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HEALTH + BIOSCIENCES
Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy

TEXAS HEART® INSTITUTE

Stem Cell Tourism Near and Far:
Achieving a Compromise for the Patient

Thursday, September 22, 2016
7:30 am — Breakfast
8:00 am — Panel Discussion

Doré Commons
James A. Baker III Hall, Rice University

Patient advocacy groups have been strong supporters of stem cell and regenerative medicine research. But, after waiting more than a decade for scientists to complete clinical trials, many patients are now approaching clinics around the world that offer experimental stem cell–based interventions. Why did patients who were once strong supporters of stem cell research become stem cell tourists? And how can scientists, clinicians and regulators work to bring stem cell patients back to the U.S. and into the clinical trial process?

This panel discussion combines perspectives of a physician scientist, policy scholar, bioethicist and regulator to explore the risks surrounding stem cell tourism. Panelists will examine the FDA's efforts to combat the issue within the U.S. and why the clinical trial process is the gold standard for understanding the impact of therapeutic interventions. The dialogue will highlight options for better cooperation and collaboration with the FDA to expedite proven therapies.

Featured Speakers

Joyce L. Frey–Vasconcells, Ph.D.
President and Regulatory Expert, Frey–Vasconcells Consulting, LLC

Kirstin R.W. Matthews, Ph.D.
Fellow in Science and Technology Policy, Baker Institute

Ana S. Iltis, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Bioethics, Health and Society, and Professor of Philosophy, Wake Forest University; Nonresident Scholar, Center for Health and Biosciences, Baker Institute

James T. Willerson, M.D.
President and Director, Cardiology Research, and Co–director, Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratories, Texas Heart® Institute

Moderated by

Vivian Ho, Ph.D.
James A. Baker III Institute Chair in Health Economics and Director, Center for Health and Biosciences, Baker Institute

Join the conversation online with #BakerStemCell.

RSVP online at **www.bakerinstitute.org/events/sc–tourism** by Monday, September 19.