



# CGT discussion points from EBF

**12<sup>th</sup> EBF Open Symposium**  
**Imagine! A new bioanalytical Earthrise**



PK SOP

CGT endpoints  $\neq$  PK assays

## Survey results

- Companies currently working on C&GT:
  - Pharma (7) 50%
  - CRO (7) 50%
  
- Companies not currently in C&GT
  - 28 (of 67)
  
- Companies who said they will work on it in the future:
  - 3 and growing

## Therapeutic area support

- Immuno oncology (13)
- Genetic disease (8)
- Other. (Please specify):
  - Parkinson's disease
  - Auto immunity, respiratory
  - Various

## Which phase of drug development do you support?

Discovery	29%
Non-clinical studies	36%
Clinical studies	50%
Post marketing	7%
All phases	50%

## Where do you look for regulatory guidance?

Bioanalytical method validation guidance (FDA, EMA, ...)	93%
Clinical Pathology (CLIA, CLSI, CAP...)	43%
White papers/publications (EBF, AAPS, ...)	100%
Internal	64%
Other, please specify:	Guidelines on gene and cell therapy (clinical, non-clinical)

**Do you think current Bioanalytical regulations are sufficient for you to support Cell and Gene therapy studies?**

86% - NO

## Where do you think the EBF community can contribute in this space?

Gap analysis of BMV	71%
Regulatory interaction and training	57%
Shape future regulatory landscape	86%
Hands on laboratory protocols	29%
Best practice documents	79%
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with therapy developers to shape what's required</li><li>• Harmonisation / standardisation of BA and safety assessment.</li></ul>

## Workshop and conference discussions

What is the role of the BioA lab and BioA scientist in supporting these drug developments?

- Vision of bioanalytical lab to bring together all necessary expertise together from a scientific and regulatory perspective
- Requirement to get BioA lab involved at an early stage
- Some companies have dedicated C&GT groups; not all activities performed in house but specialised out-sourced activities monitored by same group



## Bring CGT in the BioA world, including regulations?

- No current regulatory guidance. Good opportunity to bring in scientific rationale on how assays should be validated – general opinion that ‘fit-for-purpose’ was a good approach
- Harmonisation is needed and EBF can facilitate that
- Work can fall between current BMV and patient management regulations (AAV nAb as inclusion criterion, CAR-T persistence and immunophenotyping)
- Good science should be the primary driver and the necessary regulations applied
- It is better to have no regulation than a bad regulation

## Adapt existing regulations or introduce new regulation?

- Every company appears to have their own BioA strategy – rather than try to standardise through regulation. EBF as a platform to share experience and regulatory feedback
- Harmonisation is needed but a publication strategy is better than regulatory documents
- Clarify in relevant parts of current BioA guidance to include CGT endpoints
- ICH currently working on CGT guidance – Let's ensure BioA gets a seat at the table
- Learn from BioA strategies that have been used for licensed gene therapies
- Mixed opinion on whether separate regs are required for CGT or BioA technologies

## BioA community concerns?

- Amount of investment for new technologies for relatively small sample numbers
  - CGT often aimed at rare populations with low numbers of patients in trials. Often granted orphan drug status so approval is accelerated
- Gaps in BioA strategy need to involve all stakeholders at start of development program to identify and prioritise BioA requirements
- For cell therapies, the physical distance of patients from the lab in order to provide meaningful results
- Uncertainty if cell therapy exposure and persistence assessments by flow are really BioA endpoints
- Additional handling capabilities required in labs for handling GMOs

## Future direction

- Training Day on 12 May 2020 in Malaga
- Platform for sharing assay and regulatory experiences
- Further discussions at the EBF strategy meeting in March

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- Survey participants
- Workshop participants



Thank You!



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