

## **Californians and Floridians Recognized for Role in Helping Rare Disease Patients Who Need Lifesaving Therapies**

Bio-Medicine.Org

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Sept. 1, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- This month, Florida and California are recognizing "Plasma Protein Therapies Month," by raising awareness for the valuable contributions of plasma donors and for the rare, genetic diseases treated with the therapies that are made possible through plasma donation.

Plasma protein therapies, which include plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors (a biotechnology product), are used every day to treat people with bleeding disorders, such as hemophilia, that causes painful internal bleeding and debilitating joint damage; primary immunodeficiency diseases, which prevent a person from fighting off even common infections; and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, also known as genetic chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a disease that severely damages the liver and lungs. In addition, a plasma protein therapy, albumin, is used in critical care settings, when treating severe trauma, burns and during major surgery. While these diseases and conditions affect a small number of individuals, patients in California, Florida and across the world rely on these vital therapies.

Plasma, a biological material that cannot be manufactured, is used to create lifesaving therapies that come solely from committed plasma donors. The state of California is home to 15 plasma collection centers and Florida is home to 20 centers. As California and Florida celebrate the generosity of their donors and raise awareness for the rare diseases that are treated with the therapies during Plasma Protein Therapies Month, we encourage everyone to thank donors who help to ensure a higher quality of life for patients across the United States and around the world.

"Plasma-derived therapies start with dedicated donors such as those in California and Florida and patients with rare, life-threatening, chronic and genetic medical disorders depend on healthy donors to commit to a lengthy screening process and a lo  
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