

# HEALTH UPDATE

Progress Against Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma

(NAPSA)—There's encouraging news for the 100,000 people in the U.S. who will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma annually.

There has been a substantial incremental improvement in managing these can-

cers which originate in bone marrow and lymphatic tissue. In addition to the relative success of current chemotherapy and radiotherapy, several new areas of research may one day be responsible for better remission and cure rates.

According to *2000 Facts*, a booklet published yearly by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, promising therapies include:

- New drug development. Several important new drugs or new uses for existing drugs have improved cure rates or remission duration for some patients with leukemia.

A promising new drug, Glivec, is under study for the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia. It specifically targets the leukemic cells and has no apparent effect on most other cells. New data on thalidomide for the treatment of myeloma indicate it can temporarily stop the progression of advanced myeloma in some patients.

- Immunotherapy. This treatment is designed to use the

immune system to suppress leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma progression and to minimize the effects on normal tissues.

The types of immunotherapy being explored include antibody

treatment, immune cell administration and vaccine development.

Monoclonal

antibodies are laboratory-produced proteins that can be infused into an appropriate patient.

- Combined therapy involving a drug and a monoclonal antibody showed a high response rate in patients with low-grade or follicular lymphoma.

- Blood and marrow transplantation. Researchers are developing improved methods of transplanting stem cells from donors not perfectly matched with recipients. This technique may broaden the availability of transplantation.

Also, studies have shown that the blood in placenta and umbilical cords contain sufficient stem cells to be used to transplant children who might benefit from this procedure.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society fights leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease and myeloma through research, education, patient services and advocacy.

For more information or for free literature, you can visit [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org) or call 1 (800) 955-4572.



**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**<sup>SM</sup>

*Fighting Blood-Related Cancers*