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**LOCAL BLOOD DONOR FOUND TO HAVE
EXTREMELY RARE BLOOD TYPE**

Clairemont man identified as only known donor in U.S. with this type

SAN DIEGO (July 7, 2021) – San Diego Blood Bank recently identified a donor with a very rare blood type after Clairemont Mesa resident Robert Lowry donated blood earlier this year.

San Diego Blood Bank randomly tests donated blood for uncommon red blood cell antigens. An antigen found in almost all individuals is one called “MAR”. The MAR antigen was discovered in 1994 in a Finnish woman, and in the Finnish population has an occurrence rate of 0.2% or 2 in 1,000 individuals. In the U.S. population, essentially everyone has the MAR antigen. Robert was found to be MAR negative!

Robert regularly donates platelets and has donated over 57 gallons of blood with San Diego Blood Bank to date. He started donating in the 1970’s when his dad was having surgery and he wanted to do something to help.

To be eligible to donate blood you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds and be in general good health. **Appointments are required** and available by visiting sandiegobloodbank.org or by calling (619) 400-8251.

About San Diego Blood Bank

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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