

James Shapiro, Professor, University of Alberta, Canada

Presentation title: The UK-Canadian Axis and Stem Cell Transplantation for Diabetes

James Shapiro was born in Leeds, England, son of a family doctor. He developed a longstanding interest in liver and islet cell transplantation as a medical student. He has been on Faculty at the UofA since 1998, where he now holds the Canada Research Chair in Transplantation Surgery and Regenerative Medicine. He was the lead investigator on the famous "Edmonton Protocol" cell transplant treatment for diabetes. He was the first in Canada to start clinical trials with human stem cell-derived insulin secreting – and most recently carried out the first-in-human CRISPR-gene edited stem cell islet progenitor transplant without immune suppression in collaboration with ViaCyte Inc and CRISPR Therapeutics Inc. His current translational lab is focused in generating autologous iPS islets for transplantation into patients with diabetes without immune suppression, and his team and collaborators are working on scale-up and manufacturing efficiencies to make this scalable and possible. He is Director of the Liver Transplant, Living Donor Liver Transplant and Islet Transplant Programs at the University of Alberta. His H-index is 73. His many awards include a Hunterian Medal from the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Gold Medals from the Governor General and from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.