

4th International Conference on Tissue Science and Regenerative Medicine

July 27-29, 2015 Rome, Italy

Adipose stem cells in vasculogenesis and angiogenesis

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The ready accessibility of adipose stem cells (ASC) makes them a feasible and attractive form of autologous cell therapy requiring either no *ex vivo* expansion or relatively limited expansion. Our team has been working with ASCs for approximately 8 years. We have studied the effects of these cells in multiple indications in both animals and humans. ASCs are known to secrete angiogenic and anti-apoptotic factors which can increase tissue perfusion and limit ischemic tissue damage in several circumstances, including skeletal muscle, myocardial, and cerebral ischemia, as well as in cutaneous wound healing. ASCs may also be effective in orthopedic indications as they possess the potential to differentiate into bone and cartilage. This lecture will present the data that has been collected from thousands of patient treatments and discuss the potential of the cells in future applications.

Biography

Kristin Comella has over 15 years experience in corporate entities with expertise in regenerative medicine. She was recently named number 24 according to Terrapin's list of the Top 50 Global Stem Cell Influencers. She has pioneered a variety of stem cell therapies including cord blood derived cells, bone marrow cells, muscle cells and adipose cells for use in many different applications. She has developed a wide range of regenerative products and techniques that have been successfully implemented into the clinic. She also led the team that gained the first ever FDA approval for clinical trials using a combined cell and gene therapy product. She has been a member of the Bioheart Inc. senior management team since 2004 and is currently serving as the Chief Scientific Officer and board member. Bioheart is a publically traded company focusing on the discovery, development and commercialization of autologous cell therapies for the treatment of degenerative diseases. Since joining Bioheart, she has played a major role in managing the product development, manufacturing and quality systems of cellular products. In addition, she is currently and actively serving on multiple boards in the stem cell arena. She was co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Stemlogix, LLC for veterinary medicine. She has years of cell culturing experience including building and managing the stem cell laboratory at Tulane University's Center for Gene Therapy. Previously, she worked as a research engineer for Osiris Therapeutics developing stem cell therapies for osteoarthritis. She holds an MS in Chemical Engineering from The Ohio State University and a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Florida.

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