INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CELL & GENE THERAPY

1ST ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CELL AND GENE THERAPY (IACGT)

25th to 27th September 2026 | St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, India

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1 – 25th SEPTEMBER 2026 (FRIDAY)

Register for IACGT 2026

08:00-9:00 Registration
09:00-09:45 *Oral Abstracts* – Judges: Sharat Damodar, Anuprita Ghosh, Chitra Gopinath

09:45-10.00 INAUGURAL CEREMONY
Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Jesudoss Rajamanickam
Director, St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, India

TRACK 1: GENE THERAPY FOR HEMATOLOGICAL DISORDERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Alok Srivastava / Vijay Chandru

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:00-10:30	Gene therapy for haematological disorders – Evolving tools	Thierry VandenDriessche, Belgium
10:30-11:00	Gene editing technologies	Debojyoti Chakraborty, India

11:00-11:30 Poster Session / Networking & Tea Coffee Break

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:30-11:55	Gene therapy for haemophilia A - New target for the AAV vector	Arun Srivastava, USA
11:55-12:20	Gene editing approach to correct haemoglobin disorders	Mohankumar Murugesan, India
12:20- 13:00	Panel discussion: Clinical translation of gene therapy technologies *Moderator: Shaji R Velayudhan*	*Panelists:* Thierry VandenDriessche Arun Srivastava Debojyoti Chakraborty Mohankumar Murugesan Amit Mookim

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13:00-14:00
LUNCH SYMPOSIUM BY KODO LIFESCIENCE

Importance of Plasmid DNA as a Key / Critical Starting Material for CGT

Chairperson: Rohan Kamat

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:00-13:15	Plasmid DNA Quality, GMP Manufacturing and Economic Considerations for CGT Applications	Srinivas Rengarajan, India
13:15-13:25	Overview of prevalent Regulations and Best Practices for Plasmid DNA Quality and Manufacturing in Western Markets	Kodo Lifescience, India
13:25- 14:00	Panel discussion: Importance of Plasmid DNA Quality in Ex-vivo and In-vivo CGT Applications and its implications on GMP Manufacturing and CoGs from Commercialisation / Access perspective	*Panelists:* Debojyoti Chakraborty Swagatam Ray Mihir Chheda Tanveer Ahmed

TRACK 2: Evolving Regulatory & Access Environment

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Rita Mulerkar / Gaurav Narula

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:00-14:30	Emerging Regulatory Landscapes for CGTs in India	Sonia Gandhi, India

14:30-15:00 Poster Session / Networking & Tea Coffee Break

TRACK 3: RARE DISEASES, GENETIC DISORDERS &TECHNOLOGY SESSION

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Chairperson: Rakesh Mishra / Maloy Ghosh

Time	Topic	Speaker
15:00-15:25	Gene therapy for DMD	Ruchita Selot, India
15:25-16:00	AAV Vectors for Gene Therapy	Lijun Wang, USA
16:00-16:30	Transient B Cell Depletion for Durable Gene Therapy in Duchene Muscular Dystrophy	Moanaro Biswas, USA
16:30-16:55	mRNA therapy platform for rare diseases	Rajesh Iyer, India
16:55-17:25	Panel discussion: Technology scale up and commercial deployment *Moderator: Everette Nelson*	*Panelists:* Lijun Wang Moanaro Biswas *Rajesh Iyer* *Arkasubhra Ghosh*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Arkasubhra Ghosh / Sundaresan P

Time	Topic	Speaker
17:30-18:00	Developing Cell therapy for AMD: from bench to bedside	Kapil Bharti, USA
18:00-18:25	Cell therapy for corneal conditions	Vivek Singh, India
18:25-19:00	Panel discussion: Cell Therapy product process considerations for clinical trials *Moderator: G Kumaramanickavel, Sundaresan P*	*Panelists:* Kapil Bharti Vivek Singh Indumati Mariappan Rajarshi Pal Koushik Chakrabarty

DAY 2 – 26th SEPTEMBER 2026 (SATURDAY)

08:00-9:00: Registration
09:00-10:00: *Oral Abstracts* – Judges: *Vibha Tandon, Sunil Martin, Priya Panikker*

TRACK 4: FRONTIERS IN HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNANCIES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Sunil Bhat / Girdhari Lal

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:00-10:30	IEC-HS: History, Evolution & Current Landscape	Nirali Shah, USA
10:30-11:00	From Viral Suppression to Immune Restoration: The Emerging Role of VSTs in Cellular Therapy	Satya Prakash Yadav, India & Miltenyi Biotec, India

11:00-11:30 Poster Session / Networking & Tea Coffee Break

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Chairperson: Navin Khattry / Rajat Bhattacharyya

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:30-11:55	Overcoming Fratricide & T Aplasia in T-cell directed CAR T therapies	Bernice Oh, Singapore
11:55-12:20	Using Cytokine- Induced Memory-Like NK Cells for Myeloid Leukemias- Hope & Hype?	Chetan Dhamne, India
12:20-13:00	Panel discussion: B, M, T Aplasia: Challenges & Opportunities *Moderator: Chetan Dhamne*	*Panelists:* Bernice Oh Lingaraj Nayak Gaurav Kharya

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13:00-14:00
LUNCH SYMPOSIUM BY IMMUNOACT

ImmunoACT Hope lives

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:00-13:30	Real-World Evidence in B-ALL Efficacy, Safety, Resource Utilisation and Manufacturing Efficiency	Gaurav Narula, India
13:30-14:00	Real-World Evidence in B-NHL Efficacy, Safety, Resource Utilisation	Nataraj K S, India

TRACK 5: CELL THERAPY FOR SOLID TUMORS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Edward Cliff / Prakriti Tayalia

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:00-14:30	When the hunted becomes the hunter - CAR-CCs (Cancer Cells)	Khalid Shah, USA

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:30-14:55	CAR-Bs on the horizon? Harnessing bacteria for cancer immunotherapy	Mubin Tarannum, USA
14:55-15:20	Indigenous Development of Oncolytic Immunovirotherapy for Solid Tumours: From Viral Engineering to Tumor Reprogramming	Albeena Nisar, India
15:20-15:45	In-vivo CARs - The next pit-stop or final destination	Tanveer Ahmed, India
15:45-16:15	Panel discussion: Fuelling Innovation & Out of the Box Thinking *Moderator: Albeena Nisar*	*Panelists:* Khalid Shah Mubin Tarannum Tanveer Ahmed

16:15-16:55 Poster Session / Networking & Tea Coffee Break

TRACK 6: OUT OF THE BOX APPROACHES IN CANCER THERAPY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson: Shubhada Chiplunkar / Mubin Tarannum

Time	Topic	Speaker
16:55-17:20	Development of gamma delta T cell-based product candidates for childhood cancers: From bench to bedside and back	Trent Spencer, USA

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Time	Topic	Speaker
17:20-17:45	CAR NK for Ovarian Malignancies	Dinesh Kundu, India
17:45-18:15	The Power & Limitations of NK Cells for solid tumors	Rizwan Romee, USA
18:15-18:55	Panel discussion: An Indian Road map for Solid Tumor Cell Therapies *Moderator:* Sushant Kumar	*Panelists:* Rizwan Romee Trent Spencer Dinesh Kundu

DAY 3 – 27th SEPTEMBER 2026 (SUNDAY)

08:00-9:00: Registration
09:00-10:00: *Oral Abstracts* – Judges: *Tanveer Ahmed Gaurav Kharya*

TRACK 7: QUALITY, REGULATION, GLOBAL ACCESS, POLICY & HEALTH ECONOMICS

Chairperson: Pawan Gupta / Maneesha Inamdar

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:00-10:25	Targeted in vivo LNPs: Enabling the Future of CAR-T Therapy	Jay Natarajan, Cytiva

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:25-11:00	Evolving Regulatory Challenges and Solutions for Complex Cell & Gene Therapies	Nidhi Kotecha, USA

11:00-11:30 Poster Session / Networking & Tea Coffee Break

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:30-11:55	Health Technology Assessments and Equity of Access for CGTs	Edward Cliff, Australia
11:55-12:20	Biosecurity and biosafety in CGT	Partha Roy, India
12:20-13:00	Panel discussion: A Regulatory Roadmap for CGTs in India *Moderator: Gaurav Narula*	*Panelist:* Annam Vasala Partha Roy Nidhi Kotecha Edward Cliff

13:00-13:15 Valedictory Ceremony & Vote of Thanks

13:15-14:30 Lunch & Disperse

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