



Autoimmunity Meets Innovation: Cell Therapies

April 30, 2026

Presented by:

The New York Academy of Sciences Biochemical Pharmacology Discussion Group
115 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY

8:30 AM **Check in and Breakfast**

SESSION I: WELCOME REMARKS AND OPENING KEYNOTE

9:00 AM **Welcome Remarks**
Megan Prescott, PhD, The New York Academy of Sciences

9:15 AM **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: B Cells as a Therapeutic Target in Autoimmune Diseases.**
Betty Diamond, PhD, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research

9:45 AM **Networking Break**

SESSION II: THERAPEUTIC ALTERATIONS IN IMMUNE CELL COMPOSITION

10:35 AM **Targeting Lymphocytes With CAR T Cells to Treat Autoimmunity**
James N. Kochenderfer, MD, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

11:05 AM **Strategies to Decrease CAR-T Cell Toxicity**
Christopher M. Jewell, PhD, University of Maryland.

11:35 PM **Strategies to Promote Regulatory T Cell Function in Autoimmunity**
Megan K. Levings, PhD, University of British Columbia

12:05 PM **Networking Lunch**

SESSION III: SHORT TALKS FROM SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS

1:35 PM **Challenges in Manufacturing CAR-T Therapeutics for Autoimmune Diseases and Cancer**
B. Wayne Bequette, PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

1:45 PM **BCR-CART: A Precision CAR T Cell Platform Targeting B Cell Receptors (BCR) Selectively Eliminates Self-Reactive B Cells in Multiple Autoimmune Diseases**
Ivan Cohen, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

SESSION IV: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

- 1:55 PM **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Chimeric Receptors Broaden the Therapeutic Landscape for Autoimmune Disease**
Marko Radic, PhD, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- 2:40 PM **Networking Break**

SESSION V: NEXT GENERATION T CELL THERAPIES

- 3:15 PM **Off-the-Shelf and On-Target: How iPSC-Derived CAR T Cells Could Democratize Autoimmune Cell Therapy**
Bobby Goulding, Fate Therapeutics
- 3:45 PM **Development and Characterization of iPSC-Derived Regulatory T cells – Towards an Allogenic Cell Therapy for the Treatment of Autoimmunity and Inflammatory Conditions**
Marc Martinez Llordella, PhD, Quell Therapeutics Ltd
- 4:15 PM **Designing the Best CARs, Lessons from Cancer.**
Naomi Taylor MD, PhD, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

4:45 PM **SESSION VI: PANEL DISCUSSION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

Moderator: George Zavoico, PhD, Northwest Biotherapeutics

Panelists:

Betty Diamond, PhD, The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research

Marc Martinez Llordella, PhD, Quell Therapeutics Ltd

Bobby Goulding, Fate Therapeutics

- 5:25 PM **Closing Remarks**
Megan Prescott, PhD, The New York Academy of Sciences
- 5:30 PM **Symposium Adjourns**