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‘The Little Purple Book’: BSI Glossary of Regenerative Medicine

“...the BSI Glossary of Regenerative Medicine being the first comprehensive stem cell and regenerative medicine dictionary ever produced is a fundamental tool for building a successful and sustainable global regen healthcare sector.”

In order to have safe, effective and affordable regenerative medicine therapies deployed in routine clinical practice a vast multitude of different disciplines each with their own specialist skills and expertise is required. The scientists make the initial discovery, the bioprocess engineers scale the production, entrepreneurs and potentially big pharma market the product and clinicians treat the patients. This is of course grossly oversimplified, however, it illustrates the diverse nature of all the different stakeholder groups that need to be seamlessly integrated. This close integration and cooperation is essential for the long-term success of the sector. Furthermore, without the understanding of a number of other key groups, including lawyers, venture capitalists, reimbursement agencies, politicians and most importantly the public, we cannot succeed. Genetically modified (GM) food made this fatal mistake by failing to communicate and as a direct result, failed despite the enormous potential of the technology [1]. Enabling all the different stakeholder groups to clearly understand one another and to be able to easily communicate in a common language is pivotal.

Regenerative Medicine with its all-inclusive multidisciplinary approach has always been a very strong supporter of guidelines, codes of practice and standards [2–7]. *Regenerative Medicine* is therefore delighted to partner with the British Standards Institution (BSI) and the London Regenerative Medicine Network (LRMN) to produce both hard copies and electronic versions [101] of the BSI Glossary of Regenerative Medicine as a free supplement to this issue of the journal.

As the field continues to grow both within existing ‘stem cell nations’ as well as internationally, and new exciting technologies keep coming, it is pivotal that there is a common set of terms and definitions. This will allow all the stakeholders to be able to communicate with one another with clarity and without ambiguity. Thus, the

BSI Glossary of Regenerative Medicine being the first comprehensive stem cell and regenerative medicine dictionary ever produced is a fundamental tool for building a successful and sustainable global regen healthcare sector. However, to keep pace with scientific breakthroughs, innovation and a growing range of clinical applications whilst remaining a universal and firm foundation, this glossary cannot be written in stone. Frequent updates will definitely be required and it is highly encouraging to know that the BSI is committed to regular revised editions probably every 18–24 months. In addition, this journal will run a regular section on new terms, their definitions and their origins. All contributions and suggestions are most welcome! This information will be fed into the process of producing future versions of this important Glossary.

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Finally we would like to thank Lord Paul Drayson of Kensington, the UK Minister of State for Science and Innovation, for his support and we hope that you will appreciate using ‘The Little Purple Book’ as a constant source of reference in the ever-changing world of stem cells and regenerative medicine. Enjoy!

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