

Insights from the Network

New Regenerative Medicine Podcast Seeks Prized Place On Your Playlist

By CCRM

Regenerative medicine (RM) sits at a busy intersection of scientific niches. Throughout the past couple of years, many of us have been a little more siloed than we're used to, with fewer opportunities to absorb knowledge through chance interactions, and through the alchemy that takes place when we happen to be in the same room as colleagues working on different frontiers of our field.

Setting out to recapture some of what has been lost as we navigate new ways of working, CCRM has launched a new podcast – though it's *not* about us! [Commercializing Living Therapies with CCRM](#) rekindles conversations with colleagues in a virtual fireside chat format. We are attempting to tackle a range of complex RM challenges by bringing thought leaders together from across the disciplines to create a helpful resource for trainees and specialists alike.

Our podcast sets out to be a forum for conversation examining RM's many dimensions, grappling with questions so big that we're pleased to have created a more appropriate forum for them than the office water cooler. As our host, science communications specialist Krista Lamb, puts it: "It's like a chat with a colleague who knows a little about the challenges in your specialization and would like to know more." There's something for everyone in the podcast, which recognizes the interdisciplinary nature of advancing RM by bringing experts from a range of professions to the table to examine everything from logistics and ethics to regulatory affairs.

Guests are selected from a "who's who" of top scientists and industry insiders, those best placed to take on tough topics, with season 1 guests including Drs. George Church, Peter Zandstra and Janet Rossant, and industry leaders like Geoff Mackay and Phil Vanek. The podcast addresses issues with global scope, considering them through a uniquely Canadian lens. In one episode, guests tackled how Canada's health-care system can pay for cell and gene therapy cures when they arrive. The discussion considered issues of interprovincial equity by asking how patients on Prince Edward Island can be guaranteed equitable access to transformative new therapies, compared to patients in larger provinces like Ontario or British Columbia.



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Issues that can and often do transcend borders are also considered; another episode asks what role ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks should play in RM's future, and how international compliance can be ensured when some industries, such as agriculture for genetically modified organisms, are less tightly regulated than therapeutics. The theme of staying on-track as we advance rapidly towards RM's bright future is a broad theme running through the episodes and applied to topics as varied as synthetic biology, venture capital, the importance of public awareness of cell and gene therapies, and logistical and supply chain issues.



You can catch up on the complete first season and find us wherever you listen, by searching **“Commercializing Living Therapies with CCRM”** in your podcast platform of choice, or by visiting the podcast page on the [CCRM website](https://www.ccrm.ca). Season 2 will drop this fall. Be sure to listen!

ABOUT CCRM

CCRM, a Canadian public-private partnership funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and leading academic and industry partners, supports the development of regenerative medicines and associated enabling technologies, with a specific focus on cell and gene therapy. A network of academic researchers, leading companies, strategic investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM accelerates the translation of scientific discovery into new companies and marketable products for patients, with specialized teams, funding and infrastructure. CCRM sources and evaluates intellectual property from around the globe, offers various consulting services, conducts development projects with partners, and establishes new companies built around strategic bundles of intellectual property. CCRM has a fully resourced research facility used to both evaluate and advance technologies, a centre for process development and advanced manufacturing, and a GMP facility within a 40,000 square foot space. In 2022, CCRM established OmniaBio Inc., a commercial-stage CDMO for manufacturing gene-modified cells and viral vectors for cell and gene therapies. CCRM is the commercialization partner of the University of Toronto's Medicine by Design. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto and was launched in Toronto's Discovery District on June 14, 2011. Visit us at www.ccrm.ca.

CCRM is a platinum sponsor of the [2022 Till & McCulloch Meetings](#).

