



CiRA OPEN SEMINAR SERIES

ENABLING CELL THERAPY ADVANCEMENTS FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE

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FIELD SCIENTISTS, CATALENT CELL AND GENE THERAPY



Cell therapies have achieved an unprecedented success as evident by the growing number of commercial products and clinical trials. In spite of this, cell therapy developers still face many challenges including:

- Lack of standardization in the manufacturing process
- Variability in starting materials and raw materials
- Diverse manufacturing platforms and technologies
- Slow advancements in the analytical assay space

This seminar will address the challenges of transitioning discoveries into GMP-compliant workflows for autologous and allogeneic therapies and utilization of iPSC technologies to develop new regenerative medicine therapies.

Rupa is responsible for accelerating cell therapy business through innovative partnerships at Catalent. Rupa has over 15 years of cell therapy expertise in GMP manufacturing and has successfully led GMP operations, process development, training, infrastructure buildout, customer relations and business development activities. Most recently, Rupa worked at Thermo Fisher Scientific, where she held several key leadership roles during her tenure, including Sr. Director of Technical Affairs for Advanced Therapies, Head of Technical Operations and Director of Enterprise Science and Innovation Partnerships. She worked closely with BioPharma, Biotech and Healthcare customers to advance cell-based therapies from discovery and development to clinical manufacturing. She also served as the Director of Cell Manufacturing for Program for Advanced Cell Therapy at UW Hospitals and Clinics. At Ligand Pharmaceuticals, she was part of the team that designed novel hematopoietic screening assays for erythropoietin and thrombopoietin in partnership with GlaxoSmithKline, a part of the program that led to development of Promacta®, a drug for the treatment of chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura.

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