



## Interview Notes: 5008

Donor 5008 is a wonderfully unique human being. A very well-dressed young man, he came to our interview wearing a white button-down shirt with grey stripes and a sleek, grey skinny tie, faded grey jeans and *Keds*-like shoes with the laces tucked in. His clothes fit perfectly over his tall, willowy frame. He has sandy blond hair and slightly grown-in facial hair framing his full lips and piercing deep-set eyes of greyish-blue. Along with his beautifully pale, almost translucent skin, 5008 has an ethereal quality to him. He resembles the *Glee* actor Matthew Morrison, but a much paler, lighter version with a slightly longer face shape. When he smiles he has slight dimples and an eyebrow that arches; together, these features make him look slightly mischievous.

Donor 5008's story is complex and different, and this makes him quite likeable and intriguing. He is an identical twin, and after a little sighing and eye-rolling (he gets these questions a lot), he confirmed that yes, people do mistake them for each other and yes, they are extremely close. It turns out having an ally and close friend came in very handy during his often hectic childhood. Raised in northern California, 5008 was homeschooled until 6<sup>th</sup> grade for religious reasons. The experience was often chaotic, as his family had many foster kids living with them throughout the years. Over the course of his childhood there were more than 200 foster kids that came through his home, often meaning there were 10 or more people in the house at a time. Fortunately for everyone, their home had multiple rooms and bathrooms!

As a result of their hectic home life, donor 5008 and his twin often felt disconnected to the family and relied on each other for comfort and to provide each other with mutual stability. Their mother was devoutly religious and pushed Christianity on the twins, making them feel even more ostracized due to their lack of belief. Donor 5008 openly admits this caused a long-lasting fissure in his relationship with his mother. He described himself and his twin as the *black sheep* of the family. As a result of his mother's radical religious beliefs, the children were not allowed to use the internet, play video games or watch TV or movies. This left him feeling rather disconnected from modern society when he finally did leave home. He was, however, allowed to read books, something that has benefitted him greatly as an adult.

At 16 years of age, the twins struck out on their own after getting cars. They found themselves to be slightly naïve because of their lack of exposure to media and their often tumultuous childhood. Donor 5008 admitted that he went a little nuts on all the things he was not allowed to do as a child, mainly videogames. At first he wanted to go into film school, he had started a successful film club in high school. Once entering college, however, he found it hard to stay focused. After switching paths a few times, 5008 settled on economics and Mandarin as a career goal and is still completing school. He very much enjoys mathematics, enjoys the inherent logic in it.

The most informative thing donor 5008 told me during our interview is that most of his development has happened during the transitions of his life. Donor 5008 is a scrapper and a fighter, and in his heart he knows who he is. His heart has led him through many challenges and with the support of a loving brother; I believe he has great things coming in his future.

*Interviewer: Anat*

*Date: August 27, 2014*



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

# THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

## DONOR PROFILE: 5008

The past and current personal and family medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test results determine that donor **5008** is eligible and approved for semen donation at THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA. This profile was prepared in October, 2014 and updated in May 2015.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Identity-Release<sup>®</sup> Program: **Yes**
- Month/year of birth: **August, 1988**
- Education: **Pursuing BA in Economics**
- Current occupation: **IT Support Services**
- Ethnic origin: **English, French, German**
- Religion: **None**

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Height: **6' ¼"**
- Weight: **145**
- Hair color: **Medium blond**
- Hair type: **Curly, thick**
- Eye color: **Blue**
- Complexion: **Pale**
- Body type: **Medium**
- Blood group/Rh: **O+**
- Baby photo available: **Yes**
- Other distinguishing features: **Dimples**

### FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

**KEY:** **D** donor      **Ch** child      **F** father      **M** mother      **S** sister      **B** brother  
**Co** cousin      **A** aunt      **U** uncle      **MGF** maternal grandfather      **MGM** maternal grandmother      **PGF**  
paternal grandfather      **PGM** paternal grandmother

Breast Cancer: **MGM: Breast cancer at 64, treated with mastectomy, went into remission, eventually metastasized, ongoing at 84. MA: Breast cancer at 52, treated with chemotherapy and lumpectomy, resolved.**

Gastro-intestinal: **B#1: Stomach ulcer at 24, treated with medication, resolved. MGM: Intestinal cancer (metastasis from breast cancer) at 68, treated with surgery, resolved.**

Heart: **PGF: Heart disease (slow heart rate: bradycardia) at 82, treated with pacemaker, managed. MGF: Strokes (mini strokes) at 90, treated with exercise, managed.**

Mental Health: **S: (Maternal half-sister) Attention deficit disorder at 19, medication, ongoing and managed.**

Neurological: **MCo: Asperger syndrome in childhood, no treatment, ongoing and managed.**

Sight/Sound/Smell: **D: Right eye 20/15, Left eye 20/15.**

Cancer (see above): **MGM: Breast cancer. MGM: Intestinal cancer (metastasis from breast cancer). MGM: Bone cancer (metastasis from breast cancer). MA: Breast cancer.**  
Other: **B#2: Sleep apnea, treated with a CPAP machine, resolved. B#3: (Maternal half-brother) Carpal tunnel syndrome at 31, treated with exercise, ongoing managed.**

## DONOR LAB RESULTS

Chlamydia: **Not Detected**  
HIV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**  
Hepatitis B: **Non-Reactive**  
Urinalysis: **Normal**

Gonorrhea: **Not Detected**  
CMV total antibody: **\*Positive**  
Hepatitis C: **Non-Reactive**  
Chem panel: **Normal**

Syphilis: **Non-Reactive**  
HTLV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**  
CBC: **Normal**

*\*CMV IgM is negative/IgG positive. This combination shows a historic CMV exposure and donor is presumed to currently be non-infectious*

## GENETIC SCREENING RESULTS: ALL TEST VALUES IN NORMAL RANGE

*Genetic screening tests can significantly reduce, but never completely eliminate, the chance that a person is a carrier for a particular disorder.*

Cystic Fibrosis: (> 500 mutations) **No mutation detected**  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): **Two copies of SMN1 detected**  
Hemoglobinopathies/Thalassemia: **No abnormal hemoglobin detected (including sickle hemoglobin);  
No evidence of thalassemia**

## DONOR NARRATIVE: 5008

*The content of this narrative has not been altered by TSBC staff and therefore reflects original written work of the Donor*

## Describe your personality: introvert, extrovert, funny, serious, goal-oriented, curious, shy, etc.

I would describe myself as an introverted-extrovert. I have the tendency to stay in and be alone, but also enjoy going out and being social. I enjoy social interactions of all forms but have tested on the meyer- briggs as an Introvert. I am goal-orientated, but tend to take time to find the goals that matter; once I know what I want to achieve I will pursue it relentlessly. Like most people I can be serious at times and funny at others. I usually have a positive outlook on life and am willing to laugh about my past, or pretty much anything. Describing my own personality is a bit difficult because rarely am I objectively spectating my affectations and interactions. I know that I am very logical and enjoy learning about things, immensely. My education is extremely varied, ranging from Cinema and Photography to Engineering and Mathematics. I tend to find subjects I want to learn more about, and then do so. I'm social and enjoy company, as mentioned, and would rarely be called shy. Often times people will consider me charismatic and a leader, both in the classroom and the workplace. I will take the lead for projects, coordinate groups of people, and interact in a way to make groups more cohesive.

## What are your interests and talents?

My interests are hard to sum up. If I were to use my education as a reflection of my interests then it would go: cinema, photography, mathematics, computers, economics. I do think that these are a very solid reflection of my interests, in a broad sense. I enjoy the cinema and photography galleries; I am good at mathematics and technology; I enjoy learning about the economy and data analysis. I'm still exploring my interests and expanding my talents, and I don't ever expect that will change. Often times you may find me out to a movie, staying home to play on my computer, or out beer tasting. I have a recent fascination with beer and the science behind

brewing; thus I have begun to independently educate myself in this field. I hope to hold an Associate Brewer's license one day, maybe even a Master Brewer.

### What are some of your goals and ambitions in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

I've spent a long time trying to discover what exactly my goals and ambitions are, and expect they may change again with time. I currently hope to work with international businesses and one day open my own business. In 5 years I see myself either exiting a graduate program or already midway through the start of my career. In 10 years I see myself as a working professional, while preparing to launch my own business venture.

As mentioned I've spent a long time figuring out what I want to do with my life now, and how that will affect my future. I do think my interests may change, but I know that I want to be an independent proprietor one day, but before that I want to work in Economics as an analyst/manager. I look forward to being able to travel abroad and learn Chinese, and hope I can continue to use that knowledge and passion for learning in my future.

### How would you describe your skills and interests in the following areas?

**Math:** I didn't enjoy math early in life (high school), or rather I didn't think much of it. I now hold an associates in mathematics and enjoy it a lot. I would say Math is my biggest drive behind my current education. I really enjoy the math used in so much of our daily lives that people don't consider.

**Mechanical:** As a logical person I have interest in mechanics and associate technology. My interest is high in all areas, but my skills vary. I have a large knowledge in technology and the machinations behind many prevalent things/technologies. However, if this is in specific regards to automobiles, then I am clueless but with a slight interest.

**Athletic:** I am not extraordinarily athletic, but I enjoy athletics. I did water polo in high school and still play intramural. I exercise regularly as well. I am currently active in a boxing club and rock climbing gym. I hope to find a mui thai gym and join that as well. I enjoy the physical activity and coordination that boxing requires, and do not do it for the actual fighting.

**Musical, artistic, creative:** I am not musically inclined. I studied cinema and photography in college and did exceptionally well within the field both before college and during. I have won several awards for cinema and sold varied pieces of photography. While I have won many awards in the past for both cinema and photography, I find my interest waning as the years pass, in regards to practicing. I greatly enjoy the spectator aspect of these fields, however.

**Language (what languages besides English do you speak?):** I only speak Spanish basically, but am currently learning to speak Mandarin. I have a strong interest in learning Asian languages and initially wanted to learn Korean. I began to teach myself the Korean alphabet and basic phrases, with the help of a penpal, but unfortunately my school does not offer a Korean program and I have made the switch to Chinese/Mandarin. This will allow opportunities for me to also study abroad and immerse myself in the language/culture.

**Writing:** My interest in writing is not large. I am co-writing a novel with a personal friend, but only to record the story we came up with years ago. I look at writing with a similar view as mathematics, or any other logic based field. I learned how to do it effective and pride myself on my skill in presenting arguments and writing well (most of the time). However, I would not call it a passion and I rarely, if ever, write for fun.

**Literature:** I love to read. I finish a book about every 2-3 weeks depending on my free time. I read everything from non-fiction to fantasy. I would say that I primarily read fantasy in my leisure time, but often read a non-fiction in between novels. Often times the non-fiction books are related to technology or related fields, such as brewing or space programs.

**Science:** Science is a major interest for me, as of the last 4-5 years. I wasn't interested as a teenager but became immensely interested when I re-entered college. Science is a fascinating field to learn about and I am constantly learning new things. However, I would say that I have deviated from a science heavy field (such as Chemistry, Biology, and Physics) to a more mathematics heavy field (quantitative economics). The interest for science is still there, however the passion to practice it has diminished.

**Name a favorite movie, book and album-**

**Movies:** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade

**Books/Authors:** Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson

**Albums/Musicians/Performances:** Like Vines by The Hush Sound

**What are some of your reasons for becoming a sperm donor?**

I educated myself on the issues and need for sperm donors. I decided that it is wasn't out of my way to try and help. I think it is important for people to have options available to them when picking a donor, and fitting their genetic preferences. There also seems to sometimes be a stigma attached to sperm donation that I think makes it hard to find quality donors, due to a smaller sample size. You rarely see an ad trying to get men to do it, it is mocked in pop culture, and often times are mocked in real life. When I mention to people that I am considering sperm donation the first reaction I get is to laugh, then concede that I'm doing something good; I think this is representative of most people's views on reproductive donation. I came to the conclusion to try and become a sperm donor after doing my own research and finding a nearby bank, which I think is indicative of how little exposure there often is of it.

**Did you choose to be an Identity-Release® Program donor?**

Yes       No

### Why did you make this choice?

I'm not sure that I can elaborate for 5-6 sentences on why I choice to be an Identity-Release Program donor. I felt like it was the right thing to do. I know I would be curious about my genetic history, if it was me, and I have no problem with people seeking me out to learn more. Genetic history can be an interesting thing that many people want to learn, and I would not want to exclude anyone, if at all possible. I would never consider a child produced using my sperm as "my kid", which is often mentioned when conversing with others about sperm donation, and as such I am merely a tool of science used to help grant a couple THEIR child. I would be more than willing to discuss or meet a person that is curious about their genetic history.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with participating families and offspring?

Not that I can think of. I'm not immensely great at talking about myself but should any more specifics be desired, I am more than willing to answer questions.



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## HEALTH PROBLEMS DONOR 5008

FAMILY MEMBER	HEALTH PROBLEM	TREATMENT/RESOLUTION
<b>Brother#1 (Twin)</b>	Stomach ulcer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 24 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Resolved
<b>Brother#2</b>	Sleep apnea	Age at onset/diagnosis: 15 Treatment: CPAP machine Outcome: Resolved
<b>Maternal Half-sister</b>	Attention deficit disorder <i>ADD</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 19 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Ongoing, managed
<b>Maternal Half-brother#3</b>	Carpal tunnel syndrome	Age at onset/diagnosis: 31 Treatment: Exercise Outcome: Ongoing, managed
<b>Maternal Grandfather</b>	Strokes <i>Mini-strokes</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 90 Treatment: Exercise Outcome: Managed
<b>Maternal Grandmother</b>	Breast cancer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 64 Treatment: Mastectomy Outcome: Remission; eventually metastasized to bone
	Intestinal cancer <i>Metastasis from breast cancer</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 68 Treatment: Surgery Outcome: Resolved
	Bone cancer <i>Metastasis from breast cancer</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 82 Treatment: Chemotherapy Outcome: Ongoing

<b>Paternal Grandfather</b>	Heart disease <i>Slow heart rate: bradycardia</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 82 Treatment: Pacemaker placed Outcome: Managed
<b>Maternal Aunt#1</b>	Breast cancer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 52 Treatment: Chemotherapy, lumpectomy Outcome: Resolved
<b>Maternal Cousin</b>	Asperger syndrome	Age at onset/diagnosis: Childhood Treatment: None Outcome: Ongoing, managed

The above family medical history information has been self-reported by the donor. We work with each donor to obtain as complete and accurate information as possible, but we are unable to completely rule out the existence of other health information that is not known, or that remains unreported to us.

As a board certified genetic counselor, I have reviewed this donor's family medical history for identifiable patterns of inheritance that may place the donor or his biological offspring at increased risk for certain health problems. ("Increased risk" is risk that is greater than the risk in the general population).

Upon review of the available family medical history information from this donor, the risk for similar health problems occurring in offspring is not expected to exceed the risk in the general population.

Cynthia Kane, M.S., C.G.C.  
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