Workshop on the prospects for controllable cell-based therapies held at City University, 22-23 February 2016

Summary of Feedback received from participants



A Feedback Questionnaire distributed at the workshop was completed by 13 participants (65% response rate). Below are some extracts from comments made to open questions.

Responses to the question: "What was the best aspect of the workshop?"

Mix of people different to most things I get involved with, esp. patient perspectives (commercialisation & policy/regulation) ¹

Multi-angle discussions (synthetic biology & commercialisation & policy/regulation)

Very useful interactions between scientists + *other stakeholders; good diversity of viewpoints* (social science)

The diversity and high quality of the participants (synthetic biology & commercialisation)

Having the various stakeholders at the table (patient perspectives)

Multidisciplinary views and expertise; interaction from different group of people (synthetic biology)

Excellent choice of speakers from highly complementary subject areas; very good discussion sessions (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

Discussion with broad range of interested parties (synthetic biology)

The really good nature of discussions and approaches (patient perspectives)

Excellent mix of people with different areas of expertise; everyone was very open to interacting with everyone else (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

Representation diverse and good (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

Discussion sessions very useful (policy/regulation)

The interesting mix of people (other)

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¹ Respondents to the Feedback Questionnaire were asked to specify their area(s) of expertise as: Synthetic biology. Commercialisation of biologics/ATMP; Patient perspectives; Social Science; Policy/Regulation; Other. Their response is indicated in brackets after their comments.

Responses to the question: "From your perspective, what were the key issues to emerge from the workshop?"

Value of this kind of very open discussion amongst diverse stakeholders; need for earlier engagement with issues by scientists (social science)

There is a need for cell therapies and inclusion of patients and regulators in their development will help shape and accelerate it (synthetic biology & commercialisation)

[PKU was] very interesting case study that illustrates regulatory issues (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

We need more scientific understanding of the public as well as public understanding of science (other)

Responses to the question: "How, if at all, will you use what you have learnt at this workshop for your work?"

Patient concerns are not what I believed (synthetic biology & commercialisation)

Design scientific project oriented to realistic use of the technology (synthetic biology)

Probably not directly or immediately but it has provided some excellent strategic background knowledge that will likely be useful in future discussions (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

Identified researchers, funders, regulators and others with whom I plan to interact to take work forward (synthetic biology)

Greater awareness of some aspects of regulatory landscape (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

General exposure to variety of perspectives from both ends of the drug development spectrums (synthetic biology & policy/regulation)

Other comments made on the Feedback Form:

Fantastic meeting. I found every session and presenter informative. I learnt more in 1.5 days than most meetings. (synthetic biology & commercialisation)

Extracts from emails received by workshop organisers after the workshop:

Thank you very much for inviting me to the CCBT workshop. I thoroughly enjoyed and made many great connections. I am in the process of starting a business to commercialize my research. I cannot express how appropriate all of the discussions we had at the workshop were for me. I went home inspired and excited to go faster. It also gave a clearer idea of what regulatory hurdles I will face. The opportunity to meet patient advocates was amazing. I thought [name of patient representative] was fantastic. We had a few great discussions that have given me much to think about.

Thanks again, I thought it was a very valuable event

Thank you all, it was enjoyably different.

Thank you for being invited into the workshop, it was really useful [...] Especially I liked the discussions between different experts, as it showed how many different angles there are wrt these novel therapies.

Thank you very much for my invitation to this excellent meeting. I enjoyed the time and discussions.

Thank you again for inviting me to speak at the workshop. It was a great meeting!!