

FIRM 2014

Early Career Symposium

Future Investigators of **Regenerative Medicine**

FIRM 2014 Update

FIRM was established by four members of the Doctoral Training Centre in Regenerative Medicine seeking to create a forum for young researchers, like us, to come together in a friendly and informal setting. This allows the creation of new networks early on in our careers that can lead to future worldwide collaborations, whilst also gaining invaluable experience presenting at an international conference. With over 70 attendees from 32 international institutions FIRM 2013 has already begun to build a large community of early career researchers with collaborative work starting from the moment the symposium finished.

"The symposium was a great success, allowing me to meet and interact with peers, whilst also demonstrating the wide range of research that occurs within the field of regenerative medicine."

FIRM 2013 Attendee

FIRM symposium 2014 is going to be bigger and better than last year. We have kept the best bits in; that's the networking, open discussions, quick fire poster presentations and oral presentation slots.

In addition, we have created new sessions in response to last year's feedback, with more interactive debates and career development training workshops rounding off the FIRM experience. These training workshops will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills to further their personal development and gain experience in areas such as clinical delivery, imaging, communication and commercialisation.

Venue...look familiar?

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FIRM 2014 Hotel Cap Roig,
Girona, Spain



Dates to remember

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Abstract: 1st April - 27th June 2014

FIRM 2014: 8th Sept – 11th Sept 2014

Cost

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£350

Including: conference fee, delegate bag,
3 nights accommodation & all meals.

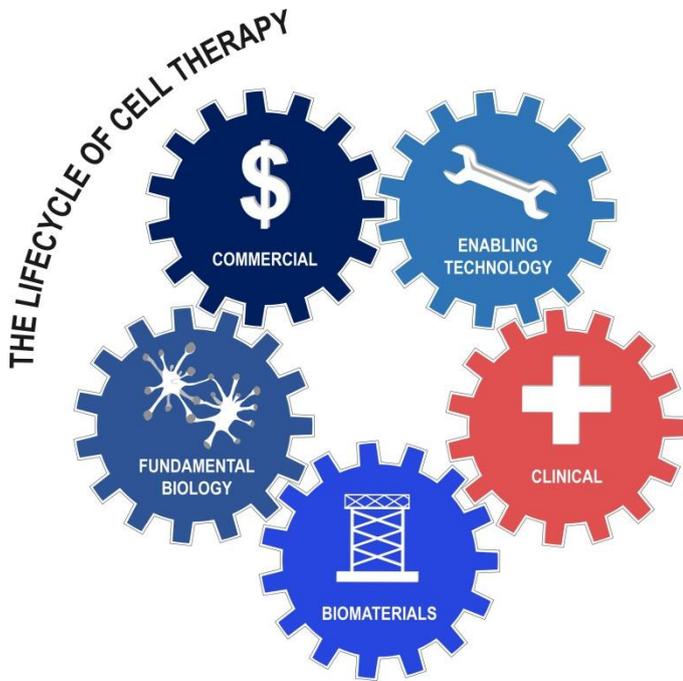
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We decided to keep the scope of the symposium broad to enable as many young students to attend as possible. This year's title "Life Cycle of Cell Therapies" is broken down into five interconnected sessions, Fundamental Biology, Biomaterials, Enabling Technology, Commercialisation and Clinical Delivery. In order to produce a viable cell therapy industry all these pieces need to work together, like cogs in a well oiled machine.

To enable this we have secured world renowned international keynote speakers purposely chosen to bring forward knowledge in every aspect of the life cycle of cell therapies.

Presenting.....



Dr Kei Miyamoto, Cambridge University, UK

Dr Miyamoto will lead the Fundamental Biology session. He is a research fellow in the Sir John Gurdon Research Institute where they perform ground breaking research into cell reprogramming techniques. These systems have the potential to provide the next wave of personalised medicines and hold great promise for future regenerative medicine product testing platforms.



Prof Katja Schenke-Layland, Fraunhofer Institute, Germany

Prof Shenke - Layland is a professor at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen (UKT) and department head at the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB). Katja has an impressive research portfolio using biomaterials for cardiovascular diseases, making her ideal to lead this year's Biomaterials session.



Dr Paulo de Coppi, Great Ormond Street Hospital, UK

Dr de Coppi is a consultant paediatric surgeon at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the head of the surgery unit at the UCL Institute of Child Health both located in London. His research is looking at the development of novel stem cell therapies for gut disorders.



Dr Robert Preti, Progenitor Cell Therapy, USA

Dr Robert "Bob" Preti is co-founder of PCT and Chief Scientific Officer of NeoStem. Dr Preti will bring invaluable experience to the symposium, with a lifetime of experience specific to manufacturing and commercialisation in regenerative medicine.



Dr Alan Horner, Smith and Nephew, UK

Dr Horner is a science manager at Smith and Nephew, leading a team of biological scientists performing preclinical testing and research for medical devices for orthopaedic tissue regeneration. He will be leading the Enabling Technology session at FIRM 2014.

What's different this year?

Workshops...



Prof Erik Shapiro, Michigan State University USA

Prof Shapiro's research revolves around molecular and cellular MRI, particularly in the use of MRI to track specific cell populations, including cell transplants and immune cells. After his keynote at FIRM2013, he returns to lead an imaging master class.



Dr Jamie Cleaver, University of Surrey, UK

Dr Cleaver offers a range of training courses designed specifically to help people with technical backgrounds develop skills areas of presentation, communication, teamwork, leadership and problem solving. He will be leading our effective science communication session.



Dr Paulo de Coppi, Great Ormond Street Hospital, UK

The clinical workshop will provide our delegates with the opportunity to engage directly with a current leading clinician in cell therapy. Engaging with clinicians is a critical step in translating our research from bench to bedside. We have identified this as a key competency that early career researchers often neglect.



Dr Bob Preti, Progenitor Cell Therapy, USA

Commercialisation of regenerative medicine products is paramount to the success of the industry. The ability to identify potential pitfalls and challenges in product development are critical at an early stage of research. This workshop will highlight, with examples, successes and failures within our own industry as well as looking at previous challenges within developing industries.