Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies

Cellular Therapies Section Coordinating Committee

CHAIR: Dr. Eapen Jacob

PURPOSE: The Cellular Therapies Section was established in 2009 to provide guidance to the association and its membership on critical issues relating to cellular therapies, including umbilical cord blood, regenerative medicine and somatic cells. This section includes information on section charges, proposed guidelines and subsections.

CHARGES: 1. Link members and resources within the cellular therapy field to connect members engaged in common practices for the purpose of expertise consultation and shortening development timelines.

2. Develop professional educational programs, learning tools and publications for the purpose of recruiting individuals to cellular therapy (including physicians, technologists and related health care providers).

3. Advance the organization's mission and strategic plan relating to umbilical cord blood, regenerative medicine and somatic cells.

4. Identify and circulate news regarding emerging and state-of-the-art practices and applications in cellular therapy and regenerative medicine.

5. Expand public awareness and education, including Web site offerings.

6. Engage cell therapy professionals in interactive exchange to enhance competency.

7. Obtain, analyze and disseminate up-to-the-moment summaries of regulatory guidelines and legislation related to cellular therapies.

8. Facilitate the application of quality management principles to cellular therapy.

9. Provide input to the CT Standards Program Unit regarding standards and assist in expanding the number of AABB-accredited facilities as well as provide recommendations about which novel cellular therapy products should be considered in standards development.

Current Personnel as of November 21, 2026

Name	Roles
Chair	
Dr. Eapen Jacob	
Member	
Dr. Laura S Connelly-Smith	
Vasiliki Kalodimou, CABP(H), MSC, PHD	
Melissa Marlowe	
MRS Brenda Alder	
Nelly Colina-Bernitt	
Dr. Claudio Dufour	
Olive Joanne Sturtevant, CABP , CQA(ASQ), MPH, MT(ASCP), SBB(ASCP)	
Thomas Zachary Thompson, CABP ,FCAP,MD	
Scott Avecilla	
Thane Kubik, CABP	

Name	Roles
Wen Lu	
Mrs. Lara F. Sarhan, BB(ASCP), CABP , MSC	
Dr. Eddie Han Pin Tan, CABP ,PHD	
SEC	
Yvette Tanhehco, CABP ,MD,MS,PHD	
Staff Liaison	
Christina Celluzzi, CABP(H),MS,PHD	
VICE_CHAIR	
William Ward	

Time Commitment: To learn about the time commitments for this committee, please contact the staff liaison listed in the roster above.