

# Macrophage-directed Therapies Summit

October 22-24 | Boston, MA, USA



[www.macrophage-directed-therapies.com](http://www.macrophage-directed-therapies.com)



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The **Macrophage-directed Therapies Summit** is the first comprehensive meeting dedicated to harnessing the potential of macrophage therapies with CD47 checkpoint blockades, engineered macrophages and repolarization or depletion strategies.

As Program Director of the upcoming summit, I sat down with our expert speaker Tatiana, to hear her insights on this new and exciting area of cellular immunotherapy.

## So Tatianna, why are you excited to be a part of this emerging macrophage therapeutic community?

Today we are starting to gain a clear understanding of the various biological functions for human macrophages. It is clear that the field sees an enormous expansion in both interest and knowledge, therefore it is becoming possible to start developing therapeutics that utilize the ability of macrophages to induce, downmodulate, direct and orchestrate the proper action of the immune system.

Imagine how many therapeutic possibilities will open once new targets that can regulate macrophage biology and thereby modulate the immune response, become accessible to us!

## What breakthrough or development is needed to secure the macrophage industry as the novel frontier of the cell immunotherapy revolution?

The field needs to demonstrate unequivocal clinical responses in checkpoint non-responding cancer patients - this validation will definitely propel the field of macrophage directed therapies to a major focus for

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therapeutic development. Similarly, inhibition of macrophage or myeloid cell activity in autoimmune patients has the potential to put patients into long term remissions.

## What do you think is preventing the field from achieving clinical validation?

The novelty of the field, the complicated nature of the cells and on top of this the lack of conservation between mouse and human macrophage biology are the main obstacles to clinical validation.

With recent advances in fully human translational assays and systems, it is now

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possible to test on primary human disease tissue without sole reliance on animal modelling. Several active programs in the clinic give a great promise that this challenge will be resolved soon.

### Thinking about the future of this industry, what do you foresee for the macrophage field in the next few years?

As with every therapeutic development, it will take a program that will absorb a lot of biological risk which places a bet on a mechanism. As soon as good clinical data gets announced, multiple followers will rush into the field.

Controlling the functionality of macrophages and myeloid cells will become the holy grail and corner stone of successful therapeutic regiments across multiple diseases and indications.

### We are so excited to bring together the macrophage community this October at the Macrophage-directed Therapies Summit! What are you most looking forward to at the meeting?

I'm truly looking forward to forging the interactions across academic, small and large company players! Together, we can move closer to the reality of delivering macrophage-directed therapies to patients in need who have limited options left.

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This meeting series will showcase the moment when macrophage therapies prove their potential to become as big or even bigger than T cell directed therapies.

If you are interested in finding out more information, or seeing this year's stellar speaker line up and agenda:

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