



STUDENTS OF TKMCE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE & SOCIETY

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AARDRA '16 INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Aardra'16 is a state wide stem cell donor registry campaign organized by STEPS, TKM College of Engineering in association with DATRI, a foundation committed to saving lives through stem cell donation. The campaign was inaugurated at TKM College of Engineering on 26th October 2016 by Dr. D Babu Paul I.A.S. He commended the students for taking up such a noble initiative, in a world where individuals are rapidly becoming 'Robinson Crusoes'.

Stem cell therapy is a recent development in the field of medical science which can cure diseases like blood cancer, spinal cord injuries, tumors and immune disorders. In stem cell therapy, stem cells - the mother cells capable of transforming into any other cell are transfused in to the patient's body. The donation is specific only for such patients in whom there is a perfect HLA (Human Leucocyte Antigen) match. The chances of a match being 1 in 10,000 to 2 million. A stem cell donor registry is a solution of this problem. A sample of donor's cheek cells is stored in the registry making it easier to find a match for the patient. Aardra is an initiative of STEPS (Students of TKMCE for the empowerment of people and society) which aims to increase the number of registered stem cell donors and to create awareness about the potential of stem cell treatment to change the face of human diseases and alleviate suffering.

Aardra'16 comes after the success of Aardra'15, a stem cell donor registry drive held last year. Aardra'15 could bring a rise in the number of registered donors by 18.5% in Kerala and 4.2% in India. Through Aardra '16, they

"WHERE ENGINEERING MEETS HUMANITY"



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aim to further increase the number of registered stem cell donors (those willing to donate stem cells) in the nation - wide stem cell donor registry; and thus contribute to the fight against blood cancer, blood related disorders and other fatal diseases.

STEPS is a student-run charitable organization committed to serving society in various fields like education, blood donation etc. The life story of an alumnus of TKMCE whose life was saved from leukemia by stem cell therapy served as the inspiration to conduct Aardra '15.

With immense participation from the audience, the inaugural ceremony kickstarted Aardra '16. During the ceremony, Prof Ashfaque A delivered the welcome address and Prof. J Sreekumar delivered the presidential address. Datri state coordinator Mr. Aby Sam felicitated the event. The ceremony was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Rahul S

For publication,

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