Global Gene Therapy Training

Purpose + Course Structure

The Training the Trainers program was established by the Global Outreach Committee to foster equitable access to gene therapies in low- and middle-income countries by providing training opportunities and partnered educational programming with local institutions. In this first iteration of Training the Trainers, ASGCT partnered with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) to award a certificate at the completion of the course.

Course content was developed by 29 ASGCT members, including eight subject matter experts, who delivered presentations and selected reading materials. The course covered genetics of human disorders, methods for correcting genetic diseases, the use of gene therapy in cancer treatment, ethical and regulatory aspects, and more.

Who Participated?

The course targeted full-time academic faculty at accredited universities and medical schools, with the goal that participants would gain knowledge and skills to implement gene therapy education into their own curricula. Applicants submitted a CV and a brief statement of interest, which included their current experience teaching about gene therapy and what they hope to learn.
Participants described the instructors as clear well-prepared, experts in their fields, and easily accessible both during and after their respective modules. 100% of participants would attend another ASGCT course.

- Participants rated overall experience as 4.65, with 5 being very positive.
- Participants rated preparedness to apply what they learned to their work as 4, with 5 being very prepared.
- When asked if the course increased their understanding of the topics, participants rated the course a 4.66 out of 5.

Future Opportunities

Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants, ASGCT will continue to grow this program. In future courses, participants said they’d like to learn more about the basics of gene therapy and the its practical applications in low-resource settings. ASGCT will incorporate this feedback and fine tune the course to better meet the needs of participants in sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, ASGCT will continue to develop partners in other regions of the world, offering a course focused on clinical development in India in 2023. Contact skay@asgct.org for more information!