

## **International partnership to bring global cell and gene therapy leaders to Melbourne**

One of the world's largest scientific conferences in cell, gene and regenerative medicine is on its way to Melbourne to exchange knowledge and share best practice at the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT) 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Taking place from May 29 to June 1, 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), the ISCT 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting will host the full spectrum of global cell and gene therapy and regenerative medicine professionals – from clinicians and researchers to industry partners, technologists and academia from over 27 countries.

The effort to bring this major event to Melbourne was led by the Melbourne Convention Bureau supported by the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne.

MCB Chief Executive Officer Karen Bolinger said Melbourne has a proven track record in hosting important medical and scientific meetings with the winning bid a result of the MCB's 'Team Melbourne' philosophy.

"Unique to our bid process is the collaboration and unified approach between the Bureau, government, associations and industry partners.

"As a result of this collaboration we were able to deliver a bid proposition which aligned to the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy's global objectives.

"This conference is a platform for leading experts to advance the field and provides the opportunity for Victoria to strengthen ties with international networks, showcase our local talent in the sector and build new research links.

"Those attending will experience first-hand why Melbourne is one of the world's most successful destinations for association health and medical conferences," Ms Bolinger said.

The global cell and gene therapy industry is currently experiencing tremendous growth, in particular the Asia Pacific region, so it is fitting that ISCT, a leader in the field, is holding its annual meeting in Australia's knowledge capital Melbourne.

"It's no coincidence that one of the most influential cell and gene therapy conferences is being held in one of the world's most productive areas for cell and gene therapy research and innovation," says John Rasko, ISCT President, Head of the Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program at the University of Sydney, Australia.

"This conference is a rare chance to connect with so many great people from all areas of cell and gene therapy."

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula said it was fitting that Melbourne had been chosen as the host city for the ISCT 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting.

“Melbourne is Australia’s medtech and biotech hub, and this conference offers a fantastic opportunity for local industry to collaborate with world-leaders in cell and gene therapy. The conference is a fantastic addition to Melbourne’s business events calendar and I’m proud that our Government is supporting the 2019 meeting.”

The conference will cover the full breadth and depth of cell and gene therapy topics, providing state-of-the-art plenary sessions in cell and gene therapy clinical translation and regenerative medicine disease areas including cancer, stroke, acute CNS injuries, osteoarthritis, hemophilia, GvHD and even a session on the controversial ethical issues in the commercialization of cell therapy development.

Notable speakers include industry leaders such as Australian expats Cameron Turtle (US) and Saar Gil (US), as well as regional authorities Jun Takahashi (Japan), Weidong Han (China) and Masayo Takahashi (Japan).

To learn more or register to attend the ISCT 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting visit [www.isct2019.com](http://www.isct2019.com).

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**About ISCT**

Established in 1992, ISCT (International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy) is a growing global organization of clinicians, regulators, researchers, technologists and industry partners with a shared vision to translate cell and gene therapies into safe and effective therapies to improve patients’ lives worldwide. ISCT is the global leader focused on translational aspects of developing cell-based therapeutics, thereby advancing scientific research into innovative treatments for patients. ISCT provides a unique collaborative environment that addresses three key areas of clinical translation: Academia, Regulatory and Commercialization. Through long term strategic relationships with global regulatory agencies, academic institutions and industry partners, ISCT leads the advancement of research into clinical adoption and standard of care. Comprised of over 1500 cell therapy experts across five geographic regions and representation from over 60 countries, ISCT members are part of a global community of peers, thought leaders and organizations invested in cell therapy translation. For more information about the organization, key initiatives and upcoming meetings, please visit: [www.celltherapysociety.org](http://www.celltherapysociety.org), @ISCTglobal.