

A Letter from the Gastro-Intestinal Committee

Rachel Ciccocioppo, MD and Giuseppe Orlando, MD, PhD

Co-Chairs

ISCT Gastrointestinal Committee

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

The field of cell and gene therapy has become a wonderful clinical reality. This rapidly evolving approach bears potential to radically change our approach to the management of disorders affecting the liver, the pancreas, and the digestive tract.

In 2018 the European Medicines Agency approved darvadstrocel for the treatment of perianal fistulas in Crohn's patients, and a number of these new therapeutic options are under development, such as those to treat motility disorders, liver inherited conditions, or pancreatic cancer. In parallel, the possibility of using scaffolds together with cell and gene tools represents an incredible advancement for repairing, replacing, and regenerating damaged tissues and organs.

We understand that the popularization of these new treatment strategies requires a cultural change that starts with education. We would, therefore, invite all the members of this clinical and scientific community to visit our website (<https://isctglobal.org/page/GastroIntestinalC>) where we provide updated information on both cutting-edge scientific and clinical developments in this field. In addition, we also suggest looking at our previous meetings for presentations and discussions on the global progress and the challenges we face (<https://isctglobal.org/page/AnnualMeeting>).

We believe that sharing progress in the field and engaging more colleagues will accelerate cultural change and inspire a new generation of scientists and clinicians. Hopefully, these topics will become increasingly presented on at upcoming meetings on digestive diseases. We offer our full availability to implement this activity with you.

Sincerely,



Rachele Ciccocioppo, MD
Co-Chair
ISCT Gastrointestinal Committee
Università degli studi di Verona



Giuseppe Orlando, MD, PhD
Co-Chair
ISCT Gastrointestinal Committee
Wake Forest University