

# A changing time: ISCT Embraces its Industry Members

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## **Abstract:**

The last decade has seen a dramatic rise in the development of new cellular therapeutics in a wide range of indications. There have been acceptable safety profiles reported in early studies using blood derived or adherent stem cell products, but also an inconsistent efficacy record. Further expansion has been hindered in part due to a lack of capital (both private and public) and delayed entry into the cell therapy space by large healthcare and pharmaceutical companies, those members of the industry most reliably able to initiate and maintain advanced phase clinical trials. With recognition that ISCT was uniquely positioned to serve the global translational regenerative medicine, research community as a network hub for scientific standards and policy, the ISCT commissioned the establishment of an Industry Task Force (ITF) to address current and future roles for industry. The objectives of the ITF were to gather information and prioritize efforts for a new Commercialization Committee (CC) and to construct innovative platforms that would foster constructive and synergistic collaborations between industry and ISCT. Recommendations and conclusions of the ITF included that the new CC: 1) foster new relationships with therapeutic and stem cell societies, 2) foster educational workshops and forums to cross-educate and standardize practices, 3) create industry subcommittees to address priority initiatives, with clear benchmarks and global implementation and 4) establish a framework for a greater Industry Community within ISCT, opening doors for industry to share the new vision for commercialization of cell therapy emphasizing the regenerative medicine space.