



## President's letter on unproven cellular therapy

The International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT; [www.celltherapysociety.org](http://www.celltherapysociety.org)), with a strategy adopted more than 5 year ago (Gunter KC et al. Cytotherapy 2010), wishes to continue raising awareness about unproven cellular therapies. All over the world, there is a legitimate effort to introduce cellular therapies into the clinic; however, at the same time a large number of clinics have begun offering cell-based intervention for a variety of diseases with questionable safety or efficacy data or an unclear scientific rationale. This has led to many vulnerable patients subjecting themselves to unproven cellular therapies with no adequate regulatory oversight or reliable information about risks or benefit.

For this reason, ISCT feels the need to provide a new source of information: an open document that represents a sharing of knowledge by leaders in the field. Building upon ISCT's growing expertise in employing cells as therapeutic tools, we want to identify key aspects of unproven cellular interventions in order to promote effective communication strategies for health-care stakeholders, patient associations, and individuals, highlighting the role of rigorous research prior to treatment.

As our past President Kurt C. Gunter, MD has stated, this is not the end of a process. Rather, this is

the beginning of a new multilingual project that foresees the participation of other organizations, bioethicists, and patient associations at a global level. The goal of ISCT will be to stimulate collaboration in generating opportunities to progressively integrate these essential parts, according to new needs and in an encyclopedic-like format that is updated yearly. While looking forward to future contributions, I can certainly state that we are all in debt to the current coauthors for their incredible support that enriched all the following manuscripts and tremendously inspired me.

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