An Overview of Acute Myeloid Leukemia

California resident and medical student Gregor McIver is completing his studies at the University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine. Before moving to California, Gregor McIver completed his masters in physiology and biophysics at Georgetown University in Washington, where his paper on HSCT for the treatment of leukemia was published in the university’s medical school library.  
  
[Acute myeloid leukemia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acute_myeloid_leukemia) is a cancer of the blood; this type of cancer affects the bloodstream and bone marrow, and has the potential to spread to other organs. Although cells normally mature and develop into specific types of cells, acute myeloid leukemia hinders this maturation process. As a result, the cells remain immature and continue to build up.   
  
An acute diagnosis indicates that the cancer can spread rapidly, and may result in fatality if not treated promptly. Treatment may include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, originating from the bone marrow, umbilical cord blood, or peripheral blood sources.