

ISCT Industry Members Gathered in Miami for the 3rd Annual Commercialization Signature Series

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More than 40 members of the ISCT industry community gathered in Miami on January 21 for the 3rd annual Commercialization Signature Series. This year's theme, *Clinical Breakthroughs: Transforming the Standard of Care* featured presenters with unique perspectives from across the translation pipeline sharing strategies for achieving clinical success.

Keynote presenter **Oz Azam** (Tmunity) kicked off the day with a presentation on *Cell Therapy Catalysts for the Next Decade*, highlighting the recent advances in cancer immunotherapy and what the next 10 years might have in store for the industry. The first session featured **Camillo Ricordi** (University of Miami), **Kurt Gunter** (Cell Medica), **Tony Ting** (Athersys), and **Megan Liles** (Precision Medicine) who presented their experiences identifying critical success factors for cell therapy clinical trials.

Following a member networking lunch, attendees reconvened to hear from **Matthew Robson** (Novartis), **Nathalie Scholler** (Kite) and **Lara Silverman** (DiscGenics) on translational findings and learnings post-commercialization from Kymriah and Yescarta, and early clinical evaluation of IDCT (cell therapy for low backpain).

Both sessions featured an interactive Q&A and stressed the importance of continuously evaluating regulatory strategy, engaging national regulatory bodies on every step of the development process, and strictly understanding and planning for staffing requirements before exploring any scale up potential.

Miguel Forte (Bone Therapeutics), ISCT Chief Commercialization Officer thanked all in attendance for an ongoing commitment to advancing the availability of cell and gene therapies for patients, and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration via the ISCT industry community.

Special thanks to session chairs **Julie Allickson** (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine) and **Julie Murrell** (MilliporeSigma) for facilitating two excellent sessions and to **Dominic Clarke** (HemaCare), **Erika Siren** (Takeda), **Bryan Choi** (SCRM), and **Carson Rhodes** (Terumo BCT) for support with developing the 2020 Commercialization Signature Series program.

Stay tuned for a full report on the 2020 Commercialization Signature Series, coming mid-2020.