 of them from the Army and Air Force, or their dependents — had blood samples taken to see whether they might be a match for someone whose life needs saving. It's not the record-breaking number that's so important, but that every person who shows up increases the odds that lives will be saved.

MAJOR FIGHTS

The fight of a lifetime

Retired major leads battle to find bone marrow donors for leukemia



Man on mission not to give up



Michigan man searching for marrow donor



Major sees hope in Pentagon drive

By Cynthia Shalaby
Special to the Post

How would you feel if you gave a life-saving gift like this?

How would the recipient feel?

Retired Maj. Melvin Mann is running out of time. His 20-year-old husband and father has CML, a type of leukemia, and is in dire need of a life-saving gift.

Mann, temporarily retired from his 15-year successful career in the Army, is one of the more than 10,000 Americans each year who are diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia or 40 other fatal diseases. For many, their only chance for survival is a bone marrow transplant.

"My sister and other family members tested to be donors, but no one matched," he said. "We knew it was only a 25 percent chance that they would." But then, Mann added, "that my wife found a possible match for someone else, and we're excited about that."

Mann, an African American, said his best hope for finding a matched donor lies in a number of his own race. "But I encourage all races to come out and donate, because there are people from all races in need of a bone marrow transplant," he said. "People can give Christmas gifts without spending any money."

The first step toward becoming a marrow donor involves a simple blood test — often taken during bone-marrow screening drives like the one that will occur at the Pentagon on Christmas week before Christmas.

Volunteer donors must be between the ages of 18 and 55 and in good general health. The process is as follows:

- You give a small amount of blood and consent to be entered in the marrow donor registry.
- Your blood is "HLA typed." This determines the type of marrow you have.
- Your HLA type goes into a database.
- If you are a preliminary match, additional



Vol. 17, No. 20 Published in the interest of personnel of Fort Monro, Va. October 6, 1995

Retired major needs bone marrow transplant

Former TRADOC officer fights for life

BY CORINE SMALLS
COLUMBUS, MISS.

Retired Maj. Melvin Mann, former executive officer for TRADOC and also assigned to TRADOC, TRADOC, between May 91-94, is in urgent need of a bone marrow donor.

Mann, temporarily retired from active duty, diagnosed this past January that he had CML, a type of leukemia. Doctors say his only hope to survive the disease is a bone marrow transplant.

"My sister tested to be a donor, but she didn't match," he said. "We knew it was only a 25 percent chance that she would."

His best hope for a match would be someone of African-American heritage. "Statistics show that out of the 1.8 million donors on the national and international registries, 300,000 are white and out of the minorities only 100,000 are African-American," he said.

Throughout Department of Defense, efforts are underway to help an estimated 10,000 American children and adults each year with fatal blood diseases such as leukemia. Of these, there are approximately 500 active-duty military and dependents currently in need of successful bone marrow transplants.



MARROW DONOR NEEDED NOW!



Melvin has a successful career in the Army and a wonderful wife and 8 year old daughter. His life however may soon end if a marrow donor cannot be found. Melvin has CML, a type of Leukemia. His best hope for a match could be someone of African American heritage. All it takes is a simple blood test to tell if you can help. Please take a moment and consider the



Bone marrow drive may save man's life



TO MRS. DEMMING AND MR. MANN WE, THE STAFF AND ALL MEMBERS OF SOUTH COLUMBUS BOYS CLUB,

Soldier strict in with leukemia needs donor



Paraglide

Life saving marrow donors sought





11 hr 23 min 18 hr 23 min

Dallas Atlanta New Orleans

MISSISSIPPI ALABAMA GEORGIA LOUISIANA

Map data ©2023 Google, INEGI

11 hr 23 min (796.5 mi)

A screenshot of a Google Maps interface showing a route from Atlanta to a clinical trial site near Dallas. The route is highlighted in blue, passing through New Orleans. The travel time is 11 hr 23 min (796.5 mi). The map shows the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana. A red pin marks the destination near Dallas. The interface includes icons for car, train, and walking modes at the top.

Travel Distance from Atlanta to the Clinical Trial Site

3 Sites -- Oregon, Texas, California and the Major Contributors



KNIGHT
CANCER
Institute



Dr. Brian Druker, MD
Lead Investigator



Dr. Nicholas Lydon
Ciba-Geigy (Novartis) – Developed
Imatinib





Dr. Moshe Talpaz, MD

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
~~Cancer Center~~
Making Cancer History®



Dr. Charles Sawyers, MD

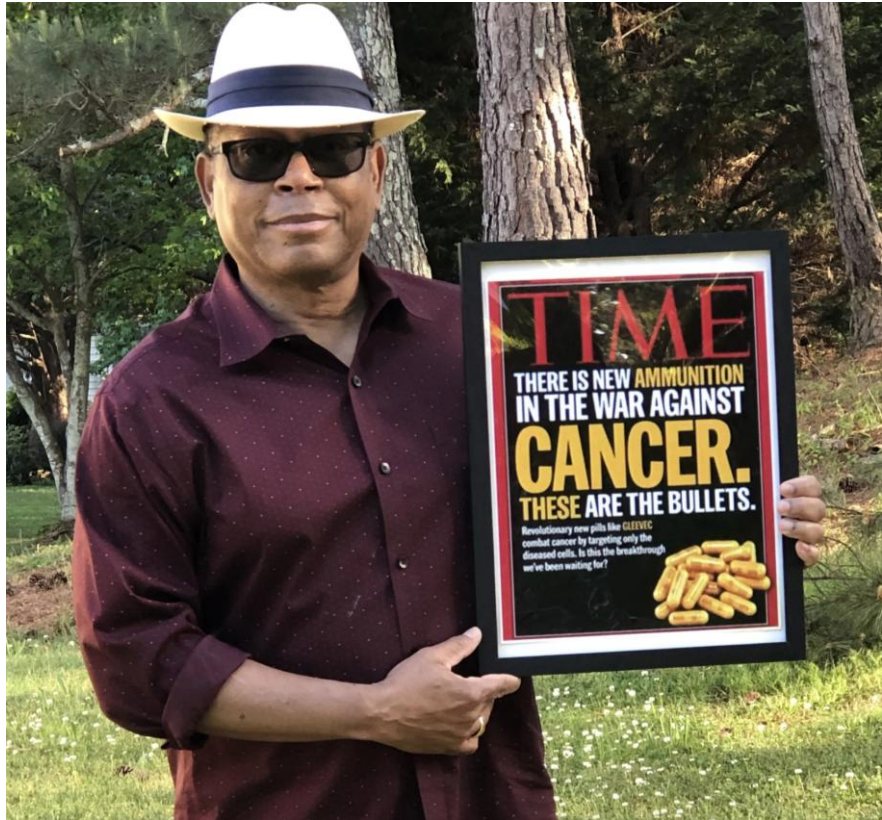


 **EL TOUR DE TUCSON**
Tucson, Arizona
November 20, 1999 



**26.2-Mile Marathon,
Anchorage Alaska,
June 1999**

**111 Mile Bike Ride,
Tucson Arizona,
November 1999**



Mel's Story



Mel Mann (left) was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia and was running out of time when he enrolled in a clinical trial studying Gleevec, a targeted therapy developed by Dr. Brian Druker (right).

Credit: National Cancer Institute

Gleevec (Imatinib) approved by FDA May 2001

Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs) For CML Treatment

(CML TKIs are taken orally)

Imatinib
1st Generation
FDA Approved 2001

Dasatinib
2nd Generation
FDA Approved 2006

Nilotinib
2nd Generation
FDA Approved 2007

Bosutinib
3rd Generation
FDA Approved 2013

Ponatinib
3rd Generation
T325I Mutation
FDA Approved 2012

Asciminib
3rd Generation
T315 Mutation
FDA Approved 2021

There are 80 FDA kinase inhibitors and seven of these drugs were approved in 2023. Here is a list of some of the diseases they treat.

- *Colon Cancer*
- *Kidney Cancer*
- *Melanoma*
- *Chronic Myeloid Leukemia*
- *Head and Neck Cancer*
- *Macular Degeneration*
- *Hepatocellular Carcinoma*
- *Pancreatic Cancer*
- *Thyroid Cancer*
- *Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors*
- *Alopecia Areata*



Neoplasms
Atopic dermatitis
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Psoriasis
Alopecia Areata
Ulcerative Colitis
HER2 – Positive Breast Cancer
Metastatic Colorectal Cancer
Myelofibrosis
Mantle Cell Lymphoma
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
ROS1- Positive Lung Cancer



Mel Mann with his daughter Patrice when she graduated from Emory University with a medical degree. She was 5 when he was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia and he worried he wouldn't have the chance to watch her grow up.

