The 72nd Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin: *Mechanistic Insights into Emerging Therapeutic Platforms*

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Pullquote: The 72nd Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin promises an exceptional curation of science, food, scenery, and interpersonal interactions with multidisciplinary leaders in the development of genetic medicines, cell therapies, and other novel technologies to address the unmet needs of patients worldwide.

We are at an unprecedented nexus in medical research with the rise of distinct therapeutic platforms that promise definitive, one-and-done therapies for previously chronic or incurable diseases, and artificial intelligence algorithms that accelerate the generation and testing of new therapies. Because of its accessibility and the outstanding cutaneous biology scientific community, the skin has traditionally served as a proving ground for early human studies and provided mechanistic insights that underpin new platforms. The 72nd Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin, entitled *Mechanistic Insights into Emerging Therapeutic Platforms,* will highlight emerging and groundbreaking therapeutics and illuminate how skin biology and disease research has facilitated these medical and scientific breakthroughs.

Set on the beautiful Oregon coast, the meeting will feature five sessions focusing on transformative platforms such as cellular therapies including chimeric antigen receptor T cells, T regulatory cells, natural killer cells, and pluripotent cell-derived therapies, RNA and vector-based genetic medicines, microbiome-based therapies, engineered antibodies, and small molecules. These technologies are revolutionizing clinical care and providing new hope for previously challenging-to-treat conditions such as autoimmune and inflammatory skin diseases, inherited diseases, fibrosis, wound healing, cancer, and more.

Conference speakers are international experts from diverse fields. Keynote speaker Howard Chang, MD, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer of Amgen, is a world leader in genome science who helped launch the field of RNA biology and uncover its therapeutic potential. Jay Siegel, MD, former Director of Office of Therapeutics at FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, former Chief Biotechnology Officer at Johnson & Johnson, and founding chair of the National Academies Forum on Regenerative Medicine, will recount learnings from his decades of

experience navigating the scientific and regulatory paths for the approval of new biologic drugs in the United States. Platform lead speakers include Aimee Payne, MD, PhD (Columbia University); Anthony Oro, MD, PhD (Stanford University); Masa Amagai, MD, PhD (Keio University/RIKEN Institute); Alain Hovnanian, MD, PhD (Institut Imagine); and Niro Anandasabapathy, MD, PhD (Cornell Medicine). In each session, international experts will share their latest findings and stimulate thoughtful discussions about technological hurdles and how best to overcome them. To include late-breaking scientific advances and trainee work, 30% of the talks will be chosen from the wide-ranging and hot-off-the-press submitted abstracts.

Reciprocal and mutually beneficial interaction between industry and academic scientists is critical to platform technology clinical development. A unique aspect of the 72nd Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin will be two industry roundtable panels where biotechnology and pharmaceutical scientists leading clinical trials in transformative medicines will discuss successes and challenges of clinical development and where academics, clinicians, and patient groups can help accelerate patient-focused drug development. The two panels, *Breakthroughs in Cell and Gene Therapy* and *Accelerating Clinical Development through Dermatologic Indications,* will be a nidus for future industry–academic–patient collaborations. In addition, NIH program officers will share important updates on the state of NIH funding and advice for future grantees.

Join us as we explore the basic science behind new technologies and discover the power of rigorous scientific knowledge to advance patient care. Learn how both academic and industry research teams are extending transformative technologies into exciting and unexpected therapeutic indications. Meet leaders in the field in a beautiful, relaxed, informal setting that encourages open dialogue. This year's symposium promises presenters, sponsors, and attendees an exceptional curation of science, food, scenery, and interpersonal interactions with academic, patient

foundation, and industry leaders in the development of genetic medicines, cell therapies, RNA medicines, and other novel technologies to address the unmet needs of patients worldwide. We hope to see you on the Oregon coast October 16–20, 2025!