



May Insights

HESI 2017 Annual Meeting



Don't miss the latest version of the [HESI 2017 Annual Meeting](#) agenda! Check out the newest session on CRISPR technology. Join us for perspectives on technical, regulatory, and societal challenges to its use in drug design, disease modulation, and insect vector control. The room block is filling up quickly: make your reservations by **15 May 2017**. View the agenda, room booking form, and more on the [website](#).

Rethinking Developmental Toxicity Testing

Over 60 scientists from around the globe convened in Washington DC last month to attend the workshop "Rethinking Developmental Toxicity Testing: Evolution or Revolution," sponsored by the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Technical Committee. Participantsspent a majority of the 1.5-day workshop in breakout groups considering newstrategies to identify developmental hazard alternatives (revolution) orimprovements to the current Segment 2 design (evolution). Workshop proceedingsand next steps are in progress. In the interim, speaker presentations areavailable on the [HESIwebsite](#). Highlights from the workshop and breakout groups will be presentedat the upcoming [TeratologySociety Annual Meeting](#) in June. For more information, please contact Dr. Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).



L: Dr. Julia Hui (Celgene) and Dr. Jennifer Foreman (ExxonMobil) present highlights from the Evolution: Metabolism breakout group. R: Workshop participants listen as Dr. Aldert Piersma (RIVM) and Dr. Thomas Knudsen (US EPA) present highlights from the Revolution breakout group.

ITC Training Course

The Immunotoxicology Training Course (ITC) on “T-cell Biology and Application to Immunopharmacology and Immunotoxicology” was held in April 2017 in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This two-day course was dedicated to one day on the foundational science and a second day on how to apply it in drug development. The course drew scientists from industry, academia, and government, spanning those early in their career to more senior members. Given the positive feedback and the course’s full capacity, there are plans to hold a repeat course in April 2018 in Europe (location to be determined). For more information, please contact Stan Parish (sparish@hesiglobal.org).



ITC training participants listening to Dr. Kanno present on T-cell ontogeny

HESI CT-TRACS at ICST 2017

Collaborative projects tend to yield about 50% more benefits than undertaking projects alone.
 – Ian Campbell, Innovate UK, ISCT 2017 Final Plenary Session



On 3–6 May 2017, London was the center of attention for cellular therapies as it hosted the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) 2017 Annual Meeting. Over 1300 delegates and more than 100 speakers met, interacted, and discussed recent advances, new ideas, and potential new collaborations. HESI's CT-TRACS (Cell Therapy – TRacking, Circulation and Safety) Emerging Issues Subcommittee was part of ISCT 2017, with more than 20 committee members participating and supporting a special HESI CT-TRACS session on "Identifying and Optimizing Emerging Technologies to Evaluate Cell Therapy Safety, Mode of Action and Efficacy." The CT-TRACS subcommittee also held its second face-to-face meeting, which was generously hosted by CT-TRACS member Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, a center of excellence in innovation whose mission is to help cell and gene therapy organizations across the world translate early-stage research into viable therapies. The initial feedback from the ISCT 2017 experience has been very positive; the quantity and quality of discussions during these four interactive days and after the dose of the CT-TRACS session was excellent. Certainly, this is a massive step toward the goals of CT-TRACS! We hope this marks the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between HESI CT-TRACS and ISCT, an organization that shares the same goals and values as CT-TRACS: to translate cellular therapy into safe and effective therapies to improve patients' lives, through collaboration between academia, regulatory bodies, and industry partners in cell therapy.

For full details on the CT-TRACS session, visit the event page [here](#). View the ISCT 2017 meeting website and access the full program [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Workshop on Advances and Roadblocks for Use of Genomics Data in Cancer Risk Assessment for Drugs and Chemicals

The HESI Genomics Committee, Health Canada, and McGill University will host this two-day workshop on **25–26 May 2017** in Montreal, Canada. The event will feature multi-sector and international perspectives on current and potential applications of genomics in cancer risk assessment. For more details, visit the [event website](#) or contact Ms. Lauren Peel (lpeel@hesiglobal.org).

Welcome Alexandra!

Welcome Alexandra Feitel, HESI's newest Scientific Program Associate. Alexandra received her bachelor's degree in environmental health from the University of Michigan. Her interests include toxicology, epidemiology, global health, and health equity.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We look forward to seeing many of you at next month's HESI Annual Meeting in Dublin! This year's **Science Forward** theme means that attendees will not only learn about the scientific achievements of our current programs (and those of our guest speakers), but they will also have the opportunity to engage in discussion on future human and environmental health challenges and emerging initiatives. Space is limited but registration will remain open until mid-May. Don't miss out!

Sybil Pettit, HESI Executive Director

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