

# Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

## *Early Career Scientists Professional Development Session*

Raj K. Puri, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Division of Cellular and Gene  
Therapies (DCGT)

FDA, CBER

Date: October 24, 2012

Time: 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Location: Bethesda, MD



**Thank you**

# OCTGT Contact Information

**Raj K. Puri, M.D., Ph.D., Director**

**Division of Cellular and Gene Therapies**

Office of Cellular Tissue and Gene Therapies

CBER/FDA

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## **Regulatory Questions:**

Contact the Regulatory Management Staff in OCTGT at

[CBEROCTGTRMS@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CBEROCTGTRMS@fda.hhs.gov)

or [Lori.Tull@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Lori.Tull@fda.hhs.gov)

or by calling (301) 827-6536

## **OCTGT Learn Webinar Series:**

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/NewsEvents/ucm232821.htm>

# Research Assessment/Management

- ❖ Site visit and CBER Advisory Committee recommendations
- ❖ Promotion and Conversion Evaluation (PCE) Committee review
- ❖ Regulatory workload and quality
- ❖ Publications (including guidance documents, research articles and regulatory articles)
- ❖ Success in securing external funding

# Responsibilities of PIs

## Product review

INDs, IDEs, PMAs, 510(k)s, HDEs, licenses, master files, inspections

- regulatory mentoring by branch chiefs

## Policy development

working groups, guidance developments, advisory committees

## Outreach

presubmittal advice, scientific and regulatory talks, refereeing and editing for journals, chairing sessions at scientific conferences, collaborations relevant to the regulatory science

## Research

lab management and scientific leadership, training/mentoring/supervising, publishing papers, grant writing, leveraging/collaboration

# Regulatory Reviewer Responsibilities

- ❖ Perform regulatory review of INDs, IDEs, BLA, 510(k), PMA and MFs.
- ❖ Participate in the development of regulatory policy
- ❖ Participate in the development of regulatory guidance documents
- ❖ Interact with stakeholders and give regulatory talks at professional meetings and academic institutions
- ❖ Collaborate with researcher-reviewers in regulatory science related research projects
- ❖ Contribute to and author regulatory review articles published in peer-reviewed and invited journals and books
- ❖ Help solve problems to advance cellular, gene therapy, cancer vaccines, immunotherapy, tissue engineered and other products to the market place

# Researcher Reviewer Model

- ❖ Cellular, tissue engineering, and gene therapies evolve rapidly and continually present new regulatory challenges
- ❖ These novel products raise extraordinarily complex issues
- ❖ DCGT seeks to foster a cadre of Researcher Reviewer scientists who :
  - ❖ perform regulatory review and identify Critical Path research needs to enhance and promote product development and patient safety
  - ❖ perform research in key areas to support the FDA mission and help sponsors solve product development problems to advance cellular, gene therapy and other products to the market place

# FDA Commissioner's Fellowship Program

- For healthcare professionals, scientists, and engineers. A two-year Fellowship Program, where they will receive regulatory science training and the chance to conduct cutting-edge research on targeted scientific or regulatory issues under the mentorship of an FDA senior scientist.
- Eligibility: A Doctoral level degree (M.D., D.O., D.V.M., D.D.S., D.P.M., Pharm.D., or Ph.D.); however, applicants with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an engineering discipline will also be considered.
- December through March - Applications accepted. Late June/July – Interviews. July through August – applicants notified. October – Program Start Date

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WorkingatFDA/FellowshipInternshipGraduateFacultyPrograms/CommissionersFellowshipProgram/default.htm>



# Additional Fellowships

- **Inter Agency Oncology Task Force (IOTF) Fellowship (Established May 2003)**
    - The FDA and the NCI joint fellowship programs to provide training in product, preclinical, and clinical research and research-related regulatory review.
    - Four types of fellowships
      - [Clinical Oncology Product Research/Review for Oncology Fellows](#)
      - [Clinical Oncology Product Research/Review for Board Certified \(BC\) Oncologist](#)
      - [Oncology Product Research/Review for Fellows](#)
      - [Cancer Prevention Fellows](#)
    - Jan – May- Sep to start program by July – October and July next year, depending upon program
- <http://biospecimens.cancer.gov/relatedinitiatives/overview/iotf.asp>

# Types of FDA Positions

- ❖ Regulatory Review Scientists
- ❖ Regulatory Project Manager/Consumer Safety Officer
- ❖ Medical officers
- ❖ Researcher Reviewers - Principle investigators (PIs) – tenured or tenure track (Senior staff Fellow or Visiting Scientists)
- ❖ Staff Scientists – tenured researcher reviewers supporting PIs program: do both review and research
- ❖ Staff Fellows or Visiting Associates: do both review and research work
- ❖ Technicians: do primarily research, lab manager, some do limited review work
- ❖ Postdoctoral fellows funded as ORISE: do primarily research

# Current DCGT Research Areas

## ❖ Virology

- ❖ Retroviruses, adenovirus

## ❖ Immunology

- ❖ Immune responses to viral and plasmid vectors,
- ❖ autoimmunity and immune regulation

## ❖ Cell and developmental biology

- ❖ Control of differentiation in animal models:
- ❖ cell fate and survival, stem cell biology

## ❖ Cancer biology

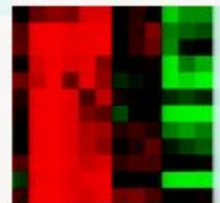
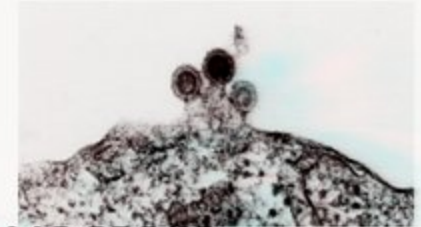
- ❖ Molecular biomarkers, cancer vaccines, animal models

## ❖ Biotechnology

- ❖ Genomics, flow cytometry, proteomics, transgenics

## ❖ Microbiology of tissue safety

- ❖ Pyrosequencing and whole genome sequencing

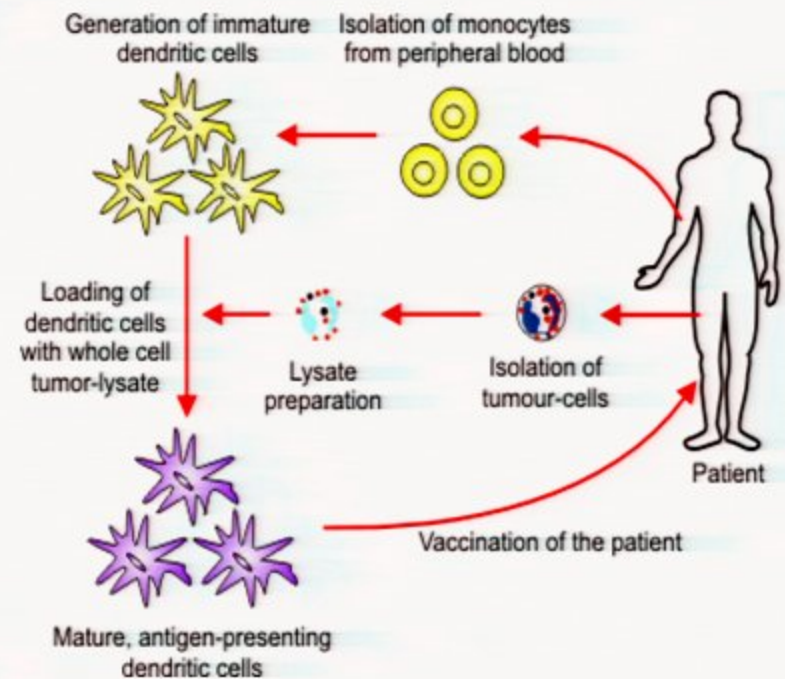


# CBER research: Stay ahead of the curve as products and technologies evolve

**Personalized medicine, stem-cell derived products, recombinant vaccines, engineered tissues, etc.**

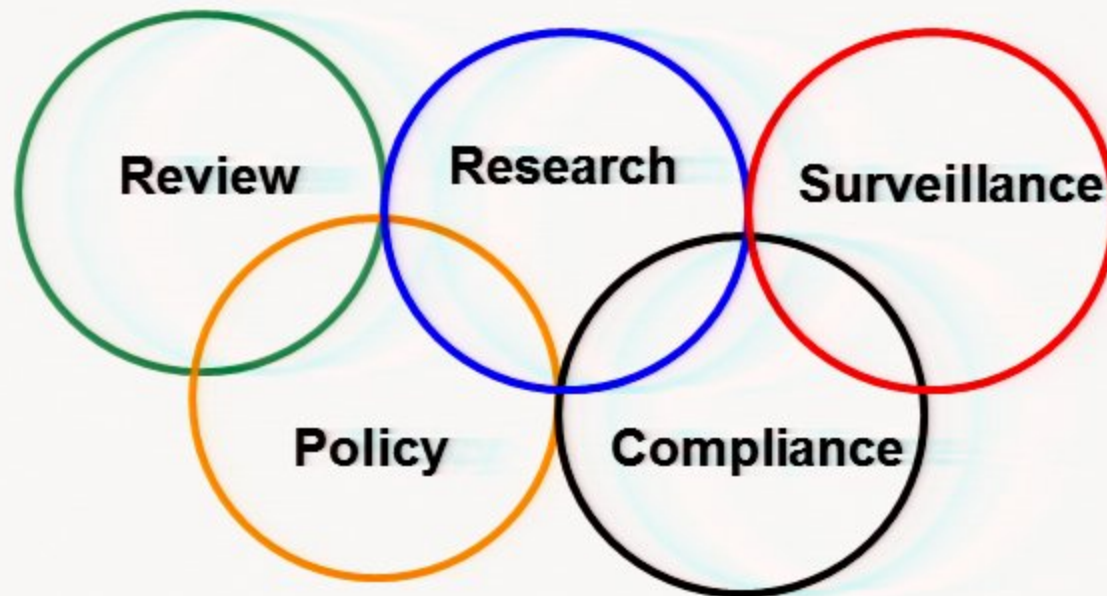
**Products and regulatory paradigms are evolving, not standing still.**

**Cutting-edge research at CBER helps prepare the way for anticipated products and develop appropriate policy.**



**Manufacturing a dendritic cell cancer vaccine**

# Regulation of biological products



**Regulation based on science, law, and public health impact**

## **Division of Cellular and Gene Therapies (DCGT)**

**Raj Puri, M.D., Ph.D., Division Director**

**Kimberly Benton, Ph.D., Deputy Director**

### **Gene Therapies Branch**

**Daniel Takefman, Ph.D., Chief**

### **Gene Transfer and Immunogenicity Branch**

**Andrew Byrnes, Ph.D., Chief**

### **Cell Therapies Branch**

**Keith Wonnacott, Ph.D., Chief**

### **Tumor Vaccines and Biotechnology Branch**

**Raj Puri, M.D., Ph.D. Chief**

### **Cellular and Tissue Therapy Branch**

**Steven Bauer, Ph.D., Chief**

# **CBER Office of Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies (OCTGT)**

## **Office of the Director**

**Celia M. Witten, Ph.D., M.D., Director**

**Stephanie Simek, Ph.D. Deputy Director**

**Suzanne Epstein, Ph.D. Associate Director of Research**

**Richard McFarland, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Director of Policy**

## **Division of Cellular and Gene Therapies**

**Raj Puri, M.D., Ph.D., Director**

**Kimberly Benton, Ph.D., Deputy Director**

## **Division of Human Tissues**

**Ellen Lazarus, M.D., Director**

## **Division of Clinical Evaluation and Pharmacology/Toxicology**

**Wilson Bryan, M.D., Director**

# OCTGT Regulated Products

- ❖ Cellular therapies
- ❖ Umbilical Cord Blood
- ❖ Tumor vaccines and immunotherapy
- ❖ Gene therapies
- ❖ Tissue and tissue based products
- ❖ Xenotransplantation products
- ❖ Combination products
- ❖ Devices used for cells/tissues
- ❖ Donor screening tests (for use with cadaveric blood samples)



# CBER/ FDA regulates biological products

Science-based regulation, research an integral part

