



TELEGRAFT LIVE!

The Organizing Committee ensured that even though it was the last day, the program still was engaging and enriching.

- **Katy Rezvani**, Co-Chair of the organizing committee, said, “The final day of ISCT underscored the burgeoning field of cellular therapy and its promise. **Cliona Rooney** presented exciting data using gene editing to generate a universal antigen presenting cell for T cell therapy. **Douglas Turnbull** reported paradigm changing technology using mitochondrial transfer to treat patients with mitochondrial DNA disease. Several investigators presented important new strategies using MSCs for regenerative therapies for heart, lung, orthopedic and ocular diseases.” The Plenary Session *Editing of the Species – From Genes to Organelles to Organs* was indeed very well received. Delegates were overheard discussing the videos shown by **Douglas Turnbull** hours after he had spoken.


- The second Early Stage Professionals (ESP) Session, *What I Wish I Knew*, brought three senior – ahem – *experienced* members of the Society together to share their wisdom. **Cliona Rooney**, **John Rasko** and **Mike Mendicino** spoke from the heart to enlighten the ESPs on set-backs and challenges that they had. Discussions covered a broad range of topics, but the underlying theme of the session focused on choices and learning from experiences.
- The Annual General Meeting gave an overview of our past year’s successes – from the awards given to the Society’s leaders and the increased media presence of ISCT to the financial strength of the Society. Melbourne, Australia was announced as the host city for the 2019 Annual Meeting. The Montreal Sizzle video generated enthusiasm for next year’s meeting, showcasing the best of the city, especially the shots of Montreal smoked meat and poutine!


- The *Plenary Breakout 1 - Vascular, Digestive and Respiratory Tissue Engineering* was very stimulating. The session, chaired by **Massimiliano Gnechi** from the University of Pavia (Italy), was opened by **Paolo Madeddu**, from Bristol University (UK), who gave a comprehensive review on tissue engineering for cardiovascular diseases. He showed exciting and promising results, in particular with the use of pericytes. Four abstract



presentations followed: generation of vascular graft based on layer deposition, nanofibers and dipping-spinning technologies; 3D-Culture of intestinal stem cells using an extracellular matrix hydrogel; evaluation of decellularised tracheal scaffolds; and tissue engineered larynx and epithelium in a GMP-compliant bioreactor. Several questions were asked at the end of each talk and the interaction between presenters and attendees was extremely stimulating and constructive. The session nicely demonstrated that the field of tissue engineering is alive and full of promises.

- To the bitter end: even though HESI CT-TRACS was scheduled for the very last session of the day, there was considerable interest in the topic of biodistribution of cells using imaging to determine the location of cells after administration. During the Q&A, **Karen Nichols** told **Jane Lekowski** that she appreciated Jane's use of the word "composition" to describe the mixture of cells administered; Jane replied that the cells may have a stated purity, but the remaining cells could be of any type and it may vary from culture to culture. A crowd of 20 delegates stayed long after the session officially ended, discussing techniques and regulations, and making plans for collaborations.
- Sales are brisk for the booths for next year, so exhibitors, please reserve your booths soon. There are special pavilions and spaces planned for next year, too, so contact [Brian Poole](#) for information.
- Telegraft editorial staff overheard at the conference:
 - **Michele Boxall**, of Image Box Communications, the official PR and communications partner for ISCT, talked to **William Janssen**, Past VP of ISCT North America, during the poster session. She asked, "What keeps bringing you back to this conference?" He replied, "Education, inspiration and my best friends in the world."
 - **Nicole Waidman**, STEMSoft Senior Director, Global Sales, sums it all up, "Once again, the ISCT Annual Meeting proved to be a success – we look forward to the 2018 meeting in Montreal."

Select webinar and PowerPoint presentations will be available on the ISCT website shortly, as will the ISCT video covering the history of the Society. We hope you've enjoyed this snapshot of the ISCT 2017 London Annual Meeting. As always, we welcome your feedback.

The Silver Jubilee continues throughout 2017 – Join us!

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