

Gene and Cell Therapy Study Group

Aim

The purpose of the Gene and Cell Therapy Study Group is to encourage wider communication within the EULAR family for scientists and rheumatologists with an interest in stem cells biology and innovative immunotherapy including T cell mediated therapies and to encourage greater participation during the annual EULAR congress. The group aims to promote translational therapy using gene therapy of cell mediated therapy in osteoarticular diseases. We propose to convene annually at the EULAR & EWRR meetings and communicates electronically in between congresses as required.

The group is informal and provides an encouraging and open forum that enables PIs new to EULAR or the field to present research, stimulate EU collaborations and EU grants.

The EULAR Gene and Cell Therapy Study Group has five main objectives:

1. To propose different viral and non viral vectors and tissue specific promoters for collaborative projects.
2. To work towards improved standards of stem cells mediated therapies and promote pilot trials
3. To develop immune cell based therapies across the EULAR member countries
4. To provide a forum for the Gene and Cell Therapy community across the EULAR member countries to share ideas and identify priorities
5. To establish a collaborative network through which to develop a EULAR-wide agenda for studies into Gene and/or Cell therapies. Initiate workshops prior to the openings lecture at the EWRR

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Translational research: Clinical programs are ongoing in Europe stimulated by EU partners with strategy using cytokine vaccination, T regulatory cell therapy (CELLARTHRIS trial) and dendritic cells. Autologous stem cells therapy OA through intra-articular injections (ADIPOA trial) is ongoing since 2012. ECELLFRANCE, a GMP platform for stem cells therapy according to European guidelines have been supported by French authorities, and is open for academic partners.

Perspectives:

The gene and cell therapy study group aims to have two interactive meetings a year, one connected to the EWRR, the second one at the Eular. Moreover the study group for gene and cell therapy have initiated a website to show the different activities and partners through <http://www.ecellfrance.com>. The study group is open for new members continually and we hope to expand the network and encourage wider representation from more EULAR member countries

Contact to be informed on activities of the study group: christian.jorgensen@inserm.fr