



Under the auspices of the Wali of Beni Mellal-Khenifra Region

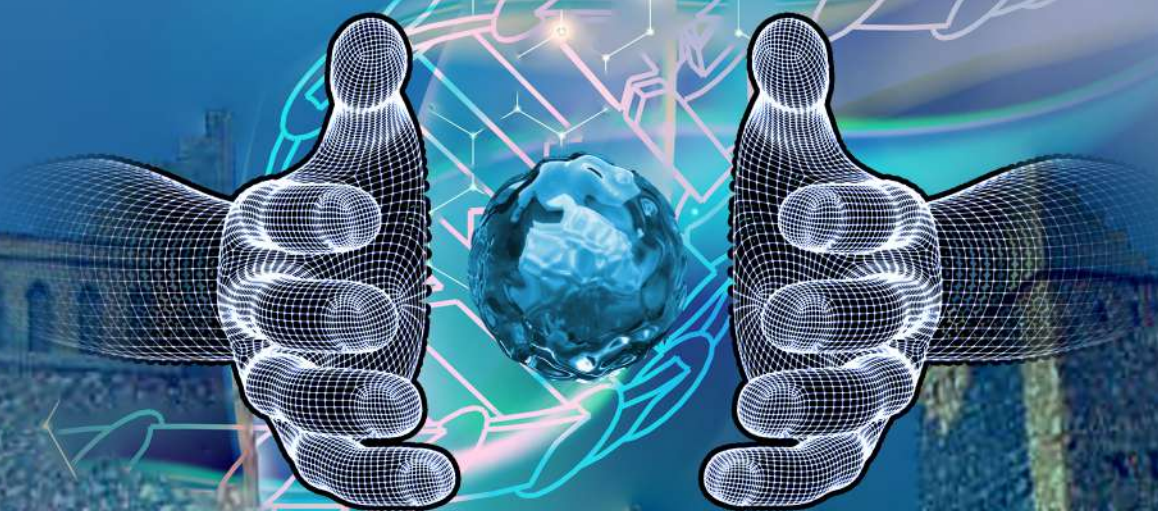
In collaboration with the Biological Engineering Laboratory

THE MSRT ORGANIZES

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

STEM CELLS:

FROM BIOLOGY TO INNOVATIVE THERAPEUTICS



CONFERENCE AUDITORIUM

FACULTY OF SCIENCES AND TECHNIQUES, BENI MELLAL

DECEMBER 21ST - 22ND

WWW.MSRT.ma



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI MAY GOD ASSIST HIM



EXTRACT FROM THE ROYAL LETTER

«...وكما لا يخفى عليكم، فإن تقدم الأمم والشعوب يقاس اليوم بمدى نجاعة أنظمتها في مجال التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي وإشعاع جامعاتها ومؤسساتها ومراكزها العلمية...»

مقتطف من الرسالة الملكية السامية التي وجهها جلالة الملك إلى المشاركين في الدورة الخامسة والأربعين للمؤتمر العام لاتحاد الجامعات العربية المنعقدة بفاس بتاريخ 20 مارس 2012

« As you know, the progress of nations and people, is measured today by the effectiveness of their higher education and scientific research systems. It is assessed based on the influence of their universities, scientific institutions and other centers of knowledge....».

Excerpt from His Majesty the King's Message to the 45th Congress of the Union of Arab Universities (Fes, March 20, 2012).

WELCOME NOTE

Stem cells are non-specialized living entities from which all other mature cells of the body are originated. These versatile cells have been reported to maintain homeostasis and to actively substitute damaged cells post-injury via an induced ability to self-renew and differentiate. Such features have paved the way for the design and development of innovative therapeutic strategies. Stem cells are currently reaching clinical development which is considered as a major breakthrough in the era of modern medicine. Expectations and investigations' interest on stem cells are willing to gain novel insights on diseases manifestation, safety and efficacy evaluation of new chemical entities, as well as on the development of cell and stem-cell regenerative based therapies.

The Moroccan Society for Regenerative Therapies (MSRT) is organizing its first international congress on stem cells: From Biology to innovative therapeutics, which will take place at the university of Sultan Moulay Slimane at Beni-Mellal, Morocco, from 21st to 22nd December 2023. By organizing this event in collaboration with the laboratory of Biological Engineering, MSRT is showcasing a very attractive related program that aims to highlight and debate the major recent exciting advances but also hurdles in this field of stem cells. Topics that will be addressed will range from basic stem cell research, to cell and gene therapy clinical trials. Worldwide renown speakers and experts will share their scientific findings, clinical and industrial experience in this ground. Furthermore, such MSRT symposium will also be a relevant opportunity for colleagues (from students to established researchers) with basic and clinical science backgrounds, and professionals, from Morocco and abroad, to exchange, network and establish collaborative projects in this innovative and future-oriented field.

We look forward to your participation to this scientific event.

We wish you a pleasant symposium and an excellent stay in Beni-Mellal, the capital of Moroccan middle Atlas

Warm regards



Pr. Mustapha NAJIMI
ISSC'23 Chair

Vice-President of MSRT

Pr. Mohamed MERZOUKI
ISSC'23 Chair

Secretary-General of MSRT



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SPEAKERS

**Najib Al Idrissi MD, PhD**

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Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health - Casablanca- Morocco

**Said Assou PhD**

Scientific director of transcriptomics platform at the Institute for Regenerative Medicine and Biotherapy
University of Montpellier- Montpellier- France

**Amine Bahi PhD**

Associate professor in the College of Medicine
Ajman University- Ajman- United Arab Emirates

**Abderrahmane Bakkali MD, PhD**

Professor of Cardiovascular surgery at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy
University Ibn Zohr- Agadir- Morocco

**Massimo Dominici MD, PhD**

Director of the Oncology Division and of the Residency School in Oncology
University Hospital of Modena and Reggio Emilia- Modena- Italy

**Hassan Ghazal PhD**

Professor, Royal Institute for Training, (IRFC)
Rabat- Morocco

**Fatim-Zahra Jabrane MD**

Associate Professor
Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health- Casablanca- Morocco

SPEAKERS

**Makram Merimi PhD**

Associate Professor

University Mohamed I- Oujda- Morocco

**José Maria Moraleda-Jimenez, MD, PhD**

Director Hematology Department & Stem Cell transplant Unit

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Professor of higher education in removable Prosthodontics

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RATIONALE

Considering i) cells as the structural and functional units of tissues, ii) the body is continuously repairing and renewing itself to keep its life, regenerative medicine has been developed to promote self-healing when altered tissues and organs are not able anymore to do so. Regenerative medicine aims at providing transformative health solutions to cure untreatable and devastating chronic diseases instead of treating their symptoms. This innovative medical approach is particularly willing to appraise the optimal conditions that may help the body to regenerate, repair and/or substitute its altered tissues whether intrinsically and/or exogenously. If successful, such strategy could be applied to organs and tissues also altered by age, trauma as well as inherited defects. Optimal development of regenerative medicine requires deep interactions between highly skilled people with significant expertise in biology, chemistry, medicine, radiology, imaging, engineering, omics, computer sciences, and artificial intelligence. Several strategic approaches are currently designed to assist the diseased organs and tissues for healing as for instance tissue engineering, medical devices, as well as cell and gene therapies. Since 2000, more than 300.000 papers related to regenerative medicine and tissue engineering have been published worldwide according to Pubmed, which highlights the tremendous interest and activity in these fields.

Cell therapy is one of the most advanced fields of regenerative medicine with more than 19.000 clinical trials conducted so far, based on www.clinicaltrials.gov website. Cell therapy is administering living cells into the body as being widely applied in bone marrow transplantation and blood transfusion. Currently, new cell entities called advanced therapy medicinal products are under development to target different disease indications. The number of cell therapy approved products is augmenting and being able to treat more than a million of patients with unmet medical needs ranging from diabetes to cancer. The field of cell therapy is constantly progressing at ethical, scientific, clinical, regulatory and legislation levels as significantly noticed in leading countries like USA, Europe, Japan, and Korea.

Stem cells are non-specialized living entities of the body, from which all other mature and specialized cells are generated. These versatile cells have been reported to be present in most of the tissues although in small numbers. Stem cells can be of embryonic or non-embryonic origin. Embryonic stem cells display a pluripotent plasticity (ability to differentiate into all cells of the adult body) as compared to multipotent adult stem cells which can be isolated and collected from umbilical cord blood, fat, bone, dental pulp, heart, liver and additional other tissues, to produce specialized cells of the source of origin and/or a limiting number of other various cell types. Stem cells have been reported to maintain homeostasis and to actively substitute damaged cells post-injury via an advanced ability to self-renew and differentiate. Interest in stem cells is scientifically based on their potential to help understanding how diseases manifest, testing safety and efficacy of novel chemical entities, as well as developing appropriate stem-cell regenerative based therapy protocols.

Taking into consideration i) the decline of traditional drug discovery approach, ii) the current ongoing development of biologics' strategies and their adoption by pharmaceutical firms, and iii) the potential of regenerative medicine to generate tremendous economic growth in the near future as clearly seen in the countries that fostered related innovation, Moroccan Society for Regenerative Therapies (MSRT) organizes, in collaboration with the laboratory of Biological Engineering at the Beni-Mellal FST, its first international symposium on the topic, Stem cells: From Biology to innovative therapeutics, which will take place at the university of Sultan Moulay Slimane at Beni-Mellal, Morocco, from 21st to 22nd December 2023. This event showcases a very attractive program that will broadly expose and discuss the major recent exciting advances but also limitations still facing a responsible and effective translation of stem cells. Thanks to a high-level panel of worldwide renown speakers and experts, this MSRT symposium will be a relevant opportunity for participants, to address the current landscape of the stem cells' field (both in Morocco and abroad) and to brainstorm on the design strategy related to the alignment of the perspectives of such innovative and future-oriented field with the health system expectations in the Kingdom of Morocco.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday December 21st 2023

08.30 – 09.00

Registration and welcome

09.00 – 09.40

Opening Remarks

Moderation: Pr Mustapha NAJIMI

09.40 – 10.25

Andreas Nussler, PhD

Stem cells: the good, the possible, and the impossible with a main focus on Liver, Bone, and Kidney

10.30 – 11.00

Massimo Dominici MD, PhD

Twisting Mesenchymal Stromal Cells from Regenerative Medicine to Anti-Cancer Actions

11.05 – 11.30

Coffee Break, Exhibition Viewing & 1-1 Attendee Networking

11.30 – 12.15

José Maria Moraleda-Jimenez, MD, PhD

The Spanish Net of Advanced Therapies: a successful model of translational research collaboration

12.20 – 12.50

Makram Merimi PhD

Novel engineering approaches of human stem cells to target Leukemias

13.00 – 14.15

Lunch break + Poster session

Salvador Pastor-Idoate MD, PhD

14.15 – 14.45 Cell Replacement Therapy for Retinal and Optic Nerve Diseases: Cell Sources, Clinical Trials and Challenges

Said Assou PhD

14.50 – 15.20 Turning human blood into airway epithelium for lung disease modelling, drug development and personalized medicine

Fatim-Zahra Jabrane MD

15.25 – 15.55 Regenerative renal therapies

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break, Exhibition Viewing & 1-1 Attendee Networking

Amine Bahi PhD

16.35 – 17.05 Gene Therapy for Neuropsychiatric Disorders: Potential Targets and Tools

Najib Al Idrissi MD, PhD

17.10 – 17.40 Regenerative osteo-articular therapies

17.45 – 18.30 Selected abstracts (n=3)

18.30 – 18.45 Concluding remarks

Friday December 22nd 2023**Moderation: Pr Najib Al Idrissi****08.30 – 08.35** Opening Remarks**Anissa Regragui MD****08.40 – 09.10** Regenerative medicine specificity for the oral cavity**Abderrahmane Bakkali MD, PhD****09.15 – 09.45** Regenerative medicine for cardiovascular diseases**09.45 – 10.10** Coffee Break & 1-1 Attendee Networking**Mustapha Najimi PhD****10.15 – 10.45** Cell therapy for liver diseases: Twenty years from bench discovery to drug development in life saving indications**Hassan Ghazal PhD****10.50 – 11.20** Exploring the Intricate Interplay between stem Cells and Microbiota: A Paradigm Shift in Regenerative Medicine and Health**11.30 – 12.20** Award ceremony & Closing Reception



MOHAMED NAJIMI BIOTECHNOLOGY AWARD

Who is Mohamed NAJIMI

Prof. Mohamed NAJIMI was director of the Functional and Pathological Biology laboratory at Moulay Slimane University-Beni-Mellal for which he was devoted. As a part of the pioneer members of the FST, He did hard work to launch the pedagogic and research activities of the department. Besides neurosciences and endocrinology, he closely followed up and transmitted his knowledge in biotechnology to students and early researchers.

He was a very friendly person, a man of value, excellence and honesty as widely raised by many of his friends, colleagues, students and collaborators, both from Morocco and abroad.

Mohamed sadly left us on 06 February 2021 at the age of 58. We will all remember his exceptional kind-heartedness, open-handedness, devotion and professional spirit. We will have him in our memories and our hearts.

This award has been created to definitely continue his life's work at the FST, as well as to remember and thank him for his deep devoteness in the FST.

How to apply

Submissions are now open; only PhD students and postdocs are eligible for the award competition. Oral presentations selected, will be delivered on the afternoon session of the MSRT-ISSC'23 first day (n=4). Two best oral presentations will be designated by a jury. The 2 winners will receive 3000 Dhs and 2000 Dhs for the first and second prizes, respectively).

Posters will be presented during the coffee and lunch breaks. All attendees will be invited to vote for the best poster. A QR code will be available onsite and in the meeting booklet to register your vote (1500 Dhs for the best poster presentation).

All abstracts from both types of presentations will be published in the booklet of the meeting.

Awards will be attributed at the end of the second day's session of the symposium.

Practical Details

- The organizing committee will review all abstracts and select those for an oral presentation. Selected participants will be notified by December **14th 2023**.
- If your abstract is designated for an oral presentation, please submit your slides by **19/12/2023** in PowerPoint format.
- If you are selected for a poster presentation, don't forget to bring your poster in A1 portrait format to the symposium.

For any questions and/or additional details with respect to this call, please contact us via issc23.chair@usms.ma

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