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# A stronger European voice to support gene and cell therapies: EuroGCT as a common tool

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## Background

Gene and cell therapies (GCTs) face various communication and comprehension challenges when transitioning from bench to bedside. These challenges include complex science, regulation, and ethics, impacting clinical adoption and the GCTs sector. Moreover, the challenges are often exacerbated by misinformation and voices dominated by AI-mediated search platforms owned by tech giants.

## Methods

The EuroGCT consortium was built through connecting 47 European partner organisations including academic institutions, learned societies, national centres of excellence, and patient organisations. Funded by the European Commission, the consortium has created a network of expertise and an online information hub that focusses on the pivotal role of science communication in navigating the complexities of therapy development and public comprehension. It is dedicated to demystifying GCTs as it extends beyond the laboratory and enters the realms of broader societal impact.

Through building and updating our information hub at [www.eurogct.org](http://www.eurogct.org), fostering engagement among a wide array of stakeholders, promoting transparency, and advocating for collaborative resource development, EuroGCT endeavours to realise the full potential of these transformative treatments to improve health outcomes while contributing to a fair and equitable society.

## Results

EuroGCT's information hub ([www.eurogct.org](http://www.eurogct.org)) is a common tool for pre-competitive, international and interdisciplinary collaboration to address pressing concerns faced by our research community as well as the patients and publics. Since its establishment in 2022, the hub has reached 37.9K unique visitors and 45.8K page views a month. The information curated within is often ranked in the top 6 search results in Google, and has been cited in >15.2M AI summaries in the 16 last months.

Below, we provide an overview of the wide variety of resources available in the hub by section:

### Discover

**Accurate** and **accessible** information enables stakeholders outside the research community to actively and effectively participate in shaping the trajectory of gene and cell therapy development. Leveraging a broad network of researchers, patient advocates, and science communicators across Europe, EuroGCT has developed and compiled a wealth of digital resources about the science behind gene and cell therapies to help lower barriers to engagement. These resources aid interested lay audiences – from patients and educators – as well as scientist seeking to bring their work into non-academic settings.



All resources are written and reviewed by scientists, social scientists, and patient advocates with rolling updates and attributions. We aim to translate all English resources into 6 additional European languages: *Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Polski, Español, and Português*

<https://www.eurogct.org/discover>

### Education & Public Engagement

#### Films & PE Toolkit

We have collated and developed award-winning films and surrounding PE toolkits to support scientists and public engagement practitioners.

<https://www.eurogct.org/gene-horizons>

#### Educational Resources Directory

We have created a directory of existing educational resources from trusted sources to support educators and independent learners specific to the topic of gene and cell therapy:

<https://www.eurogct.org/education>

## Research Pathways

Bringing gene and cell therapies from lab to clinic is a complex process requiring researchers to navigate the fast-changing landscape of regulatory, ethical, and social considerations. The **Research Pathways** directory provide a structured framework for understanding the regulatory requirements for bringing treatments to patients in the EU/EEA. Additionally, we present case studies exploring the successes and challenges encountered in the development of several approved Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs).

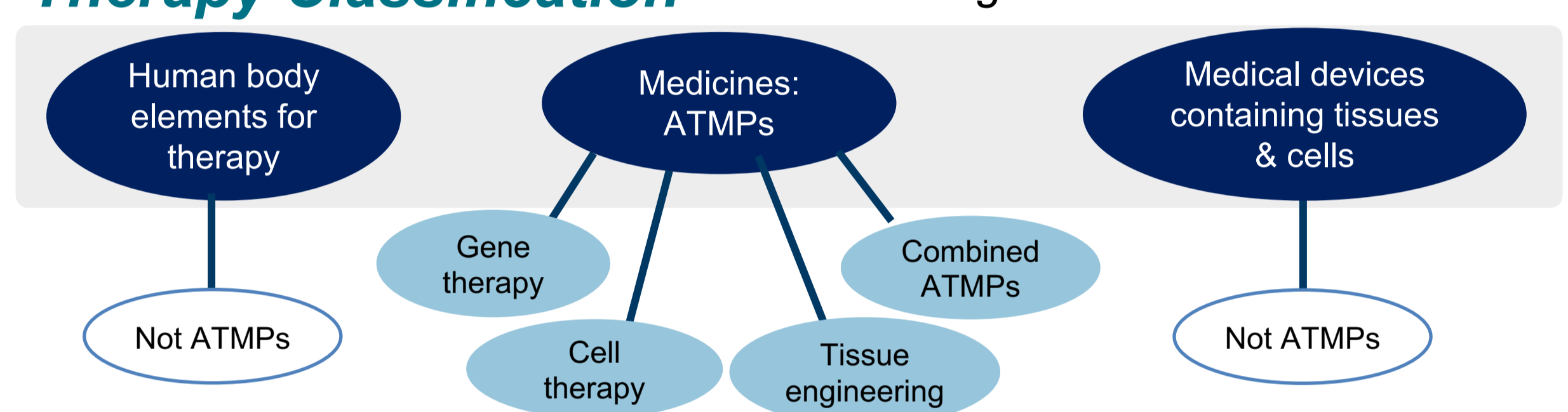
### Research & Innovation

*Translating discoveries from basic research*

- Fundamental research
- Clinical research
- Translational Science
- Funding
- Incentives
- Early interactions with regulators

### Therapy Classification

*The legal mechanisms for GCTs*



### Manufacturing

*ATMPs manufacturing processes*

- Manufacturing Authorisation
- Good Manufacturing Practice
- Investigation Medicinal Product Dossier
- Capability
- Scalability
- Packaging and Labelling

### Commercialisation

*Enabling timely patient access to ATMPs*

- Market access for ATMPs
- Distribution
- Advertising
- Pharmacovigilance
- Pricing & Reimbursement

### Actors & Networks

*Mapping the diverse GCT stakeholders and their activities*

### Health Data

*Handling health data throughout the GCT development process*

These resources are available in English, *Français*, and *Italiano*.

<https://www.eurogct.org/research-pathways>

## Patient & Public Involvement

We believe that research is at its best when it includes diverse stakeholders meaningfully throughout all stages of therapy development. To support this aim, EuroGCT creates opportunities to support partnerships between researchers, patients, and the public – from basic to clinical research – and co-create public-facing resources.

### ATMP Engage PPI Directory

An interactive database of patient and public involvement (PPI) resources for developers of GCT and patient advocates alike. This resources was developed in coordination with the PPI working group, ATMP Engage.

<https://www.eurogct.org/ppi-directory>

## Conclusions

The EuroGCT consortium's work underscores the critical importance of collective science communication in driving responsible and inclusive translation of gene and cell therapies beyond the laboratory through accessible information. EuroGCT's information hub is an established common tool for all European stakeholders, and is perfectly positioned to provide the digital platform for other European projects and collaborators. We encourage all stakeholders to utilise this platform, the information curated within, and to leverage the existing code base with sector-specific online reach. Please get in touch to discuss how EuroGCT can support your work at [eurogct@ed.ac.uk](mailto:eurogct@ed.ac.uk).