

SPARK-BIH
● **National**
Gene and Cell
Therapies
Webinar Lecture
Series 2025
Thursday 16th October
3:30-4:30 CET



GCT
National Strategy
Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies
Project Funding

Unlocking the future of Gene & Cell Therapies

Dr. Günter Harms

Dr. Günter Harms is a pharmaceutical executive and healthcare professional with a proven track record of bringing innovative therapies to patients. His expertise includes the development, launch, and lifecycle management of medicines, with a particular focus on orphan drugs and pioneering access to gene therapies.



At Novartis and Avexis, he played a pivotal role in advancing and implementing strategies that shaped the early field of gene therapy. Dr. Harms is a Partner at ORPHAN NOW, where he supports rare disease companies in developing and commercializing much-needed therapies. Furthermore, he held leadership roles at Shire, Ferring, and the former Institute for Health Systems Research, a WHO collaborating centre. He is passionate about improving patient access to innovation.

Gene and Cell therapies (GCTs) are transforming medicine. By addressing diseases at their genetic root cause, these therapies offer the potential for more effective and long-lasting treatments of some of the most severe, rare, and chronic conditions. However, turning these scientific breakthroughs into accessible treatments presents significant challenges. High development and manufacturing costs, small patient populations, and uncertainty about long-term outcomes create obstacles for health technology assessments, pricing and reimbursement. This session will cover practical market access approaches such as real-world evidence, HTA reforms, and novel payment models to ensure that breakthrough therapies can reach patients sustainably. It is designed to equip researchers, developers, and stakeholders with an understanding of the commercial realities shaping the future of GCTs.

Online via **MS Teams** | Please register [here](#)!

Registration to the webinar is required in advance in order to receive MS Teams meeting link.
The event is hosted by SPARK-BIH at the Berlin Institute of Health at Charité, Berlin, Germany.

**This lecture series is part of the Project Funding Program of
National Strategy for Gene- and Cell-based Therapies**

SPARK is an initiative created at Stanford University to overcome challenges
associated with translation of academic discoveries.



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