

Recommended Plenary and Concurrent Sessions by Target Audience
February 19-23, 2020 | Orlando, FL

Session Type	Session Title and Description	Administrators	Clinicians	Data Manager/Clinic	Fellows-in-Training	Investigators	Laboratory Technicians	MDs and/or PhDs	Nurses	Nurse Practitioners	Pharmacists	Physician Assistants
Plenary 1 Wednesday, February 19 8:30 am - 10:00 am	Understanding Resistance to Cellular Immunotherapy Adoptive cell therapy for cancer has evolved from a boutique approach available at only a handful of centers to a commercialized suite of therapeutics available throughout the developed world. Genetic engineering of immune cells to express chimeric antigen receptors or T cell receptors allows precise and potent targeting of tumors with immune effectors. Increasing numbers of patients treated with these agents is providing new insights into mechanisms responsible for primary and secondary resistance and in turn, driving development of next generation platforms designed to overcome resistance. This session will review current clinical outcomes with state-of-the-art cellular therapeutics and discuss emerging science that will drive development and testing of the next generation of these agents.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Concurrent 1 Wednesday, February 19 10:30 am - 12 pm	Essential Immunology: Back to the Basics The session will cover clinically relevant aspects of basic immunology with a specific focus on T cells, antigen presenting cells and tissues. It will serve as a primer for all clinicians while also providing a window into some of the exciting, potentially translational relevance of the recent advances in basic immunology.		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Concurrent 2 Wednesday, February 19 10:30 am - 12 pm	Health Economics in CAR-T: Patient, Provider, and Policy Implications of the Costs of Our Therapies This session will provide three different perspectives - provider, patient, and policy - on the economic changes CAR-T has brought to the health care system.	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x

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Concurrent 3 Wednesday, February 19 10:30 am - 12 pm	Novel Advancements in Design and Statistical Analysis of TCT Studies [Statistical Concurrent] This session will cover a variety of useful topics in study design and statistical analysis, including novel survival endpoints in clinical trials, innovative methods to account for population mortality in analysis of TCT studies, and different approaches to appropriately summarize the impact of time-dependent covariates on subsequent outcomes.		x	x	x	x		x				
Plenary 2 Wednesday, February 19 5:00 PM - 6:30 pm	Integrating Targeted Therapies and Cell Based Therapies Immune cells are now readily genetically modified to express natural tumor targeting antigen receptors or synthetic chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) that activate immune cell signaling pathways to result in destruction of tumor cells expressing the relevant target molecule. Adoptive immunotherapy with CAR modified T cells can eradicate large tumor burdens in a subset of patients with relapsed refractory B cell leukemia, non Hodgkin lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. However, even in these responsive tumors, a significant fraction of patients either do not respond to therapy or relapse after therapy. The mechanisms of resistance are beginning to be understood and suggest that improvements in outcome are likely to be achieved by improved design of synthetic receptors based on interrogation of signaling pathways, engineering of immune cells with superior attributes for sustained tumor eradication, multi-specific targeting, and combination with agents that enhance tumor cell susceptibility and reduce escape. This session will discuss advances in our fundamental understanding of CAR signaling and the development of strategies that combine therapeutic agents and utilize genome editing to improve efficacy and safety, and extend the spectrum of cancers that can be treated with cell therapies.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

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Plenary 3 Thursday, February 20 8:30 am - 10:00 am	Alternative Donor Transplant In this session we will focus on the use of alternative donors for allogeneic transplantation. We will discuss the pros and cons of mismatched unrelated, haploidentical and cord blood transplants. We will recognize the clinical challenges in these different fields and strategies instituted by transplant centers to improve clinical outcomes. We will review the early days, current advantages and challenges, and finally promising efforts to further strengthen their role as a highly desired stem cell sources in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Concurrent 4 Thursday, February 20 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Mechanisms of Relapse after Transplantation Thanks to the development of less toxic conditioning regimens, better supportive care and more effective anti-infectious drugs the treatment-related mortality of hematopoietic cell transplantation is constantly improving. Conversely, the incidence and ultimate outcome of post-transplantation relapses have not changed in a significant matter over the last decades, warranting more in-depth studies on why malignant cells reemerge after apparent eradication. In the present session, the latest advances in understanding the mechanisms that drive relapse after transplantation will be presented, with a specific focus on immune evasion and how its can be therapeutically circumvented.		x			x	x	x				
Concurrent 5 Thursday, February 20 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Infection after Transplant Infection remains a leading cause of non-relapse related mortality. New approaches to preventing and treating infection are needed. This session describes the contemporary landscape in occurrence and types of infection after HCT. How data relating to the individual's genetics, microbiome, resistome, and immune responses might be used to better characterise risk for infection will be discussed. The role of cellular therapies for prevention and treatment of serious infection will also be discussed.		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

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Concurrent 6 Thursday, February 20 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Barriers to Transplantation and Cellular Therapy: Beyond HLA [NMDP Concurrent] In this session, the speakers will review factors that affect clinical decision making in patients who may benefit from unrelated donor blood or marrow transplantation. There will be new information presented regarding methods to assure donor safety, decrease the time to procure a donor, and novel approaches to improve clinical outcomes in recipients of unrelated donor stem cells.	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Plenary 4 Friday, February 21 8:30 am - 10:00 am	Personalizing Survivorship Care in Transplant and Cell Therapy [ASTCT President's Symposium] Late complications are a well recognized sequelae of hematopoietic cell transplantation. Research has led to better understanding of the pathogenesis, risk factors, prevention and management of late effects. Many principles of post-transplant survivorship care can be applied to the nascent field of cell therapy. This session will review recent advances in transplantation late effects. Presentations will focus on current knowledge about biology of late complications following transplantation, the use of health technology tools to personalize survivorship care and facilitate self management in transplant recipients, and the role of patient reported outcomes in research and clinical care. Speakers will also provide examples of the application of these aspects of survivorship towards recipients of cellular therapies.	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x

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Plenary 5 Saturday, February 22 8:30 am - 10:00 am	Graft vs Host Disease This plenary session will provide an overview of emerging new approaches to control GVHD, with a focus on preclinical and early clinical data. Dr. MacDonald (QIMR Berghofer MRI, Australia) will present preclinical evidence of a novel regulators of gut inflammation and its role GVHD pathogenesis. Prof Hill (Fred Hutch) will discuss the role of the gut in the initiation of GVHD and how manipulating the microbiome represents a tractable intervention to prevent and control disease. Dr. Chen (Mass General) will present an overview of preclinical and clinical studies demonstrating the modulation of T-cell trafficking as a treatment for GVHD. Attendees are expected to learn about new therapeutic targets and new interventions that have the potential to change clinical practice.		x		x	x		x				
Concurrent 7 Saturday, February 22 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	International Access to HCT Drugs: Impact on Transplant Practice and Patients [WBMT Concurrent] In this session the root causes of drug shortages, focusing on essential drugs for hematopoietic cell transplantation will be discussed based on a public meeting held recently by the FDA and documents of international organizations e.g. the WHO. Increasingly more frequent drug shortages have a tremendous effect on health care providers dedicated to deliver high quality patient care. We will include the viewpoint of pharmacysts who need an increasing amount of time for finding adequate drug replacements to allow continuous patient treatment and will present their efforts in finding enduring solutions. An essential list of HCT drugs based on a survey amongst international HCT specialists and organizations will be discussed. Furthermore, other WBMT activities to foster international cooperation to maintain access to essential drugs in HCT will be presented and discussed with participants.		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x

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Concurrent 8 Saturday, February 22 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Advances in Microbiome on Transplant and Cellular Therapy Outcomes Microbial communities in the body can have a profound impact on outcomes after transplant and immunotherapy. Speaker in this session will describe changes in gut microbial communities after hematopoietic cell transplantation and how these are linked to graft-versus-host disease, with an exploration of potential mechanisms involved in pathogenesis and a discussion of strategies to retain beneficial microbes in patients undergoing transplantation. We will also explore the connections between the microbiome and the immune response in patients with cancer, and how this is relevant in transplantation and cancer therapy including immunotherapy. Finally, we will describe strategies for altering the microbiota of patients undergoing cancer therapy with the goal of improving anti-tumor responses, reducing infections, and modulating immunity. The safety and efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation in immunocompromised patients will be described, and the potential of newly emerging microbial therapeutics will be highlighted.		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Concurrent 9 Saturday, February 22 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	CAR Toxicity The remarkable clinical responses observed with CAR T cell therapy have resulted in more widespread use. Recognition and management of side effects related to CAR T cell therapy, as well as identification of risk mitigation strategies that do not harm the infused T cells, have been areas of active research. This session will review evidence-based CAR Toxicity management algorithms, explore mechanistic animal models that may predict CRS and neurotoxicity, and discuss novel management strategies for CAR Toxicity.		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x

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Plenary 6 Sunday, February 23 8:30 am - 10:00 am	ASTCT/CIBMTR/EBMT Joint Session: Bridging the gap in BMT and cellular therapy between North America and Europe This joint session organized by the ASTCT, the CIBMTR and the EBMT will review areas of strength and successful collaborations in blood and marrow transplantation and cellular therapy between North America and Europe, and will lay the foundation for future collaborative work in this area. First topic in this session will highlight differences and similarities in transplantation practices in the two geographical areas , describe their rationale and impact on patient outcomes, and identify areas where best practices could potentially be translated across countries and continents. A second topic will review the current landscape and penetration of CAR-T cell therapies in North America and Europe and will discuss challenges faced in the areas of clinical trials, commercial implementation and regulatory issues. This topic will also include discussion of successful practices and policies that countries in the process of starting CAR-T cell therapies can consider, including their economic aspects and costs. The last speaker in this session will highlight areas of successful collaboration in registry research and clinical trials between North America and Europe in blood and marrow transplantation and cellular therapy. This topic will also include discussion of opportunities for enhancing collaborative research in this area between the two continents.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x