In Memory of Robert Hartzman  
1944-2019

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Robert James Hartzman, MD, on October 31, 2019, from complications of heart bypass surgery. He was a leading force in unrelated HCT and a great supporter of the CIBMTR.

It is difficult to overstate Hartzman’s role in the field. He established the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program; founded the Radiation Injury Treatment Network; and following his retirement, served as director of the Navy's Bone Marrow Research Directorate. His influence helped deliver significant life-saving breakthroughs, including the establishment of the research sample repository, research database, high resolution DNA-based HLA typing, bioinformatics research support, and the creation of the CIBMTR.

Hartzman was a husband, father, physician, scientist, and naval officer who felt a duty to humanity and our country. Many considered him a force of nature, noting that he wouldn’t take “no” as an answer. His work will live on through the 1 million donors recruited into the registry and the more than 8,000 transplants completed during his tenure. Every life saved is a tribute to his innovative research and dedication to service.

Hartzman is survived by his wife, Marlene, and son, Alex; other family members and friends; and a multitude of colleagues and patients across the HCT field. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.