



## News Release

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### Ankara University Cord Blood Bank is first Cord Blood Bank in Turkey to earn FACT accreditation.

OMAHA, Neb. – Ankara University Cord Blood Bank (AUCBB) in Turkey received internationally recognized accreditation by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. AUCBB, directed by Meral Beksac, M.D., is the first and only cord blood bank in Turkey to be recognized by FACT. The bank received accreditation on September 21, 2015, and is accredited for banking cord blood for both public and private family use.

“Our three years of continuous efforts to implement international standards at Ankara University Cord Blood Bank have been awarded with long awaited FACT accreditation,” stated Dr. Beksac. “International recognition of our organization providing quality service is a step towards global collaboration and further development. This is only the beginning of a non-stop marathon that we will run at a speeding pace.”

Dr. Phyllis Warkentin, FACT Chief Medical Officer, recognizes that global standardization of cord blood banks facilitates the availability of cord blood units for a greater number of recipients of all ethnic backgrounds. Dr. Warkentin states, “The FACT accreditation of international cord blood banks inspires confidence in patients and doctors that the transplant units are of excellent quality, thereby increasing the possibility of a successful outcome of the transplantation. I commend the AUCBB for the incredible work they have done, and their dedication to becoming FACT Accredited. I congratulate them on being the first in their region to achieve this honor.”

#### About FACT

Founded in 1996, FACT establishes standards for high quality patient care and laboratory practice in cellular therapies and regenerative medicine. FACT is a non-profit corporation co-founded by the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) and the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) for the purposes of voluntary inspection and accreditation in the field of cellular therapy.

#### About FACT Accreditation

The accreditation process is designed to be supportive, consistent, and objective. FACT promotes improvement and progress by establishing minimum standards, providing education, and inspecting and accrediting programs worldwide. Expert inspectors and the comprehensive accreditation program verify programs provide high quality cellular products and help to achieve desirable outcomes for patients. For more information, visit [www.factwebsite.org](http://www.factwebsite.org).

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