

December 7-8, 2026 | San Diego, CA
www.donor-selection-cell-source-summit.com

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& ACADEMICS*

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4th Annual

Donor Selection & Cell Source Summit

Transforming Off-the-Shelf Therapies from the Start

**Spearheading Development of
Gold Standard Donor Screening,
Testing & Management to De-Risk
Manufacturing & Improve Product
Performance For High Quality Donor
Material in Allogeneic Cell Therapies**

Expert Speakers Include:



Cokey Nguyen
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Atara
Biotherapeutics



Akshata Ijantkar
Senior Principal
Scientist
Bristol Myers
Squibb



Kimberly Zai
Machine Learning &
Data Engineer
ImmuneBridge



Enrique Zudaire
Senior Vice
President,
Translational
Research
Caribou
Biosciences



Nidhi Shah
Senior Manager,
Manufacturing
Operations
Collectis



Faraz Siddiqui
Senior Vice
President, Technical
Operations
Senti Biosciences

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Cell & Gene Therapy Event Series



Advancing Fit-for-Purpose Donor Strategies to Improve Product Performance, Scalability & Commercial Viability

4th Annual
Donor Selection & Cell Source Summit
December 7-8, 2026 | San Diego, CA

Donor selection is becoming one of the most critical determinants in allogeneic cell therapy success.

As programs advance toward late-stage development and commercialization, the pressure to improve manufacturing consistency, clinical performance, and cost efficiency continues to grow. Yet **donor variability remains one of the most significant and overlooked sources of risk**, impacting product quality, yield, and scalability.

Returning for its 4th year, the **Donor Selection & Cell Source Summit** is the only dedicated forum helping you source and select fit-for-purpose donors to improve clinical outcomes, accelerate manufacturing, and strengthen the competitive position of allogeneic cell therapies against autologous and emerging *in vivo* approaches.

Join leaders from biopharma, CDMOs, blood banks, and technology providers to benchmark the latest donor selection strategies. Discover how leading organizations are leveraging donor data to **improve manufacturing performance, strengthen clinical outcomes, meet evolving regulatory expectations, and build more scalable development and commercial supply strategies.**

At this summit, you'll gain practical frameworks on how donor selection and cell sourcing:

- **Improve manufacturing efficiency and reduce cost of goods** to increase scalability and accelerate commercial viability.
- **Enhance product consistency and clinical performance** to improve patient outcomes and strengthen program credibility.
- **Define critical quality attributes of high-performing donors** to select optimal material and minimize development risk.
- **Strengthen donor traceability and regulatory readiness** to reduce compliance risk and support faster approvals.
- **Build scalable donor strategies that support commercialization** to ensure reliable supply and long-term growth.

Be part of the conversation with **Senti Biosciences, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cellectis, Mesoblast, Atara Biotherapeutics, ImmuneBridge, Ernexa Therapeutics, Indapta Therapeutics**, and other industry leaders as they explore how donor selection can be transformed from a source of variability into a strategic lever for product quality, clinical outcomes, and commercial success.

Key Benefits of Attending



Improve Manufacturing Success with Predictive Donor Screening

Hear from **Indapta Therapeutics** and **ImmuneBridge** on advancing donor characterization, scalable screening assays, and AI-driven stratification. Identify high-performing donors earlier, reduce manufacturing failures and variability, and accelerate production of consistent, high-yield cell therapy products.



Secure Reliable Donor Material Through Stronger External Partnerships

Join **Senti Biosciences, Ernexa Therapeutics**, and **Immatics** to strengthen supplier relationships, quality alignment, and material sourcing strategies. Reduce supply risks, improve material consistency, and build a scalable donor network that supports long-term commercial growth.



Select Fit-for-Purpose Donors to Improve Clinical & Manufacturing Outcomes

Learn from **Bristol Myers Squibb** and **Cellectis** how to implement donor characterization and risk-assessment frameworks. Better predict manufacturability, minimize batch failures, and improve product clinical outcomes, consistency, and patient supply reliability.



Strengthen Donor Traceability & Consent for Scalable Operations

Hear from **ICCBBA** and **Ernexa Therapeutics** on optimizing consent models, chain of identity standards, and traceability systems. Maintain compliance, protect donor trust, and create a scalable foundation for global cell therapy development.



Establish Commercial-Ready Donor Qualification & Potency Frameworks to Reduce Release Risk and Scale Confidently

Hear from **Mesoblast** and **Atara Biotherapeutics** on implementing donor qualification workflows, potency assays, and traceability controls. Improve consistency across donor-derived starting materials, strengthen regulatory readiness, and reduce release risk to support successful commercial-scale manufacturing.

What Our Speakers Have to Say

“This meeting will provide a good avenue to discuss the importance of donor selection and cell source for both the conventional and unconventional T-cells for future immunotherapy development. It also allows greater networking opportunities with other key players from the industry and medical organizations.”

Research Fellow, **Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute**, 2026 Speaker

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Your Expert Speakers

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Leading Biopharma Experts



Cokey Nguyen
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Atara Biotherapeutics



Akshata Ijantkar
Senior Principal Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb



Valerie Wall
Senior Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb



Enrique Zudaire
Senior Vice President,
Translational Research
Caribou Biosciences



Nidhi Shah
Senior Manager,
Manufacturing Operations
Collectis



Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics



Kimberly Zai
Machine Learning & Data
Engineer
ImmuneBridge



Ruoxi Pi
Senior Scientist
ImmuneBridge



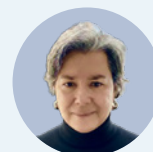
Afua Achampong-Duku
Senior Manager,
Procurement
Immatics



Stephanie Mandi-Cashman
Chief Scientific Officer
Indapta Therapeutics



Ali Turhan
Chief Medical Officer
iPSirius



Teresa Montagut
Head of Clinical
Development & Medical
Affairs
Mesoblast



Faraz Siddiqui
Senior Vice President,
Technical Operations
Senti Biosciences

Innovative Research Institutes & Non-Profit Organizations



Robin White
Technical Director
ICCBBA



Albert Ribickas
Manager, Blood & Marrow
Transplant Laboratory
Moffitt Cancer Center



Kok Fei
Research Fellow
**Olivia Newton-John
Cancer Research
Institute**

Conference Day One

Monday, December 7

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8.00 Check in & Light Breakfast



Akshata Ijantkar
Senior Principal
Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb

8.50 Chair's Opening Remarks

Advancing Predictive Donor Characterization & Scalable Screening Assays to Improve Manufacturing Success, Consistency & Yield



Stefanie Mandl-Cashman
Chief Scientific Officer
Indapta Therapeutics

9.00 **Establishing Comprehensive Donor Characterization Panels to Predict Manufacturing Performance & Reduce Process Failures**

- Identifying critical quality attributes in starting material that correlate with expansion rates, cell viability and final product yield to minimize costly manufacturing failures
- Implementing upfront screening assays to characterize donor health status, cellular phenotype and functional markers before committing to full-scale production
- Leveraging characterization data to reduce time spent evaluating unsuitable donors and accelerate selection of high-performing material for consistent output



Kimberly Zai
Machine Learning &
Data Engineer
ImmuneBridge

9.30 **Integrating Bioinformatics & Data-Driven Approaches to Accelerate Donor Stratification & Enhance Selection Accuracy**

- Utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze donor datasets and identify patterns that predict manufacturing success and therapy efficacy
- Building algorithms that force-rank donor variables and enable rapid decision-making when selecting between multiple candidate sources
- Establishing correlations between laboratory characterization results and clinical outcomes to validate predictive models and refine selection frameworks



10.00 **Speed Networking**

The challenge of defining fit-for-purpose donor material cannot be solved in silos. This structured networking session connects you with fellow attendees for a series of rapid introductions, giving you the opportunity to exchange ideas, benchmark strategies, and build relationships with the experts shaping donor sourcing, screening, characterization, and management across allogeneic cell therapy development.



10.30 Morning Break & Refreshments

Aligning Donor Selection, Cell Sourcing & Manufacturing Readiness to Accelerate Commercial Scale-Up



Cokey Nguyen
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Atara Biotherapeutics

11.00 **Implementing Commercial GMP Compliance Frameworks to Strengthen Donor-Derived Cell Therapy Manufacturing Readiness**

- Establishing donor qualification and documentation workflows to meeting commercial GMP requirements while reducing regulatory compliance risks
- Implementing chain of identity and custody controls to strengthening donor material traceability across manufacturing operations
- Aligning quality, manufacturing and regulatory oversight to maintaining inspection readiness throughout commercial scale-up activities



11.30 Session Details to be Announced



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12.00 Lunch Break & Networking



1.00 Session Details to be Announced

Strengthening Donor Material Logistics & Handling Strategies to Reduce Supply Risk & Preserve Quality

1.30 Panel Discussion: Strengthening Vendor Partnerships to Secure Reliable Material Supply & Quality Standards

- Building strategic relationships with blood banks, apheresis centers and cord blood banks to ensure consistent material availability and quality alignment
- Establishing clear communication of donor requirements, testing specifications and delivery expectations with external partners to prevent misalignment
- Auditing supplier capabilities, quality systems and regulatory compliance to qualify vendors that can support long-term commercial needs

Moderated By:



Akshata Ijantkar
Senior Principal Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb



Faraz Siddiqui
Senior Vice President,
Technical Operations
Senti Biosciences



Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics



Afua Achampong-Duku
Senior Manager,
Procurement
Immatics

2.30 Standardizing Starting Material Labeling & Chain of Identity to Strengthen Traceability Across Cell Therapy Supply Chains

- Understanding current chain of identity requirements to ensure compliance with evolving FACT-JACIE expectations and industry best practices for donor material traceability
- Implementing the ISBT 128 chain of identity identifier standard to create globally unique identifiers, improve interoperability, and reduce errors across clinical and manufacturing workflows
- Maintaining end-to-end traceability through standardized labeling to strengthen patient safety, support biovigilance investigations, and enable efficient product tracking from donor to patient



Robin White
Technical Director
ICCBBA



3.00 Afternoon Break & Refreshments

3.30 Roundtable Discussion: Navigating Regional Donor Sourcing Requirements to Enable Globally Scalable Allogeneic Manufacturing

- Comparing regional donor eligibility requirements and sourcing frameworks to reduce delays when expanding programs across global markets
- Establishing local donor and raw material supply strategies to mitigate cross-border logistics, tariff and importation constraints
- Designing adaptable manufacturing platforms using region-specific donors and serum to maintain consistent product quality globally

Moderated By:



Akshata Ijantkar
Senior Principal Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb

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Harnessing Donor Outcome Data & Cell Source Insights to Optimize Donor Qualification Strategies



Kok Fei
Research Fellow
**Olivia Newton-John
Cancer Research
Institute**

4.00 Comparing Conventional & Unconventional T-Cell Donor Selection Strategies to Improve Clinical & Manufacturing Outcomes

- Identifying donor attributes associated with superior cell fitness to improve clinical efficacy and manufacturing consistency across allogeneic therapies
- Comparing HLA-dependent conventional approaches with MHC-unrestricted $\gamma\delta$ T-cell strategies to expand donor accessibility and broaden tumor targeting
- Leveraging donor selection, immune activation and expansion characteristics to overcome tumor evasion mechanisms and enhance therapeutic performance



Nidhi Shah
Senior Manager,
Manufacturing
Operations
Collectis

4.30 Understanding the Cost of Donor Variability to Improve Product Release Success

- Identifying donor-derived risks during manufacturing and testing to reduce late-stage batch failures, resource losses and release delays
- Understanding how unexpected donor characteristics impact product quality to strengthen proactive risk mitigation strategies
- Quantifying the downstream impact of donor variability on patient supply to improve manufacturing robustness and product availability

5.00 End of Conference Day One

“The intimate group setting enabled ready connection and discussion on donor selection strategies and methodologies.”

Senior Director, **Senti Biosciences**, 2025 Attendee

“It was great to know people in the same field as us and the opportunity to learn from each other bottle’s necks, advances and current innovation to make cell and gene therapies available for everyone!”

Supervisor, **Genentech**, 2025 Attendee

Conference Day Two

Tuesday, December 8

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Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics

8.55 Chair's Opening Remarks

Developing Fit-for-Purpose Donor Selection Strategies to Maximize Therapy Performance & Manufacturing Success



Valerie Wall
Senior Scientist
Bristol Myers Squibb

9.00 Establishing Comprehensive Donor Characterization Panels to Predict Manufacturing Performance

- Establishing donor pre-screening assays to characterize donor materials from a molecular, phenotypic and/or functional perspective ahead of full-scale manufacturing
- Leveraging characterization data to accelerate selection of high-performing donor materials for the manufacturing of consistent and high-quality cell therapy products
- Implementing workflows to identify starting material attributes correlating with cell therapy product manufacturability, quality and consistency to minimize manufacturing failures and lot-to-lot variability



Enrique Zudaire
Senior Vice President,
Translational Sciences
& Therapeutic
Discovery
Caribou Biosciences

9.30 Ensuring Consistent Donor Material Characterization to Strengthen Clinical-Stage Cell Therapy Development

- Standardizing donor screening criteria to reduce variability and improve starting material consistency across clinical manufacturing campaigns
- Implementing robust donor characterization assays to strengthen comparability between batches and support reliable clinical outcomes
- Establishing fit-for-purpose quality control frameworks to identify variability early and maintain product consistency throughout development

10.00 Assessing How Storage Temperatures & Delayed Processing of Fresh Leukopaks Impacts Functionality of Immune Cells from Different Donors

- Transit and processing delays for fresh leukopaks as well as donor variability can drastically impact the functionality of the immune cells. Thus, it is crucial to determine the optimal storage and processing conditions to preserve stability of these cells
- In a study conducted by Rose BioSolutions, we examine the effects of delayed fresh leukopak processing, after storage for up to 96-hours at either cold or room temperature, on the stability and functionality of the immune cells isolated from three donors
- We will share impactful data highlighting how storage temperatures and delayed processing of fresh leukopaks coupled with donor variability can impact immune cell viability, cell frequencies, T-cell activation, and NK cell cytotoxicity



10.30 Morning Refreshment Break & Networking

Strengthening Donor Retention, Re-Engagement & Consent Strategies to Secure Long-Term Cell Source Availability

11.30 Roundtable Discussion: Improving Donor Recruitment & Retention to Ensure Reliable Access to High-Performing Donors

- Sharing successful donor engagement strategies to improve retention rates and facilitate efficient re-collection when additional manufacturing is required
- Identifying key drivers of donor attrition to develop practical retention programs that increase long-term donor commitment
- Collaborating with apheresis centres, blood banks and donor registries to strengthen recruitment pipelines and expand access to diverse donor populations

Moderated By:



Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics

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Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics

12.15 Optimizing Donor Consent Frameworks to Enable Compliant & Scalable Microbiome Research Session Highlights

- Implementing dynamic consent models to strengthen donor engagement while supporting long-term microbiome sample utilization
- Harmonizing consent language across collection sites to reduce regulatory risk and improve global study scalability
- Establishing governance processes for secondary sample use to maximize research value while maintaining donor trust



12.45 Lunch Break & Networking

Leveraging Donor Selection & Potency Testing Frameworks to Ensure Reliable Cell Therapy Performance



Ruoxi Pi
Senior Scientist
ImmuneBridge

1.45 Harnessing Elite Donor Selection Strategies to Enhance HSC-Derived NK Cell Manufacturing Performance

- Identifying high-performing donor characteristics to generate potent, consistent HSC-derived NK cell products at scale
- Implementing donor screening and qualification frameworks to improve manufacturing success rates and reduce variability
- Leveraging donor-derived cellular attributes alongside expansion technologies to enhance therapeutic efficacy and commercial readiness



Teresa Montagut
Head of Clinical
Development &
Medical Affairs
Mesoblast

2.15 Establishing Robust Potency Assays to Overcome Donor Variability & Deliver Consistent Global Cell Therapy Products

- Qualifying donors, reagents, manufacturing processes and in vitro assays to build FDA-approved potency assays that ensure consistent product release across batches
- Leveraging 10 years of clinical correlations and potency assay development to demonstrate safety, efficacy and reproducible performance independent of donor variability
- Implementing globally reproducible potency testing frameworks to support regulatory approval, commercial scalability and manufacturing consistency across international sites



2.45 Afternoon Break & Refreshments

Future-Proofing Cell Sourcing Strategies to Sustain Reliable Supply & Long-Term Therapeutic Success

3.15 Roundtable Discussion: Preparing for *In Vivo* Therapies to Protect Market Position & Adapt Sourcing Strategies for Long-Term Competitiveness

- Examining whether *in vivo* CAR-T and gene therapy approaches could reduce demand for *ex vivo* cell manufacturing and donor sourcing infrastructure
- Discussing how the allogeneic cell therapy field should respond to competitive pressure from *in vivo* modalities to maintain relevance and investment
- Evaluating whether suppliers, CDMOs and technology providers will sustain business models if market demand shifts toward *in vivo* approaches

Moderated By:



Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics

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Ali Turhan
Chief Medical Officer
iPSirius

4.15 Exploring Emerging Cell Sources & Platform Technologies to Expand Sourcing Options & Reduce Supply Constraints

- Evaluating iPSC-derived cell products as alternative sources that enable single-clone, single-donor strategies with unlimited expansion potential
- Assessing cord blood versus PBMC versus bone marrow sourcing trade-offs based on cell content, engraftment kinetics and manufacturing requirements
- Investigating whether iPSC platforms will fundamentally reshape donor selection by shifting focus to optimal source material for iPSC generation



Albert Ribickas
Manager, Blood &
Marrow Transplant
Laboratory
Moffitt Cancer Center

4.45 Optimizing Donor Selection Strategies to Enhance Manufacturing Consistency & Cellular Therapy Product Quality

- Evaluating how donor characteristics and collection variables influence starting material quality, manufacturing success rates, and final product consistency
- Assessing Moffitt Cancer Center's approach to balancing donor availability, cellular attributes, and operational considerations across clinical and commercial programs
- Implementing cross-functional donor selection and manufacturing strategies to reduce process variability, improve scalability, and support more reliable patient outcomes



Sanjeev Luther
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Ernexa Therapeutics

5.15 Chairs' Closing Remarks

5.25 End of 4th Donor Selection & Cell Source Summit

■ It was really good to hear how other companies were addressing donor selection and what steps they took in trying to select donors. ■

Senior Director, **Senti Biosciences**, 2024 Attendee

■ The conference consisted of almost solely industry professionals (therapeutic companies and apheresis providers) making the discussion topics very relevant to situations encountered across the CGT space. ■

Senior Manager, Process Development, **Tr1X Biotherapeutics**, 2024 Attendee



Expertise Partner - Rose Biosolutions

Rose BioSolutions is an advanced therapy solutions provider delivering human cells, biospecimens, and end-to-end CDMO services to support the development and manufacture of cell and gene therapies. With decades of expertise in cellular starting materials and manufacturing, Rose BioSolutions provides research and GMP-compliant immune and stem cells alongside plasmid DNA, viral vector, and cell therapy manufacturing. Its integrated capabilities span early-stage research through clinical and commercial production, helping therapy developers reduce supply chain complexity, accelerate development timelines, and maintain continuity from starting material through to advanced therapy manufacturing.

www.rosebiosolutions.com



Expertise Partner - Discovery Life Sciences

Discovery Life Sciences is a global leader in biospecimens and specialty lab services, enabling the discovery and development of groundbreaking therapeutics and diagnostics. With a robust portfolio of human biospecimens and cellular starting material, preclinical ADME-tox solutions, and cutting-edge specialty lab services, we provide our partners with the tools, data and expertise they need to succeed. From genomics and proteomics to cell biology and molecular pathology, our comprehensive service offerings support every phase of the scientific journey, from research through clinical trials.

www.dls.com



Expertise Partner - Oklahoma Blood Institute, member of Blood Centers of America

Our Blood Institute (OBI) is a nonprofit blood provider serving communities across Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. Founded in Oklahoma City nearly 50 years ago, OBI has grown into the seventh-largest independent blood center in the United States, operating 17 donor centers and supporting more than 280 hospitals, medical facilities and air ambulances. In Oklahoma, OBI provides more than 95% of the state's blood supply. Beyond ensuring a secure blood supply, OBI advances transfusion medicine through research, innovative technology solutions and collaboration with healthcare and research partners, helping to address evolving patient and clinical needs.

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Angus Booth
Partnerships Director
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Your Global Platform to Build Relationships Across the Allogeneic Cell Therapy Ecosystem

The **4th Donor Selection & Cell Source Summit** brings together leading allogeneic cell therapy companies, including **Bristol Myers Squibb**, **Senti Biosciences**, **Collectis**, **Mesoblast**, **Atara Biotherapeutics**, and **ImmuneBridge**.

These organisations are coming together to understand how donor selection impacts clinical outcomes, product quality, and manufacturing performance, and how the right partners can help accelerate development.

As allogeneic therapies move closer to commercialization, companies are under increasing pressure to improve manufacturing consistency, clinical performance, and scalability. With donor variability continuing to impact product quality, yield, and cost of goods, organizations are investing in fit-for-purpose donor strategies as a source of competitive advantage.

But allogeneic cell therapy developers cannot solve these challenges and opportunities alone.

To optimize donor sourcing, characterization, testing, and management, companies are actively seeking support from **blood banks**, **donor characterization** and **testing providers**, **CROs**, **CDMOs**, **leukopak suppliers**, and **raw material partners**.

By partnering with the summit, you'll be able to:



Educate the Market on the Strategic Value of Donor Selection

Engage with allogeneic cell therapy leaders seeking to better understand how donor variability, donor characterization, and sourcing strategies impact manufacturing and clinical success. Demonstrate how your solutions can help turn donor material from an overlooked variable into a competitive advantage.



Access a Highly Targeted Allogeneic Cell Therapy Audience

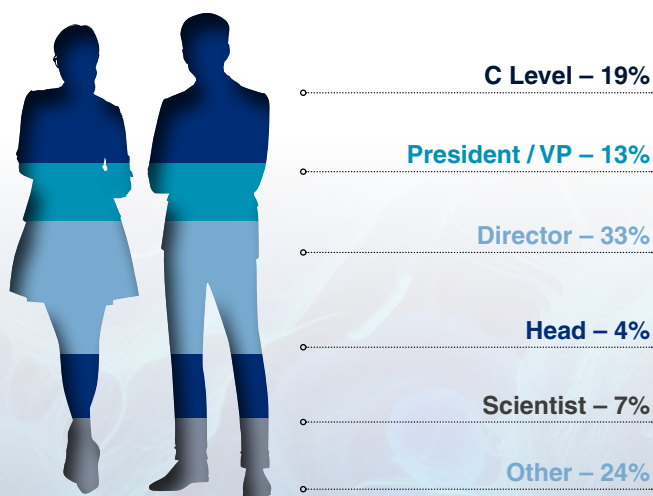
Whether you're new to allogeneic cell therapy or an established partner, engage senior leaders across donor sourcing, characterization, manufacturing, and clinical development. Build relationships with decision-makers actively evaluating new solutions and generate high-value commercial opportunities.



Get Front-Row Access to the Most Pressing Donor Selection & Cell Sourcing Challenges

Hear directly from manufacturing, supply chain, analytical, translational, and clinical leaders tackling donor variability, sourcing reliability, and donor characterization. Gain first-hand insight into unmet needs to sharpen your product-market fit and uncover new commercial opportunities.

Seniority of Attendees



Past Attending Companies Include:



Get Involved



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OPTIMIZE donor selection strategies to reduce variability, improve manufacturing performance, and build more scalable allogeneic cell therapy programs.



ESTABLISH robust donor qualification, testing, and traceability frameworks to secure reliable donor supply and meet evolving regulatory expectations.



ENGAGE with a highly senior community of allogeneic cell therapy experts across clinical, manufacturing, supply chain, R&D and analytical teams to validate your strategy and build meaningful partnerships.

Drug Developer, Academic & Not-for-Profit Pricing*

Conference Only

Free to Attend*

Vendor & Solution Provider Pricing**

Register & Pay By Friday, October 30

On the Door Price

Conference Only

\$3,399 (Save \$500)

\$3,899

Registration is FREE* if you work for a drug developer organization, research institution, or are a full-time academic.

*Please note that credit card details will be taken upon registration, and a nominal fee of \$0.50 charged.

*A drug developer must have a pipeline candidate and must not be outsourcing their pipeline or offer paid for products and/or partnering services.

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Please visit the website for full pricing options or email info@hansonwade.com

**Vendor and service provider pricing refers to all employees from blood banks, donor characterization and testing providers, CROs, CDMOs, leukopak suppliers, and raw material suppliers who partner with, and provide services to drug developers and/or research organizations.

Team Discounts***

- 10% discount – 2 Attendees
- 15% discount – 3 Attendees
- 20% discount – 4+ Attendees

***Please note that discounts are only valid when two or more delegates from one company book and pay at the same time.

Discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Only one discount offer may be applied to the current pricing rate.

Contact: register@hansonwade.com

Venue

The Westgate Hotel
1055 Second Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101
www.westgatehotel.com

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