

**ISCT 2018**  
*Montréal · Canada · May 2-5*

## TELEGRAFT LIVE!

### Welcome to Montreal! What a great start to the 2018 Annual Meeting!

- The day started out with the presentation of the 2018 Career Achievement Award to Nancy H. Collins, PhD, followed by ISCT President Catherine Bollard unveiling the new ISCT name and logo: International Society Cell and Gene Therapy. This new name is such a great reflection of all that has already been presented at this year's pre-conference day meeting.
- The Presidential Plenary started things off with a session on Cancer Immunotherapy. **Stanley Riddell** gave an exceptional presentation highlighting some of the challenges of continued expansion of the use of CAR T cells, particularly for solid tumors. This was followed up nicely by **Crystal Mackall** with a further in-depth discussion on the dual problems of antigen negative relapse and poor persistence of engineered T cells. Finally, **Robert Negrin** concluded the Presidential Plenary with an excellent talk on how to avoid the serious complications of graft vs host disease while maintaining the desirable effects of graft vs tumor in allogeneic immune cells.

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Plenary Session 2

- Plenary Session 2 was a continuation of the exploration of how cellular therapy continues to expand. **Martin Hoogduijn** started by walking through what we do and still do not know



about mesenchymal stem cells. **Bruno Peault** expanded further on this to discuss how much we still have to learn about this interesting topic. And finally, **Duncan Stewart** summarized some amazing clinical trials looking at how to use these cells to fight heart disease and pulmonary arterial hypertension.

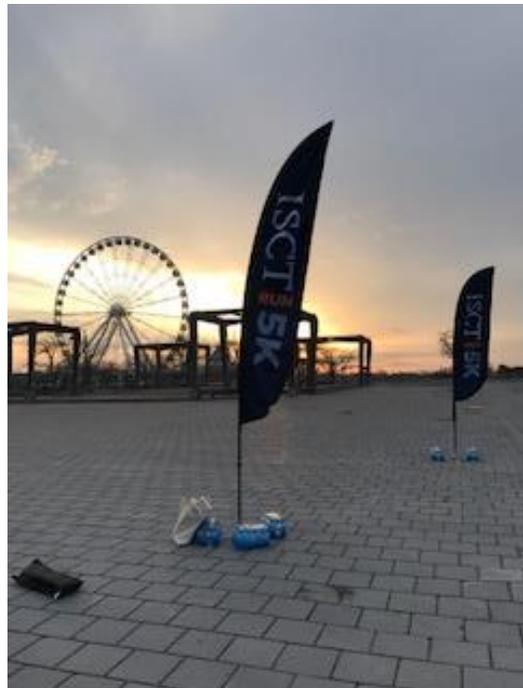
- Many other sessions were taking place in parallel, far too many for any one person to attend. The Advanced Practice Professionals Track also offered many incredible sessions. This included a very practical talk by **Bambi Grilley** on how to develop and implement investigator initiated trials. This was followed by a session from **Stanley Riddell** on CAR T cell toxicities.
- The day wrapped up with two successful networking events: the ISCT Early Stage Professionals Networking Session as well as the ISCT 2018 Cell and Gene Therapy Industry Networking Event sponsored by CellCAN and the Canadian Pavilion Partners.



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- Rise and Shine! Friday morning started off with the inaugural ISCT 5K Run/ Walk. Runners gathered bright and early at 6:15 AM at the Bretelle d'accostage (ferry ramp) along the beautiful St Lawrence River in Montreal. A special thank you to CellCAN for their partnership in organizing the event, and the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation for providing volunteers throughout the course.
- The ISCT 2018 5K Run the River winners are:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Richard Mathews** finishing in 24 minutes and 50 seconds
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Thibault Robin** finishing in 26 minutes and 10 seconds
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **David Kneen** finishing in 26 minutes and 40 seconds
  - Most Competitive Runner: **Kurt Gunter** ("Did I beat Karen?" - overheard as he crossed the finish line)
  - Most Sportsmanlike: **Karen Nichols**
- Congratulations to all 5K Run participants! ***It turns out the course was actually 6.44 Kilometers instead of 5... Oops!***



1<sup>st</sup> - Richard Mathews



2<sup>nd</sup> - Thibault Robin



3<sup>rd</sup> - David Kneen



- The talks on the amazing developments in cell and gene therapy continued today. The third plenary session was on the exciting topic of Exosomes. The three speakers, **Eva Rohde**, **Linda Marban**, and **Sai-Kiang Lim**, all went into detail about how to describe exactly what exosomes are and the challenges and opportunities they offer. This was a great discussion from early research questions all the way to how this technology can be brought into the clinic.
- The fourth plenary session was truly amazing and gave a broad look at the current status of CAR T cell therapy. **Carl June**, clearly a leader in this field, gave an excellent talk looking back towards the beginning of CD19-directed CAR T cells, and then looking forward to the current cutting edge. **Pascal Touchon** provided the Novartis perspective of providing this transformative care. **Diane Parks** offered the Kite perspective, and how the journey to FDA approval differed between Novartis and Kite. Taking the academic and pharmaceutical perspectives of these journeys helps provide insight into how we all might move CAR T cells forward in the coming years.
- Many plenary breakout sessions were offered as well. This included the plenary breakout “Lessons Learned During CAR T Commercial Roll Out at Clinical Sites” which provided a detailed look at the transition from clinical trial use to commercial use of CAR T cell products. The talks by **Solveig Ericson** from Novartis and **Diane Parks** from Kite, gave great insight into the many steps the companies had to go into for this process, while the talk by **Sarah Nikiforow** provided insight into the university perspective on making this transition. These are complex therapies that offer incredible options for these patients.
- The Early Stage Professional (ESP) Session 1 was another great opportunity to explore how to increase access to these new cellular therapies, with specific targeting towards people early in their career. This was an excellent session exploring different aspects of cellular therapy with practical advice. **Kenneth Micklethwaite** discussed some of the pitfalls that can occur when going from a novel idea to a clinical trial, particularly with respect to intellectual property and regulations. This was followed by **Paul Eldridge** who gave an excellent overview on what it means to be the director of an academic cellular therapy manufacturing facility. **Bambi Grilley** discussed the complexities of developing and implementing investigator initiated trials, with advice drawing from her years of experience. Finally, **Sadik Kassim** explored the biotech/pharma perspective and how to pursue that career path.
- 220 delegates gathered at Le Windsor Ballrooms for the ISCT 2018 Gala to celebrate a very successful meeting! Congratulations to the Abstract Award Winners: **Holly Anderson**, **Sabiha Hacibekiroglu**, **Miriell Ho**, **Alexander Johnston**, **Claudia Raggi**, and **Kyung-Phil Kim**.
- The ISCT UK Industry Networking Event, a signature ISCT industry event partnered with Catapult since 2014, and CCRM this year, was held at L’Auberge Saint-Gabriel. Many

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global and industry leaders braved the rain storm to attend the event. Built by a French soldier over 300 years ago, L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel is rich in Canadian history!