# HEALTH MATTERS

# Mixed-Race Patients Lack Donors

Finding a match proves difficult

90 percent chance of finding a matching bone marrow donor who could cure his leukemia.

But because the 28-year-old bodybuilder is one-quarter Japanese, his doctor warned (AP) -- If Nick Glasgow were him the outlook was grim. white, he would have a nearly Glasgow's background would



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heart failure and having to be resuscitated; persevering through with no brain damage.

Companies, a provider of skilled to hard circumstances. On May nursing, long-term care and as- 9, 1921 Tessie was born, of all places, in a boxcar where she lived The recent event celebrates the for three months while her father

quis facility. Twenty-three re- dence at Vintage Suites at Piedmarkable senior ladies from vari- mont in northeast Portland where

> The 2002 Miss America and Oregon native Katie Harman hosted

race donors. So far, multiracial volunteers make up just 3 percent of the 7 million people on the registry.

That is higher than the percentage of mixed-race people in the U.S. But there are so many possible racial and ethnic combinations that finding a match can still be extremely difficult.

The reason that mixed-heritage patients are so hard to match can be found in the immune system.

Populations in different parts of the world developed certain proteins, or markers, that are part of the body's natural defenses. These markers help the immune system determine which cells are foreign and should be rejected. probability just gets lower

A match between two people who share many markers will reduce the risk of the donor and recipient cells attacking each other. Because certain markers tend to cluster in particular ethnic groups, matches are most often found among people of shared backgrounds. Multiracial patients often have uncommon profiles and a much harder time finding a donor.

About 6,000 patients in the Setterholm, the program's direc- pushing for years to recruit U.S. are awaiting a bone martor of scientific services. "The more racial minorities and mixed-



Permanente Medical Center in Hayward, Calif. Glasgow's multicultural backgound makes it almost impossible to find a bone marrow match to treat the leukemia. (AP Photo)

Program is trying to change that

"The truth is, when people

and produce offspring, it cre-

ates more types that are harder

to match," said Michelle

#### Local Senior Accepts Crown

make it almost impossible to find nors on the national bone-mar-

a match, which usually comes row registry are of mixed race.

from a patient's own ethnic The National Marrow Donor

The doctor "didn't say it was by seeking more diverse donors

slim-to-none. He didn't say it for patients suffering from leu-

would be hard. He said 'zero kemia, lymphoma and other

tears in her eyes. "When Nick of different backgrounds marry

chance," Glasgow's mother, blood diseases.

Carole Wiegand, recalled with

heard that, it sent him plummet-

At a time when the number

of multiracial Americans is ris-

ing, only a tiny fraction of do-

Tessie Taylor of northeast Portland graciously accepted her sash and crown as she was named the 2009 Rose Queen for Marquis sisted living services.

lives of senior ladies who cur-worked with the railway. rently make their home in a Marous Marquis facilities were recognized for their volunteer and community service contributions.

Tessie was chosen because of her dedication to children and her community. Doctors call her a "miracle patient" after medically dying three times last year from

However, Tessie is accustomed

Tessie now makes her resishe gives any child who visits a new teddy bear wrapped in a homemade blanket. She says, "It makes me happy to make others



The 2002 Miss America and Oregon native Katie Harmon crowns Tessie Taylor of northeast Portland the 2009 Rose Queen for Marquis Companies, a skilled nursing and assisted living provider.

## **OHSU Targets West Nile Virus**

Health & Science University have received federal funding

next 3 years.

to develop a vaccine for West human vaccine for West Nile. of the National Institutes of Nile Virus that will likely be ready Funding for the research Health.

Researchers at Oregon to enter clinical trials within the comes from the National Institute of Allergy and Infec-To date, there is no existing tious Diseases, a component

when you have people of mixed

The number of people who

identify themselves as multira-

cial in the United States has

grown from 3.9 million in 2000,

the first year the census in-

cluded the category, to 5.2 mil-

lion in 2008. Mixed-race people

account for 1.6 percent of the

The donor program has been

ancestral DNA.

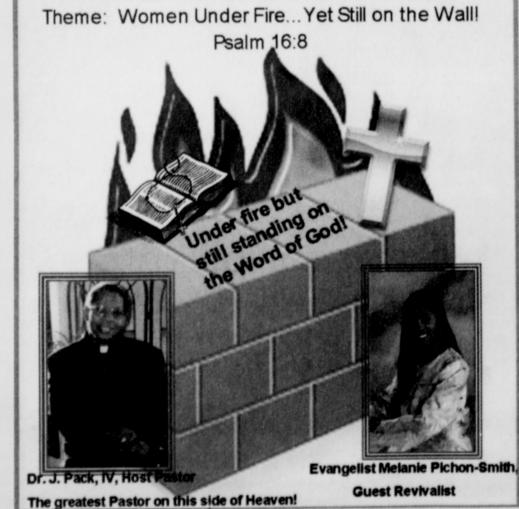
U.S. population.

"This grant shows the solid commitment of the NIH to improving human health through the development of new and improved vaccines," said Mark Slifka, an associate scientist at OHSU's Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute.

### Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

4009 N. Missouri Avenue, Portland, OR Dr. Johnny Pack, IV Pastor/Founder Presenting...

"Women Revival June 24-26, 2009 7pm!"



#### **HEALTHWATCH**

Treating Carpel Tunnel -- A free presentation on Carpel Tunnel and other nerve disorders is presented by the Providence Brain Institute on Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Souther Auditorium. Register online at providence.org/classes or call 503-574-6595.

Cardiac-Rehab Exercises -- A medically supervised exercise program for people dealing with heart conditions. For information, call 503-251-6260.

Parenting Workshop -- Are you struggling with parenting a "challenging" child? Kaiser hosts a parenting workshop on Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Interstate Building, 7201 N. Interstate Ave. Fee is \$20 for Kaiser member couples and \$25 for nonmember couples.

Red Cross Continuing Education -- The Oregon Trail Chapter Red Cross now offers credits to helps professionals maintain licensing or certification. For a cumulative list, visit pdxinfo.net.



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