

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) Launches Inaugural Cell Therapy Commercial Development Focus Group on Peripheral Vascular Disease.

Vancouver, Canada (Wednesday, January 19, 2011) In keeping with its commitment to connect industry, regulatory experts, therapeutic societies and translational centers to advance emerging cellular therapies, ISCT announces its first commercial development focus group addressing Cell Therapies for Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD).

PVD is a condition in which the arteries that carry blood to the arms or legs become narrowed or clogged. In a primary care population defined by age and common risk factors the prevalence of PVD is approximately one in three¹. Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI) is a very severe condition of PVD with patients suffering severe pain and skin ulcers which can lead to limb amputation. CLI has a 15-30% mortality rate at 5 years.²

To address this debilitating condition ISCT has created a progressive forum to unite an expert panel and facilitate in depth, open discussion of whether, and how, cell therapy can meet the unmet needs of these patients. The focus group will take place in New York, USA January 21 2011 in partnership with the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (www.crf.org), sponsor of the Sixth International Conference on Cell Therapy for Cardiovascular Disease.

"As we enter the era of 300+ patient Phase 3 studies, it is crucial for the research community to identify appropriate end points that correlate with meaningful clinical outcomes", said Warren Sherman, MD, Director, Regenerative Cardiovascular Research at The Jack H. Skirball Center for Cardiovascular Research. "From there, trial design can be optimized to assess clinical efficacy and, hopefully, improve outcomes of patients with CLI. These patients have a very poor prognosis. To help them with cell-based therapy would be a huge advance, and would have implications for patients with vascular disease of other organ systems".

Ed Horwitz, M.D. PhD, President of ISCT strongly agreed, "the launch of this series of focus groups is the latest initiative through which ISCT is building alignment with academia and industry to expedite the development and maturation of the field and ultimately bring cell therapy treatments to patients faster. It is ISCT's intent that the international field of cell therapy and regenerative medicine will be able to benefit from the focus groups through public open access to the final report and outcomes as published in peer reviewed journals".

Visit www.celltherapyfocusgroups.com for further information on the agenda and registration details.

The ISCT focus group initiative follows the successful launch of ISCT's Industry Community in August 2010. See: [ISCT - Media](#).

ISCT welcomes the following new corporate members into the Industry Community for 2011:

Patrons: Aastrom Biosciences Inc., BD Biosciences Inc. BioLife Solutions Inc., Pfizer Regenerative Medicine, Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. **Partners:** CaridianBCT Inc., Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH., STEMCELL Technologies Inc. **Supporters:** CellGenix GmbH., Pharmacell B.V. **Members:** Apceh GmbH & Co. Preservation Solutions Inc, Beike Biotechnology Co.Ltd., DCi Biotech Inc., Tengion Inc., STEMSOFT Software Inc., ZMKS International Cancer Therapy Biotechnology Co. Ltd.

The complete list of members can be viewed on the Industry Community page of www.celltherapysociety.org

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References

1. Hirsch AT et al. JAMA. 2001;286:1317-1324
 2. Hirsch AT et al. Circulation. 2006;113:e463-654
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ISCT is a global association driving the translation of scientific research to deliver innovative cellular therapies to patients. Established in 1992, its membership and leadership comprises world-class scientists, clinicians, technologists, biotech/pharma and regulatory professionals from around the world focused on pre-clinical and translational aspects of developing cell therapy products.