
ISSCR annual meeting 2023

14.06.23 – 17.6.23, Boston, MA, USA

Each year, the ISSCR annual meeting stands as the largest international gathering of researchers in the field of stem cell biology. This year, the conference attracted more than 4.000 scientists to its venue in Boston, MA. The four-day program covered a wide range of topics, spanning from the fundamentals of stem cell biology, cellular identity and regeneration to stem cell-based disease models, new technologies and emerging clinical applications. In addition, the ISSCR also aimed to stimulate discussions surrounding ethical and political concerns related to the use of stem cells, and thus, strives to establish new standards for research and clinical application.

During the plenary sessions, several novel embryo models were introduced, offering researchers means to explore aspects of early embryogenesis, molecular developmental processes and tissue self-organization that were previously inaccessible. Especially, the presented synthetic mouse embryos, gastruloids, vascularized organoids and models of embryo segmentation will help shed light on the fundamentals of embryonic development. Furthermore, exciting work was presented on gene therapies in clinical application, showcasing the potential to repair inherited mutations in hematopoietic stem cells, to treat patients with sickle cell anemia and to enhance cancer immunotherapy efficacy through the use of genome-edited CAR T-cells.

As an early career researcher, I personally very much enjoyed participating in the poster sessions and presenting my work to an international audience. With over 1.100 posters being presented on-site, the poster sessions provided a vibrant platform for discussing ongoing research, facilitating the exchange of ideas and fostering new collaborations with fellow attendees.

Overall, the ISSCR annual meeting of 2023 proved to be an inspiring conference, featuring numerous exceptional scientific presentations and many opportunities to engage with other researches in the field of the stem cell biology.