



## TELEGRAFT LIVE!

**Greetings from London, UK! We've converged on the ExCeL in London to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee Year. Here are just a few highlights from the first day of the meeting:**

- With almost **1,600** delegates, this is ISCT's largest meeting to date, with representatives from over **50** countries. We are truly global!
- The meeting started off with a bang, with **Catherine Bollard's** Presidential Plenary, introducing T-cell immunotherapy as a rapidly growing field, especially considering the increasing use of CD19 CAR-T cells. In this session, **Martin Pule** highlighted how to best move beyond CD19 targeting to T-cell malignancies. This delivers tantalizing hope that his novel approaches could be extended to the targeting of solid tumors. **Chiara Bonini** highlighted over 14 years of persistence of infused TK-transduced T cells post HSCT and highlighted the advantages of TCR-transduced T cells. Finally, in ISCT's 25<sup>th</sup> year, **Helen Heslop** provided an outstanding overview of the virus specific T-cell field. This also has a 25 year history with remarkable and durable outcomes with minimal toxicities.
- **Miguel Forte**, Co-Chair of the organizing committee and Chief Commercialization Officer, commented that "the new structure of the main conference program, with high level plenary presentations and focused discussions in breakout sessions, is capturing the overall interest in cell and gene therapy while allowing detailed research discussions." The Presidential Plenary, on T-Cell Immunotherapy, was followed by four Plenary Sessions. These were then followed by Breakout Sessions that include a mix of both traditional speakers and related oral abstracts. This new structure also allows ISCT to double the number of Oral Abstracts presented, resulting in lots and lots of interaction at the macro and micro levels.
- There were three pre-conference events for the delegates focused on umbilical cord blood: FACT Cord Blood Inspector and Applicant Training, a CBA Workshop, and the FACT Quality Bootcamp for Cord Blood. "We've had a fantastic collaboration for several years now, working with ISCT to put on these workshops," said **Alan Leahigh**. "The new format of the preconference day allows people to flow between events."





- **Phyllis Warkentin** and **Malcolm Brenner** presented the ISCT Career Achievement Award to **Adrian Gee** for over 40 years of considerable contributions to the field. Mentees and colleagues alike filled the auditorium.
- The selection of the 2017 Cell Therapy Training Course Scholars were announced. Congratulations to the scholars that represent the global nature of ISCT. Even the awardees and mentors from North America are from international backgrounds. This is the second time that this specific course has been held in conjunction with ASBMT. ISCT looks forward to welcoming the scholars to an autumnal Seattle!
- In other news:



- The Korea Pavilion swelled to hosting 10 organizations this year – which is double the 5 organizations that represented Korea in ISCT 2016 Singapore
- Early registration resulted in an impressive attendance starting on the preconference day - over 300 delegates participating in 5 tracks
- The exhibit area covers an impressive amount of real estate at ExCeL London, UK – 5,600m<sup>2</sup> – and allows plenty of space to view posters, speak with exhibitors or to just relax.
- ISCT has introduced in 2017 a dedicated Product Theatre, allowing demonstrations of new products and services from 9 exhibitors. This proved so popular it was standing room only for some presentations, with delegates eager to see the latest and greatest innovations.



- Telegraft editorial staff overheard at the conference:
  - “I’ve been to 18 meetings and, without question, this meeting is the most spectacular – in terms of organization, in terms of participation – the whole event. Compared to when I first started, it’s night and day.” **Ed Horowitz**, Past ISCT President.
  - “We look at young investigators and we see the future of science. They’re the next generation of scientists. Maxcyte is really pleased to be a part of this effort.” **Markus Hunkeler**. Maxcyte sponsored the Early Stage Professionals Reception



with Pfizer. Early Stage Professionals had the opportunity to interact directly with ISCT Leadership in a fun and casual environment while nibbling on tasty bites.

- “Every meeting is ‘the best’, but this one is clearly *the best*.” **John Barrett**, Editor of Cytotherapy.
- “By exhibiting at ISCT, we have the opportunity to network with industry leaders and we’re bridging that gap between the end user and the supplier. It’s here we can stay connected to the basics of cell therapy – it’s where we learn about the requirements of our customers and their challenges in bringing therapies to the clinic.” **Dominic Clarke**, Charter Medical.
- And the prize for the most succinct phrase of the day:
  - “Connect, communicate, collaborate.” **Cath Bollard**, ISCT President, reminding us of our purpose while addressing over 200 delegates at the Industry Networking Event held at the UK House of Commons, hosted by Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, UK.



**Cheers and see you tomorrow!**