

## **Report on The International Symposium on Stem Cell Research: Current hematopoietic Stem Cell Technology and Therapy**

**20–21 April 2018, Kaliningrad, Russia**

The Baltic Federal University named after Immanuel Kant (IKBFU), the Koch-Metschnikow Forum, Berlin, and the Foundation Königsberg organized together an international symposium focusing on the current hematopoietic stem cell technology and therapy, which took place from 20 till 21 April 2018 in Kaliningrad. The symposium was devoted to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication of the results of research carried out by Ernst Neumann, a pathologist from Königsberg. He suggested bone marrow to be the central organ for blood cell formation and postulated the existence of a hematopoietic stem cell from which all blood cells develop through increasing differentiation.

These findings significantly improved our understanding of the hematopoietic system and its disorders and build the basis of modern treatment methods, in particular of the stem cell transplantation.

The Russian and the German symposium speakers, preferably from the Charité University Medicine Berlin, reported on the current therapeutic procedures with the use of stem cells. On the German side, the Head of the KMF section Oncology, Prof. Dr. med. Klaus-Peter Hellriegel, was responsible for the design of the scientific program.

The goal of the this symposium was to stimulate exchange of knowledge and experience with regard to the allogeneic and autologous stem cell transplantation as well as the new methods of cell therapy, in particular the use of chimeric antigen receptors (CARs-T-cells), which is nowadays among the most vigorously discussed topics in the medicine worldwide.

Amongst others, the lectures on processing and genetic modification of stem cells and therapeutics (speaker: L. Uharek, Berlin), the haplo-identical transplantation of patients with acute myelogenous leukaemia (speaker: D. Motorin, St. Petersburg), stem cell mobilisation for autologous transplantation (speaker: C. Tietze-Buerger, Berlin) and the use of autologous hematopoietic stem cells for patients with multiple my-

eloma (speakers: A. Chechyotkin, St. Petersburg, and I. W. Blau, Berlin) and type-1 mucopolysaccharidosis (T. Bykova) were of great interest for the audience and intensively discussed.

Indications and procedural techniques are constantly developed and refined further, which makes the exchange of medical experience so indispensable. One of the results of the symposium was an agreement on initiation of future collaboration between the departments for stem cell transplantation of the Russian National Medical Research Center named after V.A. Almazov in St. Petersburg and the Charité University Medicine Berlin.

The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kaliningrad, Dr. Michael Banzhaf, and the Minister of Health of the Kaliningrad Region, Dr. Alexandr Kravchenko, honoured the event by their presence and delivered greetings to the participants. The symposium took place within the framework of the German-Russian Agreement on Cooperation in Healthcare concluded back in 2010 and the agreements between the Russian Academy of Sciences, Charité and the Koch-Metschnikow Forum as of 2016.

KMF acknowledges and highly appreciates the financial support of the symposium by the German Federal Foreign Office within the program "Strengthening Cooperation with Civil Society in the Countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia", which made this project possible.

The KMF would also like to thank the Rector of the IKBFU, Prof. Dr. Andrey Klemeshew and his highly professional team for the commitment to tireless organization and coordination, very warm welcome and the smooth running of the event.

Further Information (in German and Russian) <http://www.koch-metschnikow-forum.de/20-21042018-kaliningradkoenigsberg-das-deutsch-russische-symposium-ms-moderne-stammzellen-technologie-und-therapie,2965248959.html> (German and Russian) and <https://www.kantiana.ru/news/143/222887/> (in Russian).

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