



G-Rex[®] Grant Tour

Supporting the Emily Whitehead Foundation

PHILADELPHIA

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

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AFTERNOON SESSION (11:00AM – 5:35PM)

11:00AM – 12:00PM – Lunch | Networking | Believe Bundle Creation

12:05 – 12:05PM – Opening Remarks

12:05 – 1:00 PM – Business Roundtable

- Mr. Ignacio Núñez, BioExcellence (moderator)
- Mr. George Eastwood, Emily Whitehead Foundation
- Dr. James Bowen, Penn Center for Innovation
- Ms. Anne Brooks, Iovance Biopharmaceuticals

1:00 – 1:15 PM – Break & Refreshments

1:15 – 3:15 PM – Innovations in ex vivo cell & gene therapy manufacturing

- **1:15 – 1:45 PM** – Dr. Boro Dropulić, Caring Cross
- **1:45 – 2:15 PM** – Dr. Saba Ghassemi, University of Pennsylvania
- **2:15 – 2:45 PM** – Mr. Raymond Luke, Verismo Therapeutics
- **2:45 – 3:15 PM** – Panel (*Chaired by Dr. Michael Lotze*)

3:15 – 3:30 PM – Break & Refreshments

3:30 – 5:30 PM – Hope for patients with solid tumors

- **3:30 – 4:00 PM** – Dr. Smita Chandran, Memorial Sloan Kettering
- **4:00 – 4:30 PM** – Dr. Patrick Hanley, Children's National
- **4:30 – 5:00 PM** – Dr. Ekaterina Doubrovina, Rutgers University
- **5:00 – 5:30 PM** – Panel (*Chaired by Dr. Michael Lotze*)

5:30 – 5:35 PM – Closing Remarks

6:00 – 9:00PM – Evening Session (see next page)

EVENING SESSION (6:00 – 9:00PM)

6:00 – 7:30PM – Dinner & Drinks | Networking | Poster Session

- **Optimizing engineered TIL expansion using the G-Rex M-Series**
 - Sarah Gitto, Ph.D. | UPENN Center for Cellular Immunotherapies
- **A supply chain crisis story: Culture bag shortage enforced validation of an alternative expansion system for CAR T cells**
 - Mercy Gohil, MS. | UPENN Center for Cellular Immunotherapies
- **Development of robust T cell manufacturing protocols in bioreactors using cGMP-compliant ancillary reagents**
 - Rachel Temple, Ph.D. | STEMCELL Technologies
- **Comparative expansion of adult and umbilical cord blood NK cells in the G-Rex[®] system**
 - Akeem Ngomu Akilimali, Ph.D. | UPENN Center for Cellular Immunotherapies
- **An automated 1-day CAR T manufacturing process with enhanced potency**
 - Shin Seo, M.S. | UPENN Center for Cellular Immunotherapies
- **Rethinking cell isolation for next-generation workflows: GMP microbubbles to improve quality, speed, and COGS**
 - Jesse Chen, B.S. | Akadeum Life Sciences
- **A scalable, non-viral workflow for consistent manufacturing of potent CAR T cells**
 - Joseph White, Ph.D. | MaxCyte

7:30 – 8:15PM – Patient Advocate Testimonials

- George Eastwood
- Tom Whitehead
- Betsy & Beau Larrabee

8:15 – 9:00PM – Last Call | Networking