

**ISCT EUROPE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
 CHALLENGES FOR 2020**

**Joan Garcia, MD, PhD**

ISCT, Europe Regional Vice-President  
 Banc De Sang i Teixits  
 Spain

**Meet the ISCT Europe Regional Executive Committee**



**Joan Garcia-Lopez, MD, PhD**  
 Regional Vice-President  
 June 2019 - June 2021

Banc De Sang i Teixits  
 Barcelona, Spain



**Massimiliano Gnechi, MD, PhD**  
 Regional Vice-President Elect  
 June 2019 - June 2021

University of Pavia &  
 Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San  
 Matteo  
 Pavia, Italy



**Britta Eiz-Vesper, PhD**  
 Regional Treasurer  
 June 2017 - June 2020

Hannover Medical School,  
 Institute for Transfusion  
 Medicine  
 Hanover, Germany



**Mohamed Abou-El-Enein, MD, PhD**  
 Regional Secretary  
 June 2017 - June 2020

Cherité- University Medicine Berlin  
 Berlin, Germany

Time passes very fast! Here we are; yet landing on February 2020 and with a lot of work to do!

It is my first *Telegraft* article reporting on the activities of the ISCT Europe Regional Executive Committee. Honestly, sitting in front of my computer, I have spent a few minutes without knowing what to write .... Above all, something that is not boring, please!

What could I say that summed up the long conversations and plans I discussed with **Britta Eiz-Vesper**, **Mark Lowdell** (ISCT Past EU Regional VP), **Massimiliano Gnechi**, and **Mohamed Abou-El-Enein**?

Let's try!

We agree that our first and greatest challenge is to grow our society in Europe. It means having more people (members) on board. Compared to the USA or Australia, Europe has a lot of room for growth.

How is this possible living as we are living a "rebirth" of cell therapy and regenerative medicine? How is this possible in Europe? Europe, so proud of its knowledge!

Well, to save time, it may be better for everyone to draw their own conclusions. Isn't it?

Fortunately, we have a plan!

We have a strategic plan for the coming years to which the ISCT Europe Regional Executive Committee has given a certain local flavour.

Here, there is:

- We wish from the first minute to promote membership and build our ISCT community in Europe. All actions are welcome, namely:
  - Reach personal contacts inviting them to join ISCT, or encouraging them to renew their memberships
  - Share information about our various membership categories, benefits, and special promotions, specifically the [ISCT Laboratory Membership program](#)
  - Encouraging abstract submissions and attendance for the [ISCT 2020 Paris Annual Meeting](#)
- We are convinced that knowledge is one of the fundamental pillars of our Society. Therefore, we wish to promote education and training among our members by adding opportunities such as:
  - Select outstanding existing educational activities and opportunities on gene and cell therapy within each country in Europe
  - Thanks to the collaboration of Miltenyi Biotec, [offer 3 full tuition scholarships to ISCT EU Members](#) to pursue the Master's in Manufacturing of ATMPs at the University of Granada/Andalusian Initiative for Advanced Therapies 2021-2022
  - To give maximum support to the development of the ISCT EU Cell Therapy Training Course that will take place at the UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation in 2021
- We are committed to actively promote collaboration and / or joint ventures with other associations with a complementary profile.
  - Through contacts made in Barcelona, our central office has initiated conversations with EBMT and soon we will have joint projects
  - Thanks to the proposal of veterinary members of our Society, and our scientific committees, we have recently established the Veterinary and Regenerative Medicine Scientific Working Group which will be hosting a session at ISCT 2020 Paris and aims to continue a close partnership with NAVRMA (North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association)

The action plan that we propose above is certainly ambitious and will only be successful if we have enough dedication to project it, I would say pamper it, to bear fruit.

To make this possible we want to create a European ISCT task force. We, the Europe Regional Executive Committee, are a small group that share our voluntary dedication to our Society alongside our daily work obligations. During the next months we will look for volunteers who generously lend their time to push concrete actions that are within their reach. If you would like to join our team, please let us know at [isct@isctglobal.org](mailto:isct@isctglobal.org). Surely, at ISCT 2020 Paris we will all meet to plan the future.

Have you [registered](#)?