

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Kansas Senate Committee
Public Health and Welfare – SB373 Hearing

Testimony of James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D.
Member, Advisory Board
KUMC MSCTC
August 2020 - present

Committee Members:

My name is James L. Sherley. I am here to provide testimony in support of SB373 in my capacity as an active, two-term member of the Advisory Board of the KU MSCTC.

I am an M.D.- and Ph.D.-trained physician scientist with 30+ years of experience leading academic and commercial research programs in cancer research and stem cell research & development. Currently, I lead Asymmetrex, LLC, an adult stem cell biotechnology company, as President & CEO. Asymmetrex is known for recently developing the first technology for determining the specific dosage of therapeutic adult stem cells.

During my now 2 years of service on the Advisory Board for KUMC MSCTC, I have become familiar with the center's mission, leadership, excellent operations, and outstanding past progress. Under Dr. Sunil Abhyankar's vibrant directorship, the MSCTC has accomplished many of its research, development, and clinical goals.

Of particular relevance to this hearing is the successful development of an effective FDA-certified Good Manufacturing Practice/Good Tissue Practice adult stem cell manufacturing facility. There are not many facilities with this capability in the nation. The MSCTC has achieved challenging milestones for regulatory compliance and certification, production of clinical grade manufactured adult stem cells, and the supply and implementation of those manufactured stem cells in successful phase I clinical trials. By any measure, this is remarkable progress that assures continued future achievement.

Your approval of SB373 is important for maintaining the current momentum of this valuable clinical research and development center and resource. This allocation would allow the MSCTC to continue forward with plans to evaluate their manufactured adult stem cells for their effectiveness in treating debilitating lung inflammation associated with severe COVID-19 infection. The AB enthusiastically endorses this plan.

As you have heard from Dr. Prentice's testimony, one of the current leading clinical evaluations of the type of adult stem cells manufactured by the MSCTC's facility is for reducing or preventing destructive tissue and organ inflammation that is a clinical feature of many devastating disease states, including cancer treatments. Inflammation is the "cytokine storm" described by Dr. Prentice.

Therefore, supporting the continued progress of the MSCTC toward clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of their manufactured adult stem cells in reducing COVID-19 lung inflammation has farther-reaching potential medical benefits.

I want to close by noting that I am from Massachusetts, not Kansas; and my extended family is in Tennessee. I note this to emphasize that the work of the MSCTC is not only important to Kansas. It also impacts the greater nation and the world.

I have been engaged in stem cell research and medicine for more than 30 years, working toward this remarkable therapeutic approach becoming more effective for ending the pain and suffering of patients from many different illnesses and ailments, including aging. The KUMC MSCTC is making high impact, essential contributions to achieving this vision. I hope that you will continue to move them forward by approving SB373.

Thank you.