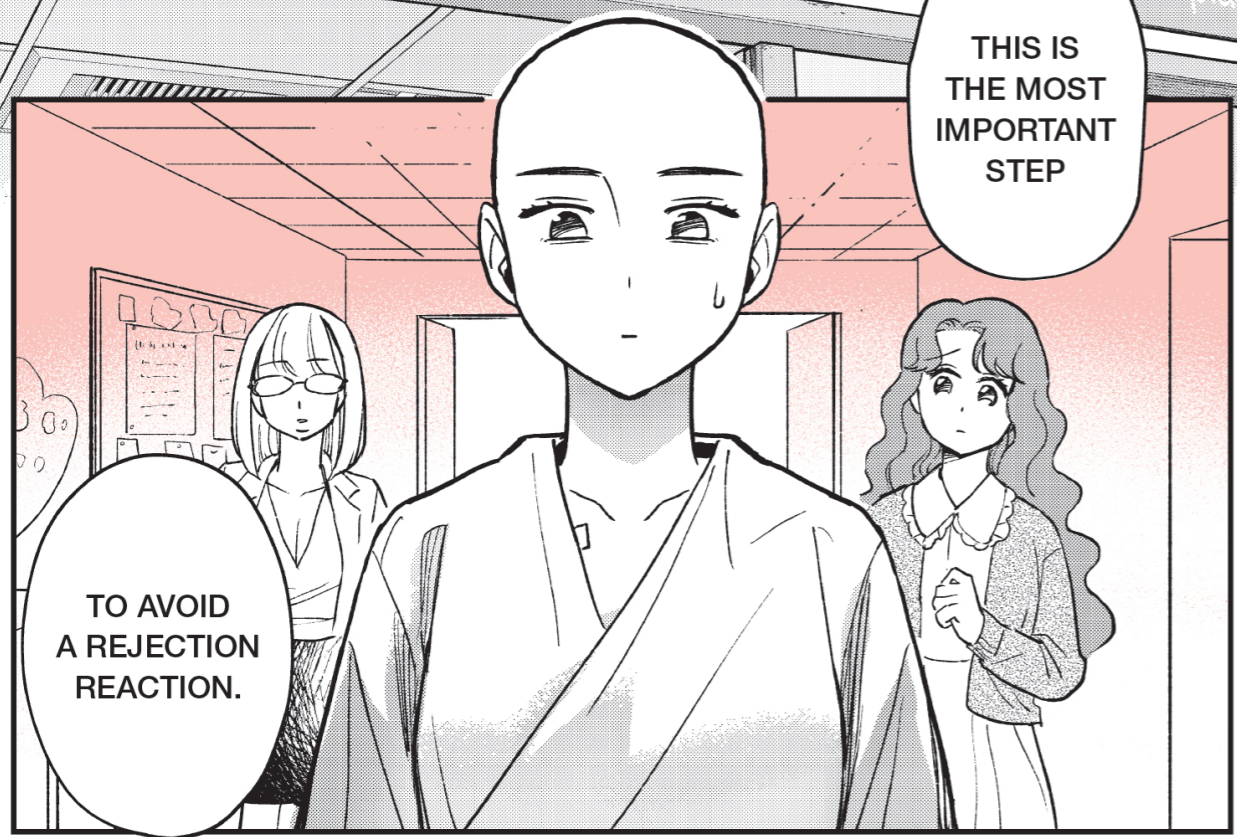


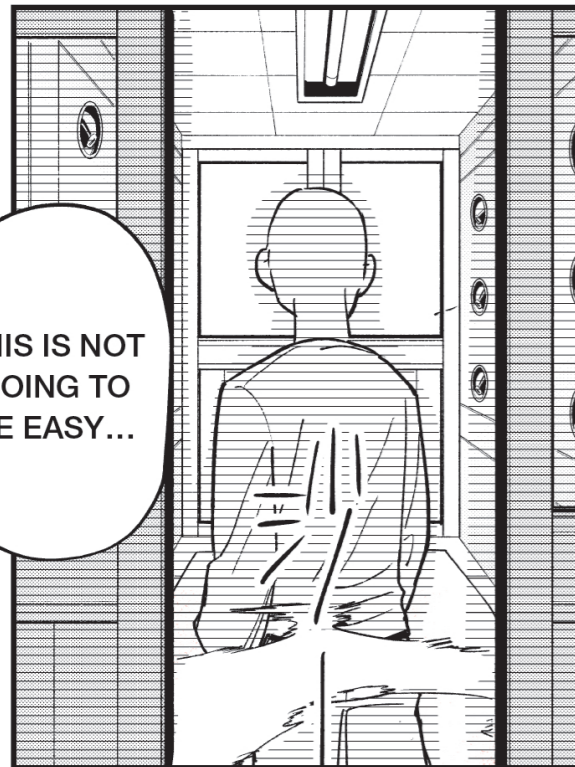
骨髓移植病房

Bone Marrow Transplantation

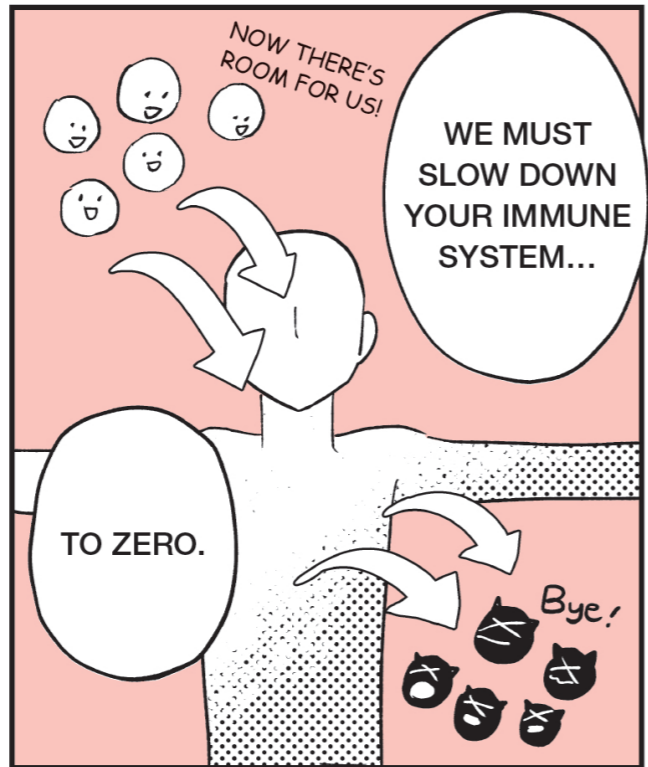


THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP

TO AVOID A REJECTION REACTION.



THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY...



NOW THERE'S ROOM FOR US!

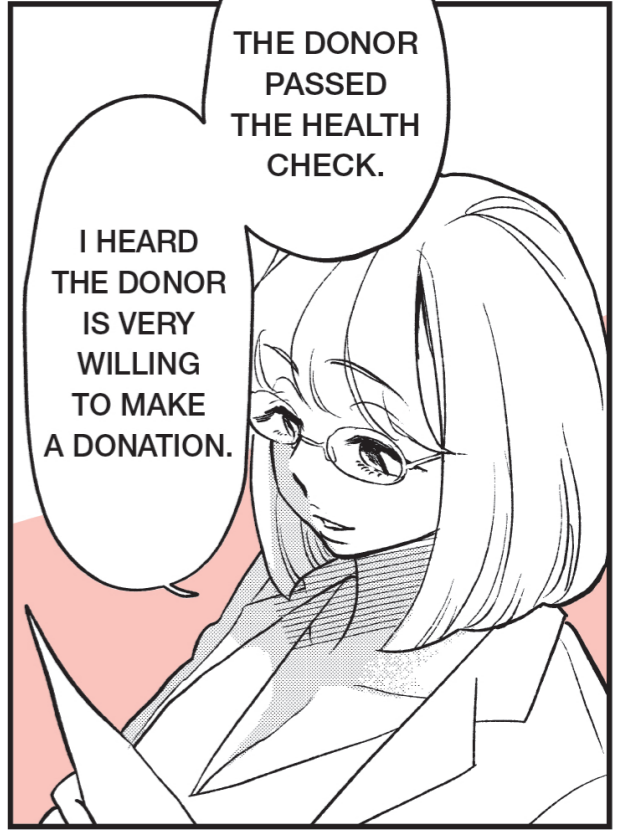
WE MUST SLOW DOWN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM...

TO ZERO.

Bye!

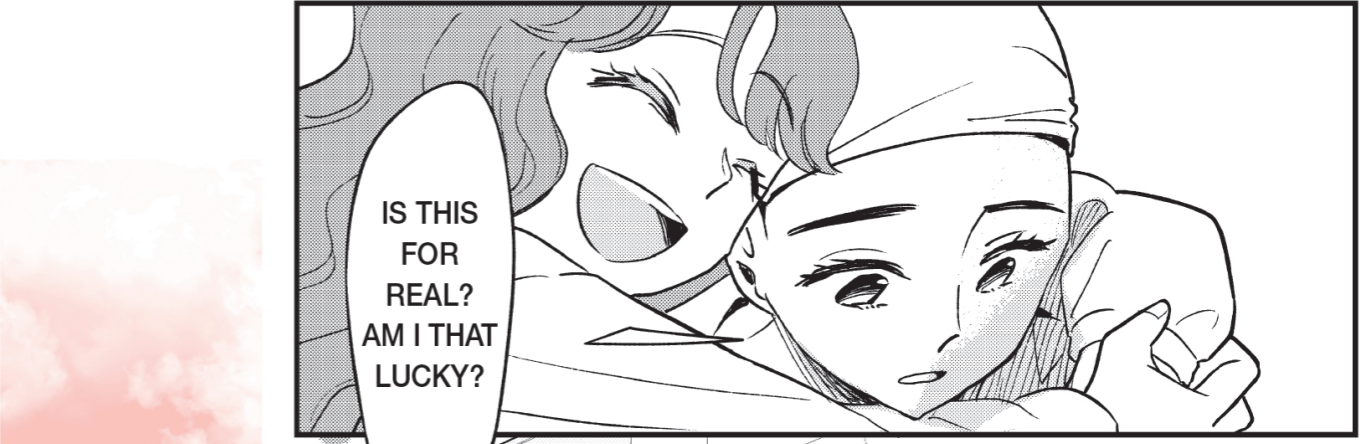


THAT'S AMAZING! YI-HSIA CAN BE SAVED!

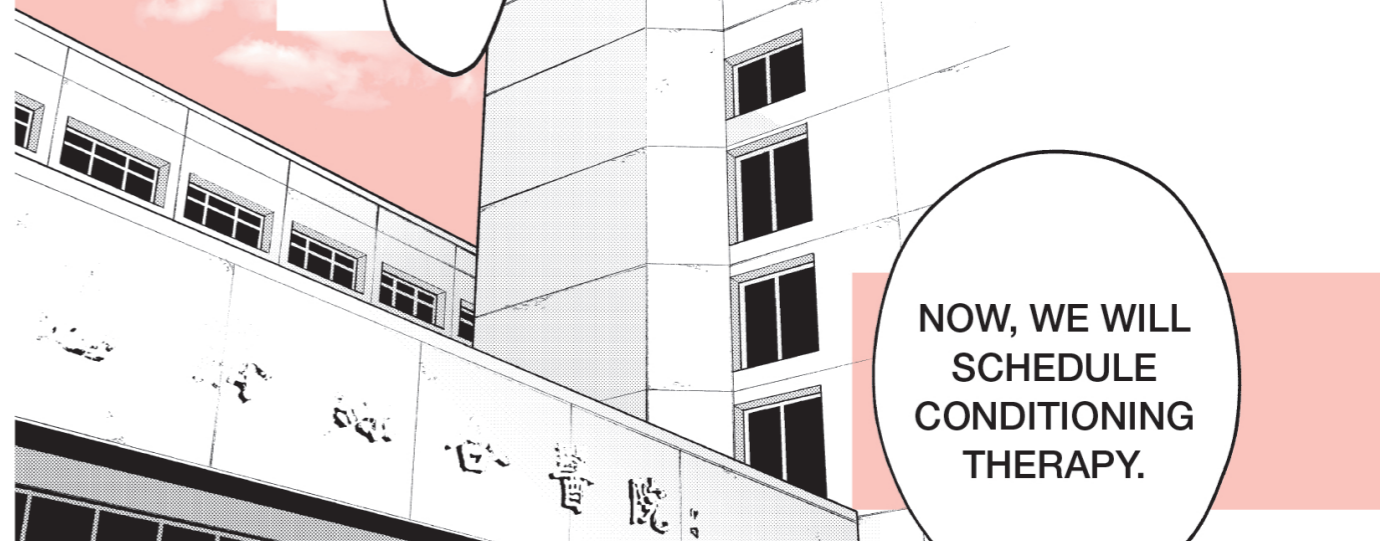


I HEARD THE DONOR IS VERY WILLING TO MAKE A DONATION.

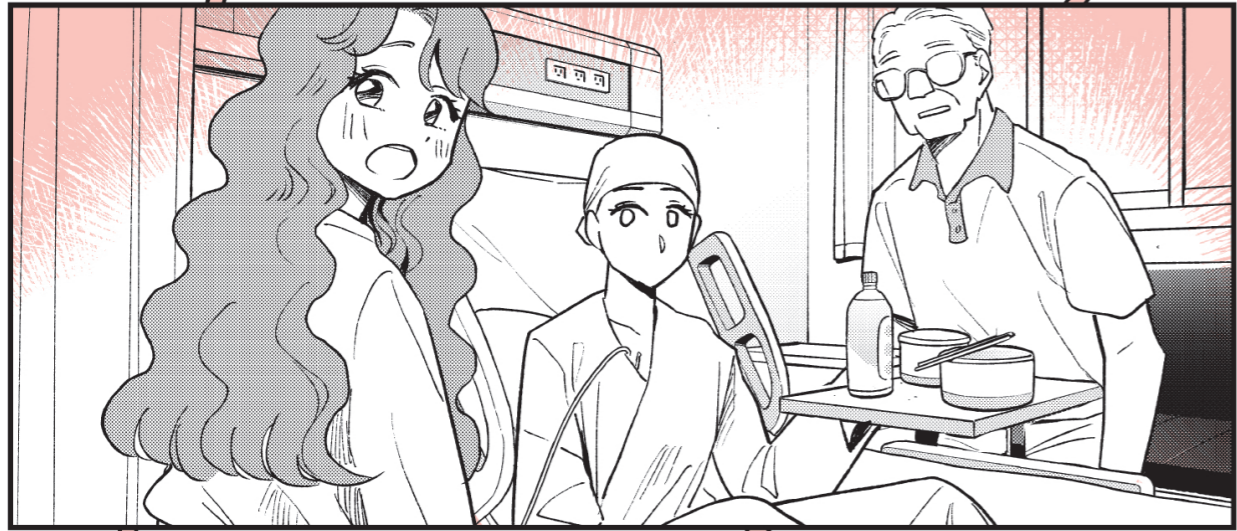
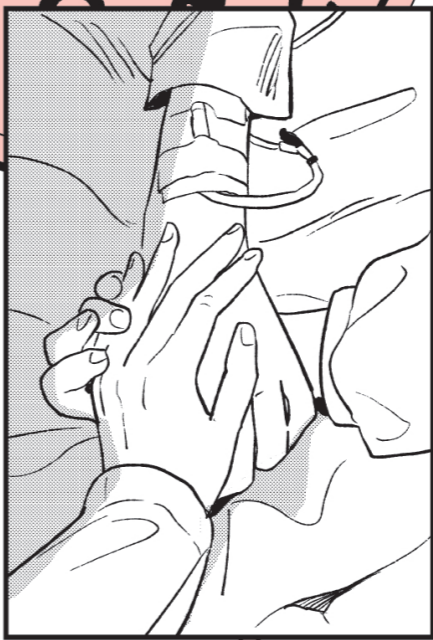
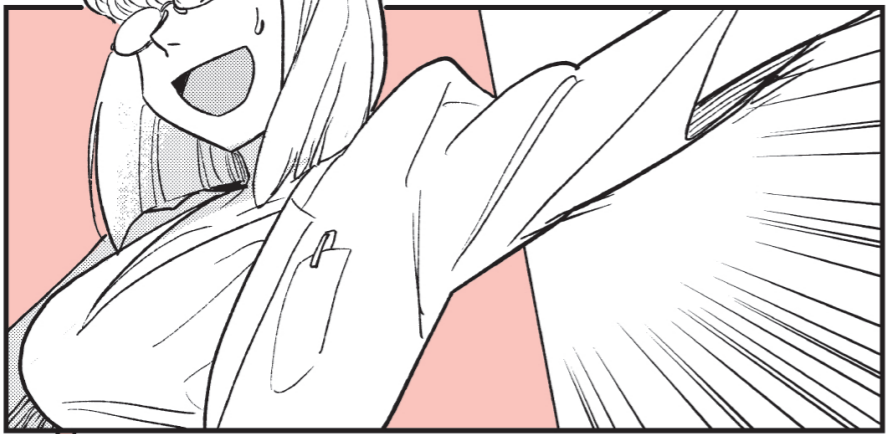
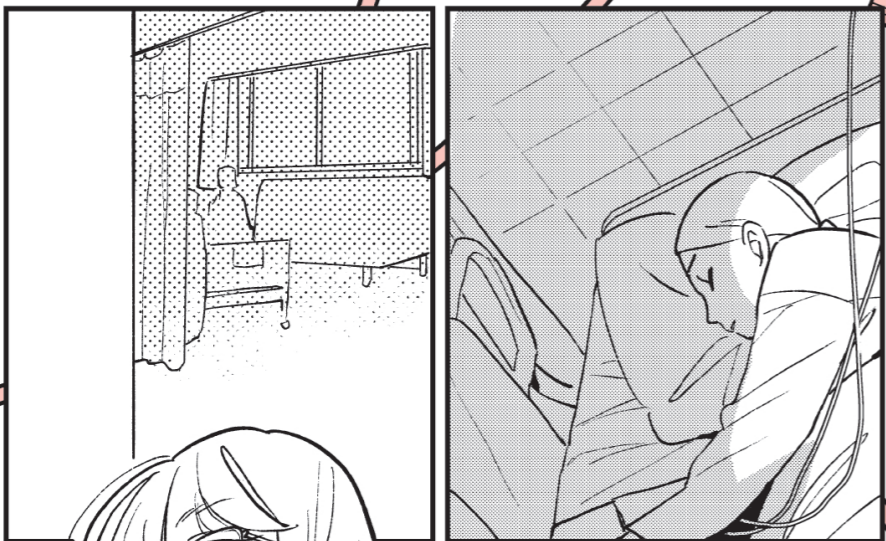
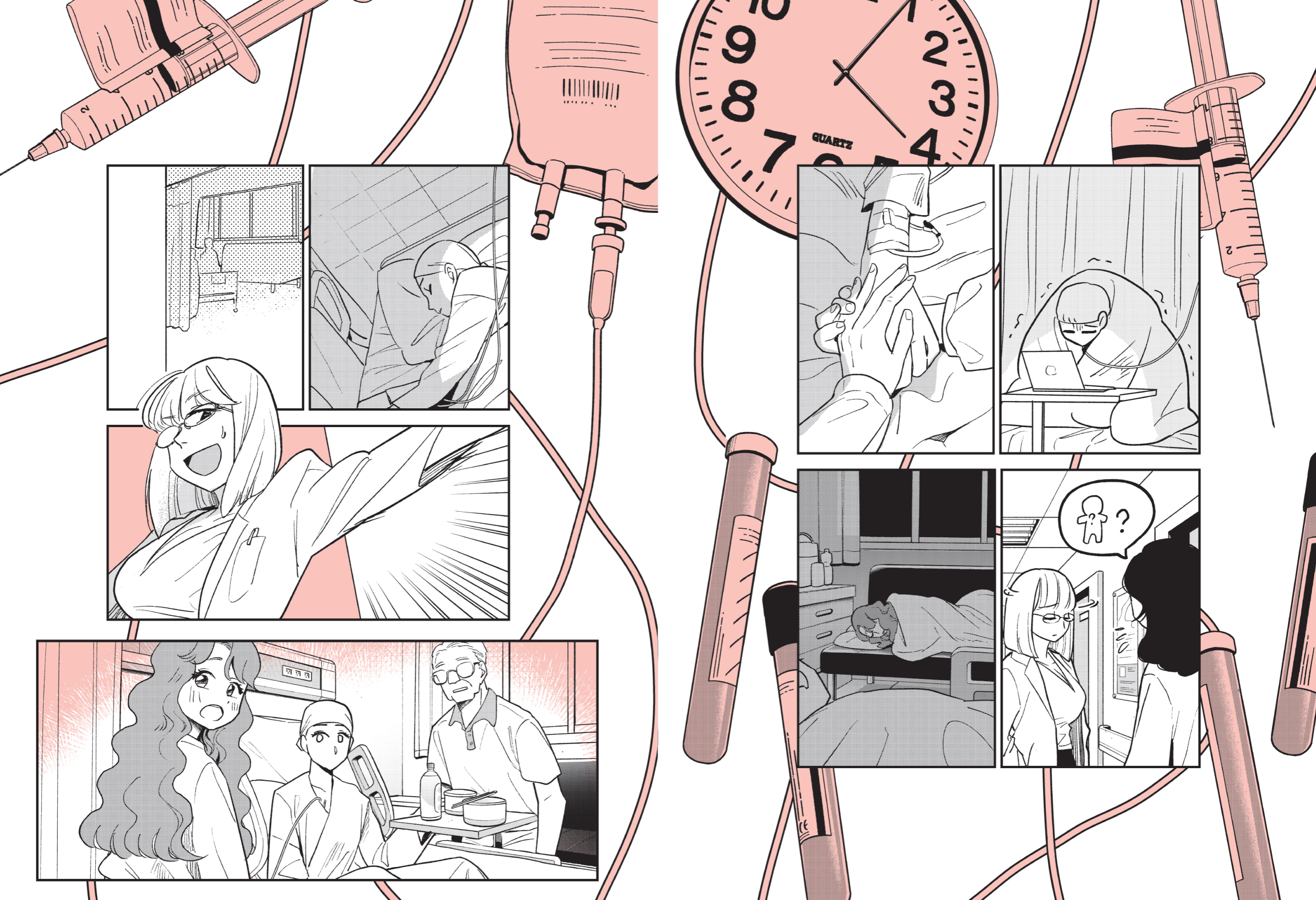
THE DONOR PASSED THE HEALTH CHECK.



IS THIS FOR REAL? AM I THAT LUCKY?

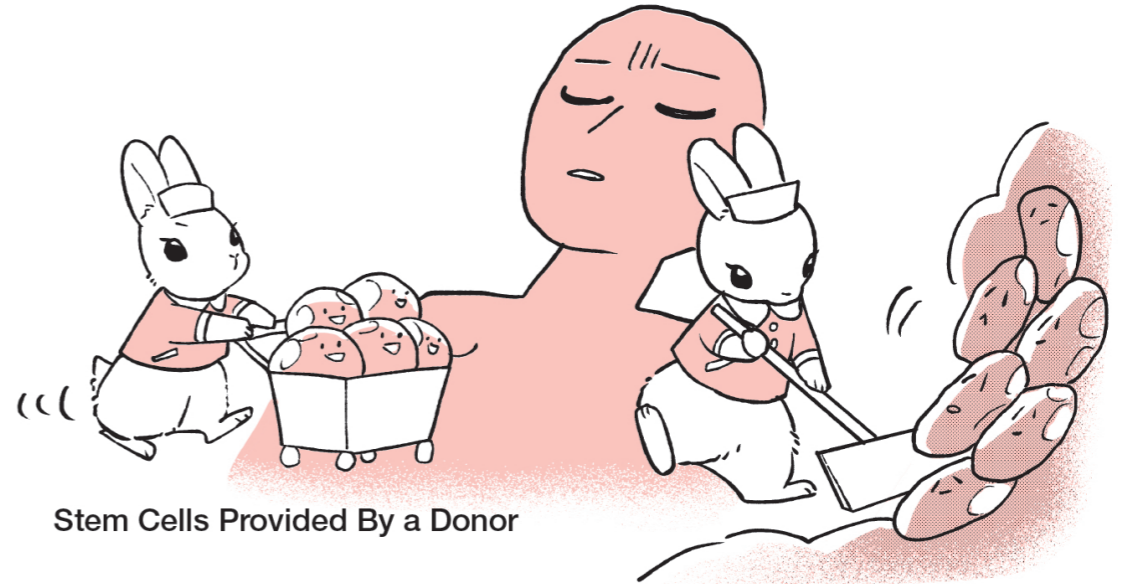


NOW, WE WILL SCHEDULE CONDITIONING THERAPY.



Why are donations of stem cells needed?

Leukemia is caused by the presence of abnormal blood-forming stem cells; therefore, patients need healthy stem cells from donors to replace their abnormal cells for recovery.

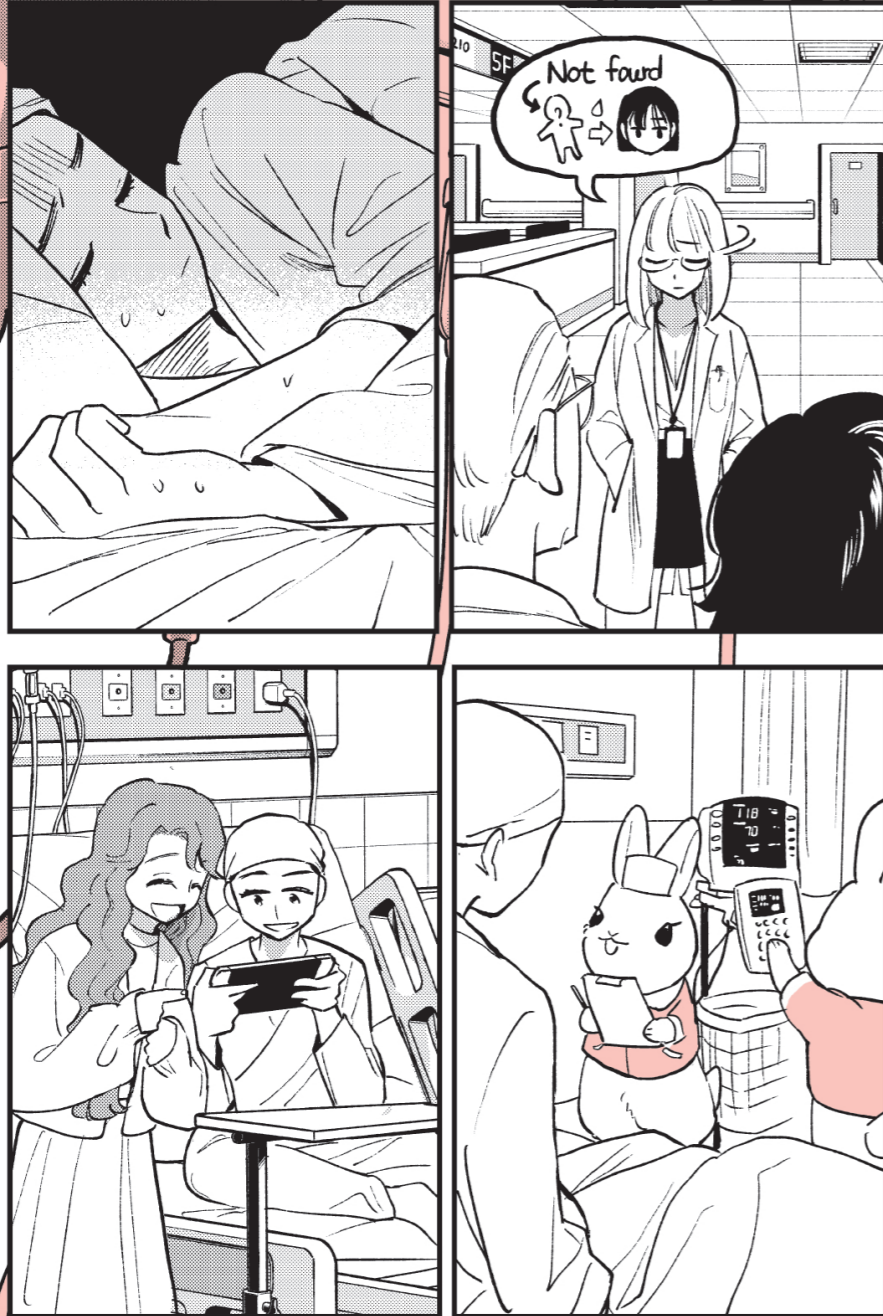


Stem Cells Provided By a Donor

Abnormal Stem Cells

Risks of BMT

The immune system of the patient might reject the donor's stem cells, causing her to be attacked by her own immune system. This can lead to many complications, including rashes, abdominal pain, bloody stool, and an abnormal liver panel or even infertility in women.



Highlighting the Struggles of Leukemia Patients: Using Comics to Encourage Bone Marrow Stem Cell Registration

by Chang-Chung Lin

The Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center is Taiwan's only bone marrow stem cell database, with an age limit for registration between 18 and 46 years. It relies heavily on young people's participation to build the database. After its establishment in 1993, the center's promotional efforts were successful, but by 2015, a wave of negative online articles spread false claims, leading to a significant decline in registration numbers, dropping to less than half of previous years. This drop severely impacted blood disease patients who rely on stem cell donations. In response, I wanted to find a way to communicate the importance of stem cell registration and donation through methods more accessible to

young people.

Comics, a unique art form, have great potential to spread public health information effectively, whether in digital or print form. To reach the younger audience, we planned to communicate through comics, aiming to increase registration numbers. We invited Professor Helin Luo to lead the project, and collaborated with Taiwanese novelist Wu Xiaole and comic artist Monday Recover, creating a comic that simplifies and rethinks the challenges faced by the stem cell database and how to overcome them.

The public health topic addressed in the comic is leukemia, particularly issues related to bone marrow transplants. Misinformation has often caused

confusion, with some people wrongly believing the registration process involves painful procedures like bone marrow extraction. In fact, registering in the database only means providing personal and tissue compatibility data (HLA typing) to help match with potential patients in need of a transplant. Only if a match is found will the donor be contacted, and the donor can choose whether to proceed with the donation.

Addressing misinformation is key in modern society, where social media plays a major role in information dissemination. However, social media can spread biased or misleading content. Opinion leaders have a crucial role in public health communication, helping to clarify misconceptions, alleviate public fears, and guide more rational and informed perspectives.

The core of the comic creation project is "finding each other." People's emotional transformations in times of hardship are remarkable. Some donors even say that saving a life was the most important thing they've ever done. This energy, derived from the inherent vitality within us, is what can save others' lives.

The comic *Have I Found You?* realistically portrays the struggles of leukemia patients, a situation commonly seen at the Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center.

When a family member is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family is thrown into a cycle of pain and helplessness. But with a matching donor, hope and a chance for renewal are restored. This is a pressing yet often overlooked issue.

As Professor Helin Luo shared in his class, art carries a social responsibility. Conveying accurate medical information with both aesthetics and justice is a complex task. Thanks to everyone's efforts, this crucial issue is now more visible. Many young people, moved by the comic series, have been inspired to take action, resulting in a significant increase in registrations and blood test events. As we continue to update the database, we hope more young people will contribute, ensuring a younger, more vibrant registry that can save more lives.

This afterword has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

Chang-Chung Lin, with over 20 years of experience in medicine, is an expert in nuclear medicine and a dedicated promoter of the arts. Passionate about Taiwan's culture, he actively advocates for Koji pottery and raises awareness about hematopoietic stem cell donation.



與你的血緣

 編劇 吳曉樂
 漫畫 星期一 回收日

Have I Found You?

與你的血緣

Author: Wu Xiaole **Illustrator:** Monday Recover **Publisher:** Gaea Books

Date: 09/2023 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

122 pages | 14.8 x 21cm **Volume:** 1

BFT2.0 Translator: Lorena Rivas Kuang

This groundbreaking manga highlights the critical need for bone marrow donors in Taiwan, where the chance of finding a match for leukemia patients is just one in 100,000. Renowned writer Wu Xiaole and Golden Comic Award-winning artist Monday Recover blend themes of modern loneliness and family healing. Their mission is to raise awareness about the hematopoietic stem cell database and its vital role in saving lives.



Illustrator Monday Recover

Monday Recover is an illustrator and manga artist from Tainan, Taiwan, known for her deep love of dogs and rabbits. Her work has earned widespread acclaim and numerous prestigious awards. In 2023, she received the Silver Award at the 16th Japan International Manga Award for *Sea You There and Us*. Previously, she won the Golden Comic Award for Comic of the Year three years in a row: in 2021 for *Fantastic Flowers*, in 2020 for *Nine Lives – Drowning Light*, and in 2019 for *Pink Ribbon*. Her journey as an artist began with a breakthrough in 2015, when she was awarded the Gold Prize in the Junior Manga category at the Dongli Original Competition for *One Timing!*



Author Wu Xiaole

Wu Xiaole, an author based in Taichung, enjoys parrots and is a fan of Souls-Like. She is known for her works such as *On Children*, *The Privileged*, and *Everything She Fails to Achieve*. In 2023, she won First Prize for "Most Popular Author of the Year" at the Readmoo Annual Chinese Language Awards for *Everything She Fails to Achieve*.