

The Cell Summit '25

INNOVATIONS IN PROCESSING & SCALE-UP

SPONSORED BY



AZENTA
LIFE SCIENCES

 **Entegris**

Exploring the latest innovations and challenges
in **biopreservation** and **cell therapy manufacturing**

WHEN

Tuesday August 5th
8:30am to 5:00pm
Wednesday August 6th
8:30am to 1:30pm

WHERE

Newfields Art Museum
4000 N Michigan Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Together towards a cure



*Together towards
a cure*

WELCOME

Welcome to The Cell Summit '25 – Innovations in Processing & Scale-Up

On behalf of BioLife Solutions, Azenta Life Sciences, and Entegris, we are delighted to welcome you to **The Cell Summit: Innovations in Processing & Scale-Up**. This exclusive event is designed to foster collaboration and innovation as we address key challenges in cell processing, biopreservation, scale-up, and commercialization.

As leaders in the advanced therapies ecosystem, we understand the complexities of ensuring cell and gene therapy products maintain quality, viability, and functionality at every stage of development and manufacturing. With the rapid growth of the industry, finding scalable, reproducible, and high-quality solutions is more critical than ever.

Throughout this event, you will have the opportunity to engage with industry experts, scientists, and thought leaders who are driving advancements in cryopreservation, cell processing, and automation. Together, we will explore cutting-edge technologies, emerging best practices, and innovative solutions that can empower your work in advancing cell-based therapies.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the interactive discussions, expert panels, and networking sessions. This is more than just a summit—it's a collaborative forum where we can learn from one another, exchange insights, and collectively push the boundaries of what's possible in advanced therapies.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to meaningful conversations and forging new partnerships that will shape the future of cell and gene therapy.

Day 1 Agenda

➤ Tuesday August 5th

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKERS	COMPANY
8:30am	Welcome & Introduction	Steven Thompson	BioLife Solutions
8:45am	Implementation of Biopreservation Best Practices in Cell and Gene Therapy Manufacturing	Alireza Abazari	BioLife Solutions
9:15am	Preserving the Promise: Unique Challenges When Cryopreserving Starting Materials	TBD	Capricor
10:00am	Coffee Break		
10:30am	GMP Manufacturing of PSC-derived cells	Matthew Branch	King's College London
11:15am	Mastering Formulation and Freezing for Optimal Cell Viability	Alex Sargent	Charles River Laboratories
11:30am	Enhancing T Cell Recovery Post-Thaw: Combinatorial Effects of HPL and Defined Supplements	Andrew Hamann	InVitria
11:45am	Choosing the Right Cryogenic Packaging: Impacts on Process and Outcomes	Rui Li	Consultant
12:00pm	Networking Lunch		
1:00pm	The Cryo Mind Flow, from R&D to the POC	David Lewandowski	phasetwo
1:15pm	Process Optimization Considerations: Storage and Controls	Erik Woods	Ossium Health
1:30pm	Closed-system Processing	TBD	CTMC
1:45pm	Best Practices in Thawing to Maximize Cell Recovery and Function	Olga Bukatova/ Industry Speaker	Azenta Life Sciences
2:00pm	Post-thaw Viability/Genomes	TBD	MGI
2:15pm	Panel Discussion / Audience Questions	All	All
2:45pm	Coffee Break		
3:00pm	Innovative Container Solutions for Efficient Downstream Processing	Steven Thompson	BioLife Solutions
3:15pm	Large vs. Small Volume Considerations	Donnie Beers	Entegris
3:30pm	Scaling Manufacturing Through Full Robotic Automation and Digitization	Jason Jones	Cellular Origins
3:45pm	Integrated Automation in Manufacturing to Improve CGT Scalability	Alex Sargent	Charles River Laboratories
4:00pm	Automated Storage Solutions: Enhancing Efficiency and Reliability	Olga Bukatova	Azenta Life Sciences
4:15pm	Process Optimization: Weighing Build vs. Buy in CGT Manufacturing	Matthew Hewitt	Charles River Laboratories
4:30pm	Bringing the Power of Automated Flow Cytometry to the Cell Therapy Manufacturing Suite	Mark Rehse	Accellix
4:45pm	Panel Discussion / Audience Questions	All	All
5:00pm	Close		
6:35pm	Indianapolis Indians Baseball Game Reception @ Victory Field		

Day 2 Agenda

› Wednesday August 6th

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKERS	COMPANY
8:30am	Welcome	Steven Thompson	BioLife Solutions
8:45am	Ice Recrystallization Inhibitors: What is their Role in the Future of Biopreservation?	Jason Acker	University of Alberta/PanTHERA
9:30am	Navigating Regulatory Challenges around Formulation and Cryopreservation	Aby J. Mathew	BioLife Solutions
10:15am	Coffee Break		
10:30am	Point of Care Biopreservation: The Fresh vs. Frozen Debate	Lantz Mackey	Galapagos
10:45am	Downstream processes for GMP-grade therapeutic cell products	Mandana Haack-Sørensen	Cell2Cure
11:00am	Operational scale up challenges in cell and gene	Leela Paris	Consultant
11:15am	Regulatory Audits in an Evolving Landscape: Standardization Challenges & Solutions	Sean Werner	BioLife Solutions
11:30pm	Panel Discussion	All	All
12:00pm	Networking Lunch		
1:00pm	Product Development Focus Group OR Azenta facility tour		

Choose Your Own Experience

We're offering three unique ways to continue your experience—each designed to provide valuable insights and connections based on your interests.

Tour Azenta Life Sciences

Take a guided tour of Azenta's state-of-the-art Indianapolis facilities and discover the innovative technologies driving advancements in cell and gene therapy. This behind-the-scenes look offers a firsthand view into the tools and processes supporting next-generation workflows.

Collaborate with BioLife R&D

Sit down with members of the BioLife Solutions R&D team for interactive discussions around current research projects. This is a great opportunity to exchange ideas, explore collaborative innovations, and gain insight into the future of cell processing and cryopreservation.

Conclude Your Visit

If you prefer to wrap up your experience following the morning sessions, you're welcome to network and depart at your convenience.

Speakers

Aby J. Mathew PhD

Executive Vice President
and Chief Scientific Officer
BioLife Solutions



Dr. Aby J. Mathew is a recognized thought leader in biopreservation for clinical applications, with extensive expertise in cell and tissue preservation technologies. He holds a B.S. in Microbiology and a PhD in Cell & Molecular Biology and is a co-developer of the industry-leading HypoThermosol® and CryoStor® biopreservation media.

A driving force in the regenerative medicine field, Dr. Mathew has been instrumental in advancing the adoption of clinical-grade biopreservation solutions. His contributions include six issued and six pending patents, along with numerous peer-reviewed journal articles that continue to shape best practices in the industry.

Alex Sargent PhD

Director of Process Development
of Cell and Gene Therapy
Charles River Laboratories



Alex Sargent – better known as “Sarge” – is currently the Director of Process Development of Cell and Gene Therapy at Charles River Laboratories. He obtained his PhD from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio, where he studied the challenges and promises of stem cell biology, neuroimmunology, and Cleveland sports teams. He then went on to the Lerner Research Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation to continue his research in stem cell biology and neural regeneration.

Since joining the biotech industry, he has worked at several large companies on drug discovery and the research and development of groundbreaking cell and gene therapies. These include Lonza Inc., where he patented new technologies for cell therapy manufacturing and CRISPR gene editing, and AstraZeneca, where he worked to bring new chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies into clinical trials. He is passionate about the challenge of curing cancer, working on cell and gene therapy process and analytical development from discovery, through regulatory submission, manufacturing, and clinical trials. He wakes up each day excited to help advance cell and gene therapy to treat and cure disease, with the steadfast goal of improving human lives.

Alireza Abazari PhD

Senior Director,
Cell Processing
BioLife Solutions



Dr. Alireza Abazari is currently the Senior Director of Cell Processing at BioLife Solutions, bringing extensive expertise in biopreservation, process development, and cell therapy manufacturing. Previously, he led process development at Pluristyx, Inc. and played a key role at Lyell Immunopharma, where he developed selection, formulation, and cryopreservation strategies for CAR-T, TCR, and TIL programs.

His tenure at BioLife Solutions also includes roles as Scientific Applications Director and Senior Application Scientist, where he drove R&D initiatives, customer consulting, and process optimization to advance biopreservation technologies. Dr. Abazari began his career as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School, researching intracellular trehalose delivery and lyopreservation techniques. With a PhD in Cell & Molecular Biology, numerous scientific publications, and leadership in process optimization and automation, he continues to shape innovations in cell and gene therapy manufacturing.

Andrew Hamann PhD

Product Application Scientist
InVitria



Andrew Hamann is a Product Application Scientist at InVitria, where he leads internal and collaborative studies supporting the use of recombinant, animal-origin-free proteins in cell and gene therapy applications. He has experience in optimizing cell processing workflows—including cryopreservation, recovery, and expansion—with a focus on T cells and other clinically relevant cell types.

Prior to joining InVitria, Andrew served as a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where his work centered on nonviral gene delivery for cell and gene therapy applications. He holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering and is passionate about developing scalable, defined solutions that improve the safety and efficacy of advanced therapies.

Speakers

David Lewandowski

Senior Advisor
phasetwo



David Lewandowski is a business development leader with over two decades of experience in the cell and gene therapy, biobanking, and life sciences industries. David is currently working as a Senior Advisor to phasetwo cryogenic storage solutions. He is also the Managing Director at Cells FX, where he focuses on strategic partnerships and business growth. Previously, he served as Director of Business Development for Advanced Therapies at AmplifyBio, helping to expand services for drug discovery and manufacturing.

David has also held leadership roles at Azenta Life Sciences, Cryo Bio System, and Genentech, specializing in marketing strategy, commercial development, and strategic partnerships. He has contributed to industry organizations as Co-Chair of the ISCT Cold Chain Working Group and President of ISBER (2018-2019). With a deep understanding of the cryopreservation, biobanking, and regenerative medicine landscape, David continues to drive innovation and collaboration across the life sciences sector.

Donnie Beers

Life Sciences Applications Leader
Entegris



Donnie Beers, Life Sciences Applications Leader for Entegris, Inc. has held many roles in process science and bioproduction over the last two decades and brings a wealth of collaboration and leadership experience gained during his past process sciences and commercial roles.

Donnie joined Entegris in 2019 as Sr. Product Manager for single-use products and has since taken a lead role in helping customers overcome unique challenges in cell and gene therapies leveraging his prior work in developing, implementing, and commercializing single-use and automation technology in biopharma. Donnie earned his BSc. in Biochemistry from University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Erik Woods PhD

Executive Vice President and
Chief Science Officer
Ossium Health



Erik Woods, PhD, is a recognized leader in cell therapy and biopreservation, with extensive expertise in cryopreservation, regenerative medicine, and translational research. He has played a pivotal role in advancing cell manufacturing, biobanking, and clinical applications for over two decades. Dr. Woods has held leadership positions across academia and industry, contributing to the development of novel preservation technologies and process optimization for cell and gene therapies. His work has influenced best practices in cell storage, transport, and viability, ensuring the successful delivery of advanced therapies to patients.

Passionate about innovation and collaboration, Dr. Woods continues to shape the future of biopreservation and cell-based medicine through scientific research, technology development, and industry partnerships.

Jason Acker PhD

Associate Vice-President
University of Alberta/PanTHERA



Dr. Jason Acker is a distinguished leader in biopreservation, transfusion medicine, and cell therapy manufacturing, with extensive experience bridging scientific research and industry innovation. He has dedicated his career to advancing cryopreservation technologies, blood component processing, and regenerative medicine applications. With a strong background in academic research, regulatory compliance, and technology development,

Dr. Acker has contributed to improving the quality, safety, and efficacy of cellular therapies worldwide. His work has led to significant advancements in biobanking, process optimization, and cold chain logistics, ensuring the integrity of biological products from lab to patient. Through his leadership, mentorship, and scientific contributions, Dr. Acker continues to shape the future of cell therapy and biomanufacturing.

Speakers

Jason Jones

Global Business Development Lead
Cellular Origins



Jason Jones has nearly three decades of experience in biotech, with over 21 years focused on Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) and the technologies behind processing and manufacturing. He spent 18 years at Miltenyi Biotec, leading cell therapy efforts in the UK and Ireland and later managing global strategic partnerships with companies like Autolus and GSK. He was instrumental in launching the Prodigy platform and expanding Miltenyi's role across academia, clinical, and industry settings.

As a founding member and Chief Business Officer at Ori Biotech, Jason helped raise £135M and develop scalable CGT manufacturing technology. He briefly served as Head of Business Development at adthera bio, a UK-based CDMO, before joining Cellular Origins as Global Business Development Lead. There, he is driving innovation in full automation and robotics for CGT manufacturing, building strategic partnerships, and helping bridge the gap between CGT's clinical potential and large-scale patient access.

Leela Paris PhD

Consultant



Leela L. Paris, PhD, was with Vertex Pharmaceuticals for over five years. She received her doctorate in Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology from Purdue University. Previously, Dr. Paris worked as the Laboratory Director at Cook General Biotechnology and as Global Product Manager of Automation for Cook Regentec. She has extensive experience in manufacturing and development as the Vice President of Manufacturing and Process Engineering at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and the Executive Director of MSAT focusing on automation and business processes.

Lantz Mackey PhD

Director of CAR-T Process
Development
Galapagos



Lantz Mackey is an intellectually agile and versatile Development Scientist with deep expertise in process and analytical development for T-cell and hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) therapies. With a strong strategic background in Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC), Lantz has successfully led programs from preclinical stages through Phase I/II clinical trials. He currently serves as Director of CAR-T Process Development at Galapagos, where he leads efforts in advancing next-generation cell therapies.

Previously, he spent four years at Novartis in roles of increasing responsibility, culminating as Associate Director of Cell Therapy Development. His earlier work includes pivotal contributions at bluebird bio and a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), where he utilized CRISPR-Cas9 to study human embryonic stem cell pluripotency. Lantz earned his PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pathology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a post-baccalaureate certificate program in Microbiology and Immunology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Known for his decisive leadership and collaborative approach, Lantz continues to drive impactful innovations in cell therapy development.

Speakers

Mandana Haack-Sørensen PhD
Director of Manufacturing
Cell2Cure



Mandana Haack-Sørensen, MSc, PhD is a leading expert in stem cell manufacturing and translational research with more than two decades of experience in cell therapy innovation. As Director of Manufacturing at Cell2Cure, she oversees the compliant production of advanced cell-based therapies for national and international clinical trials. Her expertise spans functional cell biology, regenerative medicine, quality assurance, quality control, and the development of both manual and automated cell expansion platforms.

Mandana previously held leadership roles at the Cardiology Stem Cell Centre at Rigshospitalet, where she managed stem cell production, storage, and distribution. She holds a doctorate in Health Sciences from the University of Copenhagen and a master's degree from the University of Southern Denmark. As a published scientist with over 50 peer-reviewed articles, she is also a co-inventor on a patent for adipose-derived stem cell therapy and co-founder of Cell2Cure, a company born out of the Capital Region of Denmark.

Mark Rehse MSc
Senior Sales Manager
Accellix



With 40+ years in biotech, Mark Rehse brings extensive research and commercial expertise. Beginning with analytical methods and immunology at Scripps Clinic, he advanced through research at Genentech and CellPro. Transitioning to commercial roles in 1996, he led European operations at CompuCyte and held sales leadership positions at Beckman Coulter and biotech startups.

After a brief retirement from Thomson Instrument Company, the allure of pioneering biotech work drew him back. Mark now serves as Senior Sales Manager for the Western US at Accellix, continuing his passion for the industry.

Matthew Branch PhD
Postdoctoral Research Associate
King's College of London



Matthew Branch is a seasoned researcher in ocular stem cell therapy with over 15 years of experience advancing regenerative approaches for corneal and retinal repair. Currently serving as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at King's College London, Matthew leads a multidisciplinary team focused on developing GMP-compliant stem cell manufacturing processes for early-phase clinical trials.

His expertise spans adult and pluripotent stem cell biology, cell culture, molecular biology, and flow cytometry. He received his PhD in Mesenchymal Stem Cells & Ocular Surface from the University of Nottingham and his MSc in Molecular Medicine from The University of Sheffield. Prior to his role at King's, he held research and technical positions at UCL, where he also managed a flow cytometry core, and at the University of Nottingham. Matthew's work continues to bridge cutting-edge research and clinical application, driving innovations in cell therapy for vision restoration.

Matthew Hewitt PhD
Vice President, CTO
Manufacturing Business Division
Charles River Laboratories



Matthew currently serves as Vice President, CTO Manufacturing Business Division at Charles River Laboratories (CRL) playing a critical role in driving CGT strategic vision as well as leading multiple operational initiatives across CRL's CGT CDMO, Biologics Testing, and Microbial Solutions global network. Before joining CRL, he was Head of R&D and Clinical Development for Lonza's Personalized Medicine Business Unit leading Cocoon platform development, a closed, automated, scalable cell therapy manufacturing solution.

In addition, he executed numerous collaborations across academia and industry leveraging the Cocoon. Prior to Lonza, Matt led the Tumor Immunology and Microenvironment program at Bellicum Pharmaceuticals, focusing on improving cell therapy efficacy in solid tumors. Matt received his B.A. in Molecular Biology at Goucher College while playing Men's Lacrosse, PhD in Biophysics and Physiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University within the Asthma and Allergy Division.

Speakers

Olga Bukatova PhD

Associate Director, Business
Development Cell and Gene Therapy
Azentia Life Sciences

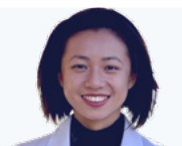


Olga Bukatova brings over a decade of experience driving innovation in GMP manufacturing for Cell and Gene Therapies. Her expertise spans key areas such as process automation, cryopreservation and thawing, isolator technologies, and aseptic fill & finish. Passionate about making advanced therapies accessible to patients, Olga has collaborated with start-ups, public institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and CDMOs.

As a member of the ISCT Cold Chain Working Group and co-host of the Bridging the Gap webinar series, she remains deeply engaged in tackling the complex challenges facing the CGT industry.

Rui Li PhD

Consultant



Rui Li, PhD is cryobiologist and strategic generalist dedicated to bridging across organizations and empowering innovators in advanced therapies with adaptive preservation toolsets. With a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Minnesota, she has led R&D initiatives across academia, start-up, and corporate settings and has been instrumental in industry working groups shaping the future of advanced therapy manufacturing.

As the founder of EastWind CryoWorks, she currently consults for startups, non-profits and corporations developing cutting-edge cellular and cold chain technologies while navigating the evolving regulatory landscape.

Sean Werner PhD

Chief Technology Officer
BioLife Solutions



Sean Werner is the Chief Technology Officer at BioLife Solutions, a leading provider of bioproduction tools and services to the cell and gene therapy and broader biopharma markets. BioLife acquired Sexton Biotechnologies in 2021 where Sean was President of the company known for providing processing and handling solutions for the CGT industry.

Sean received his PhD from Purdue University in Biology followed by post-doctoral positions at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Eli Lilly. Sean has previous experience filling various roles in the scientific, global regulatory, and general management functions supporting medical devices, autologous cell therapy, and single use disposable development programs. In his 23 years working in the life science industry, he has guided regenerative medicine research programs, pre-clinical and clinical testing and submission strategies leading to global commercialization of medical devices and bioprocessing tools and successful initiation of multi-national cell therapy clinical studies.

Steven Thompson PhD

Vice President of Sales
BioLife Solutions



Steven Thompson is a results-driven leader in cell therapies, regenerative medicine, and bioproduction tools, currently serving as Vice President of Sales at BioLife Solutions. With a PhD in Stem Cell Biology from the University of Liverpool, he combines scientific expertise with commercial acumen to drive sales, product development, and strategic partnerships.

Previously, he co-founded Sexton Biotechnologies, leading its growth until its acquisition by BioLife Solutions. His career includes roles at Cook Regentec and Sigma-Aldrich, where he specialized in business development, sales strategy, and product commercialization. Passionate about advancing bioproduction technologies, Steven is dedicated to optimizing cell and gene therapy manufacturing to improve therapeutic outcomes.

Evening Event

Tuesday August 5th

Join us for an exciting evening of baseball at **Victory Field** to see **Indianapolis Indians**

On Tuesday, August 5th, join us for an exciting evening at Victory Field, where the **Indianapolis Indians** will face off against the **Omaha Storm Chasers**.

The game begins at 6:35 PM, and we've reserved the exclusive First Base Party Terrace for our group, offering a prime viewing experience.

Located just steps away from the JW Marriott, Victory Field provides convenient access for attendees. Our private terrace will feature a catered menu of classic ballpark favorites and a selection of beers, wine and non-alcoholic beverages, ensuring a delightful experience for all.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a thrilling baseball game in a vibrant atmosphere with colleagues and friends.

Hotel Accomodations

JW Marriott Indianapolis
10 S West St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.822.8554

What to Bring

- > A collaborative mindset ready to embrace new ideas.
- > Questions, insights, or challenges to discuss during panel discussions.

What to Wear

- > Business casual attire for sessions.
- > Comfortable clothing for our Evening Event.

Additional Information

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