



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Malaysia's Largest and Pioneer Cord Blood Bank Stemlife Berhad Receives World-class AABB Accreditation**

- Stemlife Berhad, the pioneer and the largest cord blood bank in Malaysia, has successfully achieved AABB accreditation.
- AABB accreditation is the international gold standard for blood banks and transfusion services.
- Stemlife's latest achievement is a firm validation of the Company's robust quality system and track record of reliable cord blood banking services in Malaysia.

**KUALA LUMPUR, 17 April, 2018** – Stemlife Berhad ("Stemlife" or the "Company"), the pioneer cord blood bank in Malaysia announced today that its facility has been granted the prestigious AABB accreditation, bringing cord blood banking standards in the country to world-class level.

This accreditation was conferred following a rigorous on-site audit by expert assessors from AABB. During the assessment, Stemlife's level of medical, technical and administrative performance was determined to have met or exceeded the standards set by AABB. AABB is a global leader in standards development, accreditation and implementation of quality systems in transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. The organisation is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programmes to optimise patient and donor care and safety. This recognition by AABB is sought after by public and private blood banks as it reflects an organisation's commitment towards advance learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

Parents banking with an AABB accredited bank can be assured that the best possible cord blood unit has been qualified, collected, tested, processed and stored according to the latest international standards. Should the cord blood unit be needed in the future, the transplant physician anywhere in the world will know that a unit handled by an AABB accredited bank was collected, tested, processed and stored in a way that is consistent with enhancing the chances of a successful transplant.

"We are very proud that Stemlife has achieved AABB accreditation because it demonstrates our commitment to delivering the highest quality service to our clients. This is important to us as we want our clients to have a peace of mind and confidence in us," said Ms Yap Eng Gee, CEO of Stemlife Berhad. She added, "Since the founding of our Company back in 2001, we have been striving to meet or exceed the AABB's very stringent standards. Today, our commitment to quality has been validated and formally recognised."

"As Stemlife's parent company, we believe AABB accreditation is not only extremely essential in today's growing cellular therapy market, but also exceptionally important to our clients, who have entrusted their child's cord blood to us for almost a lifetime. This endorsement gives a physician anywhere in the world assurance that a cord blood unit managed and stored by Cordlife was handled safely and according to the highest standards to support a successful transplant." said Mr. Michael Weiss, the Group CEO and Executive Director of Cordlife Group Limited (CGL), Singapore. He added,



“Families who chose to store in unaccredited facilities should be made aware that standards could potentially fall short. Given lives could be at stake, we do not take standards lightly.”

Stemlife is a majority-owned subsidiary of CGL since December 2015 and is now part of the latest cord blood banking group in Asia with presence in 9 countries. With 17 years of proven expertise in stem cell banking in Malaysia, Stemlife has processed more than 60,000 cord blood stem cells and released cord blood units used successfully in cord blood transplants or infusions for the treatment of thalassaemia major, cerebral palsy, brain injury and leukaemia.

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**About Stemlife Bhd**

Stemlife is a stem cell bank licensed by the Ministry of Health Malaysia under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services (PHFS) Act 1998. Established in 2001 and currently a part of Singapore mainboard listed Cordlife Group Limited, Stemlife offers end-to-end stem cell services of the highest standard and quality through cutting-edge technology and lab processing in accordance with international standards. Collectively, more than 60,000 families have entrusted their baby’s cord blood stem cells with Stemlife in its Malaysia and Thailand facilities. To-date, Stemlife has successfully released 16 cord blood units for transplantation and assisted in stem cell applications for over 500 cases.

**About Cordlife Group Limited (Bloomberg: CLGL; Reuters: CORD.SI)**

Incorporated in 2001, Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife”, together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”) is a consumer health company and one of the leading providers of cord blood as well as cord lining banking services in Asia. Cordlife has been listed on the mainboard of Singapore Exchange (SGX: P8A) since March 2012.

Cordlife owns the largest network of cord blood banks in Asia with full stem cell processing and storage facilities in six key markets namely Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and the Philippines. In Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia, Cordlife operates the largest<sup>1</sup> private cord blood banks; and is amongst the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. By January 2018, Cordlife became the market leader in Hong Kong with the acquisition of the largest private cord blood bank in the country, HealthBaby Biotech (Hong

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<sup>1</sup> *Deloitte & Touche Financial Advisory Services Limited report, 10 April 2013*



Kong) Co., Limited. Through its majority owned subsidiary, Stemlife Berhad in Malaysia, Cordlife controls indirect stake in Thailand's largest private cord blood bank, Thai Stemlife. Cordlife is also the first Singapore private cord blood bank to provide cord blood and cord lining banking services in Myanmar and Vietnam.

Beyond cord blood and cord lining banking, Cordlife offers a comprehensive suite of diagnostics services for the mother and child segment including urine-based newborn metabolic screening, non-invasive prenatal testing, paediatric vision screening and other genetic screening services.

The Group's stem cell processing and storage facilities in Singapore, Hong Kong, India and the Philippines are accredited by AABB, the organisation behind the world's gold standard for cord blood banking. Over and above, Cordlife Singapore is accredited by FACT-Netcord, another world-class accreditation body for cord blood banks globally. This makes Cordlife Singapore one of just six cord blood banks in the world to be accredited by both AABB and FACT-Netcord simultaneously. The Group's majority-owned Hong Kong Screening Centre and Cordlife India also attained accreditation from the College of American Pathologists ("CAP") for meeting the highest industry standards for laboratory services. These quality achievements underpin the Group's commitment to providing the highest service quality for clients. For more information, please visit <http://cordlife.listedcompany.com>.

## **About AABB**

AABB is an international, not-for-profit association representing individuals and institutions involved in the fields of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. The association is committed to improving health through the development and delivery of standards, accreditation and educational programs that focus on optimizing patient and donor care and safety. AABB membership includes physicians, nurses, scientists, researchers, administrators, medical technologists and other health care providers. AABB members are located in more than 80 countries and AABB accredits institutions in over 50 countries.