



**News Release**

Contact: Linda Miller, CEO  
Lmiller1@unmc.edu  
402-559-1950

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 5, 2021

**FACT PURSUES INDEPENDENT OPERATIONAL STATUS**

OMAHA, NE — The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) is pursuing an opportunity to establish independent operational functions by the end of 2021 thus ending the 25-year collaborative relationship with the University of Nebraska.

“The relationship between UNMC and FACT is an incredible story of a mutually beneficial collaboration between the international field of cellular therapy and the University. Both UNMC and FACT can take pride in its success”, states Dr. Phyllis Warkentin, FACT Chief Medical Officer.

“Twenty-five years ago, UNMC led efforts to form FACT to meet the need for professional standards across the field of hematopoietic cell transplantation,” said Doug Ewald, UNMC Vice Chancellor for Business, Finance and Business Development. “In that quarter-century, UNMC and FACT have enjoyed a long and successful partnership, and we are proud of FACT’s many successes and achievements in its respective fields of expertise. As FACT moves forward as an independent entity, UNMC wishes it nothing but the best, and we expect FACT will continue to grow and achieve greatness in the years to come.”

FACT has grown exponentially over 25 years and has substantially impacted the clinical delivery of hematopoietic stem cell therapy, raising the bar of quality for patients world-wide. This has brought international recognition to UNMC as the host of FACT. This is a time of tremendous growth for the cellular therapy field, with a vast number of cell therapy products currently being evaluated in clinical trials, and in some cases already licensed, to treat serious diseases. Physicians and scientists even outside of hematology, oncology, and immunology are developing, manufacturing, and administering cellular therapies. Therefore, the FACT Board of Directors made the decision to transition FACT to independent operational status by January 1, 2022. This will allow the organization to grow and to be more responsive to these changes as the established leader in the field. There will be no change in leadership, Board of Directors, or mission.

“This transition represents an incredibly timely opportunity to allow FACT to expand our reach in the cellular therapy field nationally and internationally. As President, I am extremely excited to lead FACT at this transformational time,” states Dr. Catherine Bollard, FACT President. For more information, visit [www.factwebsite.org](http://www.factwebsite.org).

**About FACT**

Founded in 1996, FACT is a nonprofit corporation founded by the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) and the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT). FACT accomplishes its mission of promoting quality patient care and laboratory practice, improving treatment outcomes, and fostering continued development of the field of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine through development of standards, voluntary accreditation, and education.

University of Nebraska Medical Center • 986065 Nebraska Medical Center • Omaha, Nebraska 68198-6065, USA  
Tel: (402) 559-1950 • Fax: (402) 559-1951

President Catherine Bollard, MD Washington, D.C.	Vice President Ngaire Elwood, PhD Parkville, Victoria, Australia	Secretary Carlos Bachier, MD Nashville, Tennessee	Treasurer Kimberly Kasow, DO Chapel Hill, North Carolina	Past President Dennis Gastineau, MD Phoenix, Arizona	Alan Balch, PhD Hampton, Virginia
Daniel Couriel, MD Salt Lake City, Utah	Paul Eldridge, PhD Chapel Hill, North Carolina	Patrick Hanley, PhD Washington, D.C.	Nadim Mahmud, MD, PhD Chicago, Illinois	Navneet Majhail, MD, MBBS Cleveland, Ohio	Eneida Nemecek, MD Portland, Oregon
Huy Pham, MD, MPH Seattle, Washington	Carlos Ramos, MD Houston, Texas	Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH New York, New York	Elizabeth Shpall, MD Houston, Texas	Phyllis Warkentin, MD Omaha, Nebraska	Abba Zubair, MD, PhD Abu Dhabi, UAE