



ELRIG

The Drug Discovery
Community

Cell & Gene Therapy 2026

9-10 March 2026
Hinxton Hall,
Cambridge, UK

#ELRIGCGT26

Cell & Gene
Therapy
2026

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Welcome to Cell & Gene Therapy 2026

We are delighted to invite you to ELRIG's Cell and Gene Therapy 2026 event, where scientists from academia, industry, and the technology supplier community will share the latest advances and applications in this rapidly evolving field. These therapies offer transformative potential, including the ability to address diseases once considered untreatable, yet challenges remain around how society pays for and delivers them. Over the course of this two-day event, you will learn about cutting-edge science, gain patient perspectives, and engage with expert panels discussing strategies to overcome barriers and successfully integrate these therapies into mainstream healthcare.

We are delighted to have been able to help shape this meeting, and we hope you enjoy two days of inspiring science, valuable discussion, and opportunities to connect with colleagues and exhibitors from across the Cell and Gene Therapy community. Dr Stephen Ward has over two decades of cell and gene therapy expertise, within a career spanning biological medicine research, development and manufacturing. He has been with the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult for over 10 years, playing a pivotal role building its pioneering process development and analytical capabilities; and leading major strategic manufacturing, supply chain, skills and industrial growth programmes. In 2024, he became Chief Technology Officer, shaping the organisation's technology development strategy. Dr Ward is also Vice Chair of the Medicines Manufacturing Industry Partnership. He will present "Is the Coming of Age of Advanced Therapies Now Within Our Grasp or Ephemeral Hope?" on day one of the conference. Dr Annarita Miccio directs the laboratory of chromatin and gene regulation during development at the Imagine Institute in Paris, France. Her work focusses on transcriptional control of haematopoiesis and developing therapies for beta-haemoglobinopathies. In particular, she optimised the design of lentiviral vectors currently employed in a clinical trial for sickle cell disease and developed CRISPR/Cas9 strategies for beta-haemoglobinopathies. Dr Miccio is the author of over 70 publications and more than 15 patents, she has led major EU- and national-funded projects and received multiple scientific awards. She will discuss the "Successes and Challenges in Gene Therapy: The Example of BetaHaemoglobinopathies" during her presentation on the second day.

Conference Directors



Verena Brucklacher
Laverock Therapeutics



David Baker
AstraZeneca

ECP Conference Directors



Eve Stalker
Broken String Bio

Keynote Speakers



Dr Stephen Ward
Chief Technology Officer,
Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult



Dr Annarita Miccio
Lab Director, Imagine Institute,
and Senior Researcher, Inserm

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Scientific track overviews

Gene therapies for neurological and neurometabolic disorders

Monday morning

This session will highlight successful gene therapy examples for severe paediatric neurological and neurometabolic disorders, covering the journey from preclinical development to clinical trials. It will include scientific, clinical, and personal perspectives—featuring a parent's firsthand experience with gene therapy. Presentations will address current challenges, emerging opportunities, and future directions in the field.

Track Chair



Rajvinder Karda
University College
London

Making new medicines for sensory disorders

Monday afternoon

This session will showcase how advanced modalities are transforming treatments for vision loss, hearing loss, and neuropathic pain, with a focus on innovative approaches to developing and delivering new therapies for both inherited and later-onset sensory disorders. Speakers will address key challenges and opportunities in the development and adoption of these treatments, and the impact their approval could have on patients, society, and healthcare budgets. The session will also explore how payors may approach decisions on investing in therapies that improve quality of life but do not necessarily extend lifespan.

Track Chair



Tim Allsopp
Consilium Bio Ltd

Individually rare but collectively common: Accelerating gene therapies for rare disease

Tuesday morning

This track will explore how gene therapy platforms are being leveraged to address rare diseases - conditions that are individually uncommon but collectively affect millions worldwide. Sessions will highlight translational research in neurodegenerative and respiratory conditions, showcasing innovative approaches.

Track Chair



Karen Skinner
LifeArc

Engineering the future of cancer immunotherapy: Advances in T cell design and function

Tuesday afternoon

This session will highlight recent advances in T cell engineering and their impact on cancer therapy. Speakers will discuss innovations in CAR and TCR design, improved safety and efficacy strategies, and technologies that broaden treatment accessibility. The talks will cover both haematological and solid tumours, illustrating how scientific progress is driving next-generation T cell immunotherapies into clinical practice.

Track Chair



Christos Georgiadis
UCL, GOS Institute
Of Child Health

Monday 9 March – Scientific Tracks

Morning: Gene therapies for neurological and neurometabolic disorders

Afternoon: Making new medicines for sensory disorders

Track Sponsor



Time	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:05	ELRIG Welcome
09:05 - 09:15	Conference Director Welcome and Keynote Introduction - Verena Brucklacher (Laverock Tx) & David Baker (Astrazeneca)
09:15 - 10:00	Keynote Presentation- Is the coming of age of advanced therapies now within our grasp or ephemeral hope - Stephen Ward (Cell And Gene Therapy Catapult)
10:00 - 10:40	Refreshment Break
10:40 - 10:45	Track Chair Welcome - Gene therapies for neurological and neurometabolic disorders - Rajvinder Karda (UCL)
10:45 - 11:15	Next generation AAV-F Capsid gene therapy rescues disease pathology in a model of Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Complex Deficiency - Anna Keegan (UCL)
11:15 - 11:20	Flash poster presentation
11:20 - 11:50	Clinical gene therapy trials in childhood dementias - Paul Gissen (UCL Great Ormond Street Institute Of Child Health)
11:50 - 11:55	Technology Spotlight
11:55 - 12:00	Technology Spotlight
12:00 - 12:30	SMA Type 1 - Life following gene therapy: Dharmisha Stezaly (Parent Advocate)
12:30 - 13:45	Refreshment Break - Poster Session 13:00 - 13:30
13:45 - 13:50	Track Chair Welcome - Making new medicines for sensory disorders - Tim Allsopp (Laverock)
13:50 - 14:20	Targeted genetic tools as novel therapeutic strategies for pain - Jimena Perezsanchez (University Of Nottingham)
14:20 - 14:25	Technology Spotlight - PartitionBio
14:25 - 14:30	Flash Poster Presentation
14:30 - 14:45	Industry Insider - Promega
14:45 - 15:30	Refreshment Break
15:30 - 16:00	Development of a dual-pathway gene therapy for geographic atrophy - Katie Binley (Ikarovec Limited)
16:00 - 16:30	Developing a regenerative cell therapy for hearing loss: Terri Gaskell (Rinri Therapeutics)
16:30 - 17:00	Organ tropic AAV vectors for gene therapy of rare cardiomyopathies and neurological diseases - Seng Cheng (Alexion)
17:00 - 17:30	Panel Discussion - Affordable, sustained integration of cell and gene therapies into societies' healthcare management: what's an optimum value system and how can we achieve it? - Jesús Zurdo (Ara Biosciences), Pierre Socha (Amadeus Capital Partners) and Chris McCabe (Queens University Belfast)
17:30 - 19:00	Networking

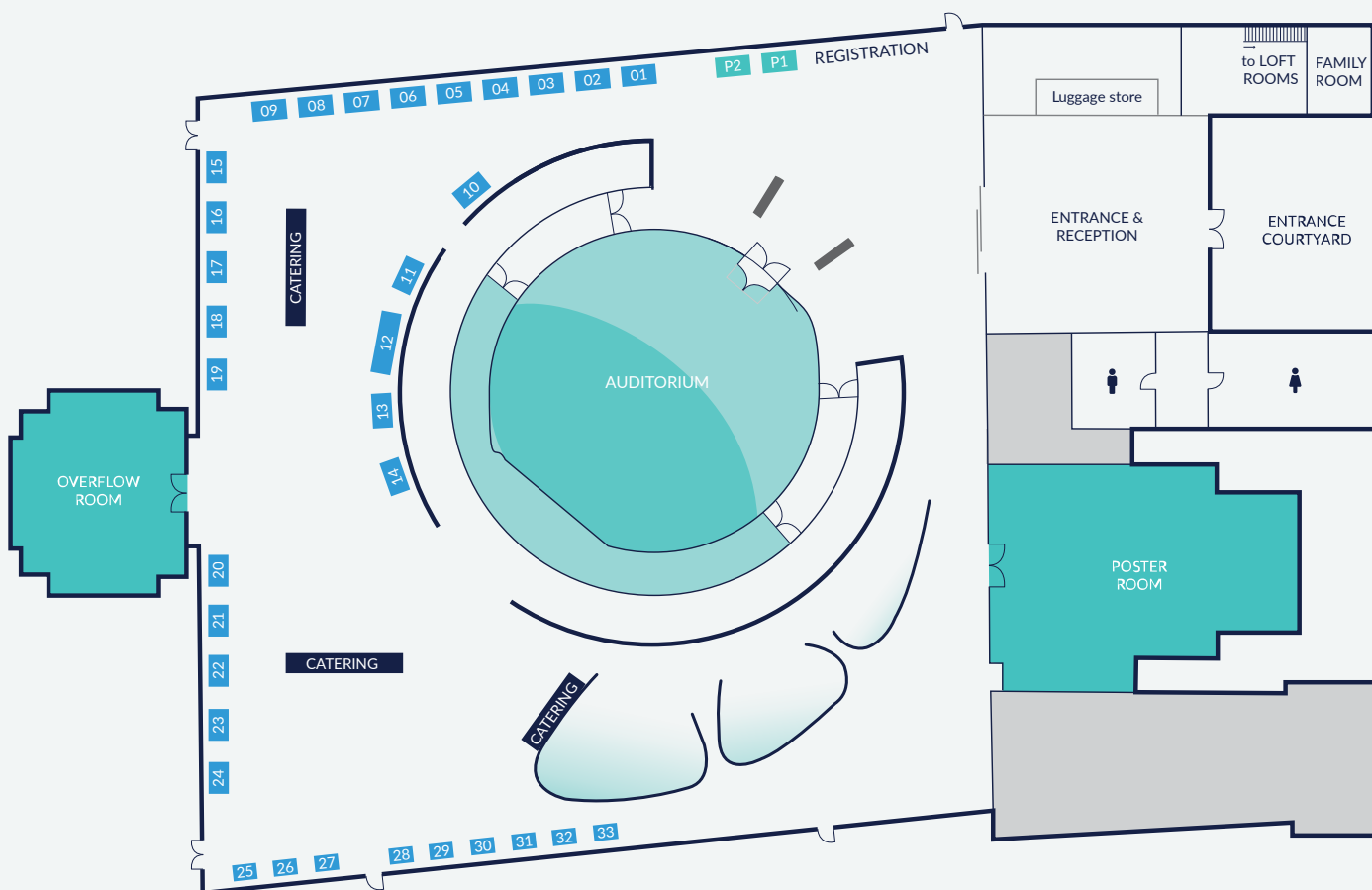
Tuesday 10 March – Scientific Tracks

**Morning: Individually rare but collectively common:
Accelerating gene therapies for rare disease**













**Afternoon: Engineering the future of cancer immunotherapy:
Advances in T cell design and function**

Time	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:10	Conference Welcome, Poster prize & Keynote Introduction - Verena Brucklacher (Laverock Tx) & David Baker (Astrazeneca)
09:10 - 09:55	Keynote Presentation - Successes and challenges in gene therapy: The example of β -hemoglobinopathies - Annarita Miccio (Imagine Institute)
09:55 - 10:25	Conference Partner
10:25 - 11:00	Refreshment Break
11:00 - 11:05	Track Chair Welcome - Individually rare but collectively common: Accelerating cell and gene therapies for rare disease - Karen Skinner (LifeArc)
11:05 - 11:35	Gene therapy for respiratory diseases - Eric Alton (Imperial College London)
11:35 - 11:40	Poster Presentation
11:40 - 12:10	Platform-Based gene therapy approaches: From prevalent to rare neurological diseases - Romain Joubert (Aviadobio)
12:10 - 12:15	Technology Spotlight
12:15 - 12:45	Advanced therapies for inherited optic neuropathies - Patrick Yu-Wai-Man (University of Cambridge)
12:45 - 14:00	Refreshment Break - Poster Session 13.00 - 13.30
14:00 - 14:05	Track Chair Welcome - Engineering the future of cancer immunotherapy: Advances in T-cell design and function - Christos Georgiadis (UCL)
14:05 - 14:35	iNKT cells as an allogeneic platform for blood cancer immunotherapy - Anasios Karadimitris (Imperial College London)
14:35 - 14:50	Industry Insider - Bio-rad
14:50 - 14:55	Flash Poster Presentation
14:55 - 15:00	Technology Spotlight
15:00 - 15:30	Refreshment Break
15:30 - 16:00	Development of CAR-T cells for the treatment of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (T-ALL) - Nicola Maciocia (UCL)
16:00 - 16:30	Jonathan Fisher (UCL)
16:30	Conference Close

Floorplan



Exhibitors

 <p>acCELLerate Track Sponsor</p>	 <p>Agilent 09</p>	 <p>Askion 19</p>	 <p>Avigen 25</p>
 <p>Bio-Rad 11 & Industry Insider</p>	 <p>Cellbox Solutions 22</p>	 <p>DDD P2</p>	 <p>Gilson 18</p>
 <p>Hamiton 21</p>	 <p>Identity Creative P1</p>	 <p>Integra 14</p>	 <p>MedChemExpress 12</p>



Northway Biotech
28



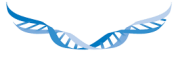
PartitionBio
Tech Spotlights



Promega
Industry Insider



Proteintech
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Zeeks

Information for Participants

ELRIG Mobile App

Download the free ELRIG app and access all our conference information, programme and more from your phone or tablet.

- View the event programme
- View presentation and poster abstracts
- View speaker profiles
- View the exhibitor guide
- View the delegate and exhibitor list
- Organise your day with your own favourites list
- Share your profile as vCard and QR Code and scan exhibitor QR code information tags
- Network – contact delegates, other exhibitors and speakers easily through opt-in directories and integration with LinkedIn, X and Facebook.



Download our App... search for and install The Event App by EventsAir onto your mobile device, then use the Event App Code: CGT2026. For convenience, you can add the app to your device's home screen.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is freely available throughout the venue and may be found by following the below instructions:

1. Join the 'ConferenceGuest' network.
2. Enter your name and email address to register.
3. Click continue to send a registration confirmation email to that email address.
4. Open the registration email, follow the 'click here' link, and confirm the address is valid. (If you don't do this you will only get 10 minutes of free Wi-Fi).

Accessible toilets

Available in the Conference Centre

Family / Wellbeing room

Please ask at main reception

Conference Code of Conduct

To help keep a safe space, we require the following from all attendees:

Pre-registration for the meeting is essential. At ELRIG we want all our meeting participants to enjoy, participate in and contribute to the event.

ELRIG does not accept harassment or intimidation of ELRIG participants in any form whether verbal, physical, or written (including on social media or by email).

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

5. Offensive or unwanted conduct on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation which has the purpose or effect of violating dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile or degrading environment.
6. Use of sexualised or other inappropriate images or unwelcome sexualised content, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention or stalking.
7. Sustained interruption of speakers or those asking questions.
8. Unwanted photography or filming.

Intimidation includes, but is not limited to:

1. Making threats.
2. Bullying.
3. Personal attacks.

Participants who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to stop and expected to comply immediately. Participants may be removed from any meeting at the discretion of ELRIG's management. If you are being harassed/intimidated, notice that someone else is being harassed/intimidated, or have any other concerns, please contact any of the ELRIG management team immediately. They will be able to step in to remove you or others from a chain of communication, if this is the preferred action, and can also facilitate a discussion or mediation. If you wish, you may also nominate someone else to support facilitating any mediation or as an observer to this process.

About ELRIG

Who we are

ELRIG is a world-leading, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the drug discovery community. Our mission is to promote open access to cutting-edge research and innovation by connecting life science professionals through inclusive, free-to-attend scientific conferences and networking events.

With a dynamic community of over 25,000 members, we provide a platform for learning, collaboration, and progress on the most pressing challenges in life sciences. We are passionate about fostering diversity, inclusion, and accessibility—ensuring our events reflect a wide range of global perspectives and experiences that inspire scientific discovery and drive the industry forward.

ELRIG's Vision

To be the premier champion and enabler of an open, connected, diverse, and sustainable drug discovery and life science community.

Strategic Pillars



Enable drug discovery by improved connections between stakeholders, through an extended, sustainable, and ongoing program of best-in-class, open-access, science-based events and digital products.



Amplify scientific innovation, sector impact, and professional development by championing great science and people through platforms, recognition, and awards.



Demonstrate sector leadership in best practice for sustainability, inclusivity, representation, equality, and diversity for our teams, delegates, and target patient cohorts.

Corporate Sponsors

AstraZeneca 

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2026 Events

MARCH

Cell & Gene Therapy 2026
ELRIG Conference
9-10 March | Cambridge, UK

APRIL

Innovations In Translational Models: Replacing In Vivo Models With Complex Cellular Systems
ELRIG Forum
22 April | Loughborough, UK

MAY

Advances In Cell-based Screening In Drug Discovery
ELRIG Conference
6-7 May | Gothenburg, Sweden

JUNE

Target Innovation & Novel Screening Technologies
ELRIG Forum#
15 June | Berlin, Germany

Drug Discovery USA 2026
ELRIG Conference
16-17 June | Boston, USA

JULY

ELRIG Summer Social
1 July | Cambridge, UK

SEPTEMBER

Precision Medicine & Biomarker Discovery
ELRIG Forum
3 Sept | Belfast, UK

Translational Medicine For Women's Health
ELRIG Forum
Sept | Edinburgh, UK

OCTOBER

Drug Discovery 2026
ELRIG Conference
14-15 Oct | London, UK

NOVEMBER

Next Gen Omics & Imaging: Single Cell And Spatial Biology
ELRIG Forum
3 Nov | Paris, France

Protein Sciences In Drug Discovery 2026 ELRIG Conference
10-11 Nov | Stevenage, UK

DECEMBER

Meet Up
ELRIG SLAS Networking
Dec | London, UK

For exhibition options visit oxfordglobal.com/discovery-development/events/discovery-development-europe/why-sponsor