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# Heroic Aussie Donor Who Saved Millions Passes Away at 88

## Description

An Australian gentleman, famed for his altruistic spirit, has passed away at the venerable age of 88 after an impressive 70 years of donating blood plasma every three weeks. James Harrison, often referred to for his exceptional contributions, possessed a unique antibody in his blood—a pivotal component in the formulation of the Anti-D injection. This injection is instrumental in preventing women with rhesus-negative blood from mounting immune responses against their unborn infants who may possess rhesus-positive blood.

His remarkable generosity is credited with safeguarding the lives of over two million neonates susceptible to rhesus disease, as reported by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. Harrison's journey commenced at the tender age of 14, following a life-saving blood transfusion during a thoracic operation. This formative experience ignited his commitment to blood donation, occurring during an era when thousands of newborns were succumbing annually to what would later be recognized as rhesus disease.

It was soon discovered that Harrison's blood harbored a rare antibody known for its capacity to prevent women with rhesus-negative blood from developing antibodies against their offspring. In the 1960s, medical professionals utilized Harrison's plasma to synthesize the Anti-D injection, which has since become a standard intervention aiding women in gestating rhesus-positive infants to completion.

"Australia was among the pioneering nations to identify a blood donor with this remarkable antibody, making it quite revolutionary at the time," stated Jemma Falkenmire from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service in a 2015 interview with CNN. Although 50 additional individuals with the same antibody have been identified in Australia, this particular blood trait remains exceedingly rare.

blood donation

Each blood donation holds immense value. ([LuAnn Hunt/Unsplash](#))

"Each bag of blood is precious, but James' blood is particularly extraordinary. Every batch of Anti-D ever produced in Australia has originated from his contributions," Falkenmire elaborated. More than 17 percent of women in Australia are at risk, underscoring the significance of Harrison's life-saving legacy.

While scientists continue to probe the enigmatic origins of Harrison's antibodies, possibly linked to the transfusions he received in his youth, there remains a concerted effort to identify additional blood donors with similar antibodies to ensure the continuation of his remarkable legacy.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Altruistic** /,æɪ.truˈɪs.tɪk/ (adjective): Showing a selfless concern for the well-being of others.
2. **Instrumental** /,ɪn.strəˈmɛn.təl/ (adjective): Serving as a means of pursuing an aim or policy.
3. **Generosity** /,dʒɛn.əˈrɒs.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being kind and giving.



4. **Endeavor** /ɪn'de.vər/ (verb): To try hard to achieve something.
5. **Rhesus** /'ri:.zəs/ (noun): Referring to a specific type of blood group system in humans.
6. **Pivotal** /'pɪv.ə.təl/ (adjective): Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else.

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. Which term refers to the combined action or cooperation of two or more factors to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects?  
Option: Synergizes  
Option: Generosity  
Option: Endeavor  
Option: Transference
2. What term describes a mutual relationship or connection between two or more things?  
Option: Volitional  
Option: Correlation  
Option: Altruistic  
Option: Genesis
3. What term relates to rivers or streams?  
Option: Fluvial  
Option: Enigmatic  
Option: Instrumental  
Option: Transference
4. Which term means the action of transferring something or the process of being transferred?  
Option: Profound  
Option: Disseminates  
Option: Transformative  
Option: Transference
5. What term describes the preying of one animal on others?  
Option: Predation  
Option: Significant  
Option: Pivotal  
Option: Endeavor
6. Which term refers to relating to or characteristic of a religious or solemn rite?  
Option: Pivotal



- Option: Ritualistic
- Option: Conducive
- Option: Genesis

7. What term describes having deep insight or understanding?

- Option: Profound
- Option: Multifaceted
- Option: Generosity
- Option: Artifacts

8. Which term means sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention?

- Option: Electrocorticography
- Option: Synergizes
- Option: Significant
- Option: Enigmatic

9. What term describes the belief in or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others?

- Option: Undetermined
- Option: Altruistic
- Option: Pivotal
- Option: Tableau

10. Which term means of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else?

- Option: Enigmatic
- Option: Rhesus
- Option: Pivotal
- Option: Fluvial

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ is a condition caused by injury to the spinal cord resulting in paralysis of all four limbs.

12. The professor \_\_\_\_\_ the complex theory in a way that all students could understand.

13. The team studied the \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe to understand its origins.

14. A quiet and organized workspace can be very \_\_\_\_\_ to productivity.



15. The origins of the ancient artifact remain \_\_\_\_\_ baffling researchers and historians.
16. Despite the challenges the team continued to \_\_\_\_\_ and eventually succeeded.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is a method of recording electrical brain activity directly from the cerebral cortex.
18. The organization actively \_\_\_\_\_ information to the public through various channels.
19. The discovery of antibiotics was \_\_\_\_\_ for modern medicine revolutionizing treatments and outcomes.
20. The issue is complex and \_\_\_\_\_ requiring a comprehensive approach to address all its aspects.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. His decision to pursue a career in art was purely driven by his passion for creativity.
22. Her consistent acts of charity and kindness demonstrated her deep-seated toward others.
23. The museum houses a collection of ancient that provide insights into past civilizations.
24. The laboratory conducted experiments on monkeys to study cognitive functions.
25. The artist created a stunning depicting a historical battle scene in intricate detail.
26. Her innovative ideas were in the company's growth and success.
27. The ancient ruins held an charm leaving archaeologists intrigued yet puzzled.
28. The region's rich biodiversity was attributed to the presence of a ecosystem.
29. The collaborative efforts of various teams led to a of ideas resulting in an innovative solution.
30. After years of practice she became in multiple programming languages.



## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Synergizes 2. Correlation 3. Fluvial 4. Transference 5. Predation 6. Ritualistic 7. Profound 8. Significant 9. Altruistic 10. Pivotal

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Tetraplegia 12. Elucidates 13. Genesis 14. Conducive 15. Enigmatic 16. Endeavor 17. Electrocorticography 18. Disseminates 19. Transformative 20. Multifaceted

**Matching sentence:** 1. Volitional 2. Generosity 3. Artifacts 4. Rhesus 5. Tableau 6. Instrumental 7. Enigmatic 8. Fluvial 9. Confluence 10. Proficient

## CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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