



Advancing Transfusion and
Cellular Therapies Worldwide



ISCT-AABB Joint Working Group and Human Platelet Lysate Project

AABB and the ISCT are proud to announce the establishment of a Joint Working Group, formed as a collaborative effort to identify and facilitate project(s) of common interest to both organizations and their significant overlap of members. The six member Joint Working Group is comprised of 3 AABB and 3 ISCT representatives, with at least one board member from the Board of Directors from each organization. The ISCT-AABB Joint Working Group members include co-chairs Donna Regan (AABB President) and Lynn O'Donnell (ISCT Global Secretary), member representatives Michele Sugrue (AABB) and Janice Davis-Sproul (ISCT) and a representative from each Society, Naynesh Kamani (AABB Vice President, Center for Cellular Therapies & Research) and Queenie Jang (ISCT Executive Director). The group will meet regularly to identify areas for joint advocacy, develop project(s) and provide oversight and support to project teams.

The Joint Working Group proposed the Preparation of Pooled Human Platelet Lysate (HPL) as the first inter-organizational project, based on the increasing need for a non-animal derived source of cell culture growth supplement to support cellular therapy product development. Board approval for the project was obtained from both organizations in Q2 2015. The HPL Project Team has been assembled to include experts from numerous aspects of HPL manufacturing and use, including blood suppliers, both academic and commercial HPL manufacturers, MSC researchers, Transfusion Medicine professionals and quality and regulatory specialists (see table below).

Human Platelet Lysate Project Team

ISCT Co-Chair Karen Bieback , Institute of Transfusion Medicine and Immunology, German Red Cross Blood Service, Baden-Württemberg – Hessen, Germany	AABB Co-Chair Shibani Pati , Blood Systems Research Institute (BSRI), Blood Systems Inc. (BSI) & University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA
Beatriz Fernandez Muñoz, Andalusian Initiative for Advanced Therapies-GMP Facility, Seville, Spain	Richard Schäfer, German Red Cross and Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany
Bill Milligan, Steminent Biotherapeutics, North America and Taiwan	Pampee P. Young, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA
Luc Sensebe, Etablissement Français Du Sang, Toulouse, France	James M. Kelley, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA
Lynn Csontos, StemCell Technologies Inc., Vancouver, Canada	Beth H. Shaz, New York Blood Center, New York, NY, USA
Olive Sturtevant, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA	

The HPL Project Team has met and identified three topics to be further explored in subgroups:

- Comparison of HPL and FBS
- Standardization of HPL production
- Measures for evaluation of HPL products

Additional stakeholders and subject matter experts may be approached to help generate and produce project deliverables that will be designed to inform the community about the preparation and use of pHPL in Phase I/II clinical studies, in compliance with cGMP regulations. Potential deliverables include journal articles, educational forums, interviews with current HPL manufacturers and literature reviews.

AABB is an international, not-for-profit association representing individuals and institutions involved in transfusion medicine, cellular therapies and patient blood management. The association is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programs that focus on optimizing patient and donor care and safety. AABB membership consists of nearly 2,000 institutions and 8,000 individuals, including physicians, nurses, scientists, researchers, administrators, medical technologists and other health care providers. Members are located in more than 80 countries. For more information, visit www.aabb.org

The International Society for Cell Therapy (ISCT) is a global association driving the translation of scientific research to deliver innovative cellular therapies to patients. Focused on pre-clinical and translational aspects of developing cell therapy products, ISCT helps academic, government and biotech/pharma sectors transform research into practice and product.