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The International Cellular Medicine Society (ICMS) is dedicated to the scientific advancement of regenerative medicine and adult, autologous stem cell therapies that fall under the classification of the practice of medicine. In the United States, these treatments must be performed the same day with only minimal manipulation of the cells and tissue. The core initiatives of the ICMS provide a valuable service that supports responsible development of cell-based therapies, while providing a mechanism of accountability.

The “Correction of Medicine” is underway in which the health care system is moving away from the “binary” Allopathic Medicine approach to medicine (drugs versus surgery) and embracing the safe and effective restorative therapies that characterize Regenerative Medicine.

To advance adult, autologous cellular medicine therapies, the ICMS strives to promote the following:

- Standards and guidelines to assist physicians in performing safe and effective therapies.
- Appropriate patient solicitation/advertising.
- Proper patient consenting.
- Appropriate patient follow-up intervals and metrics.
- Encourage robust clinical research and begin to define the scope and anticipated efficacy of these procedures.

Domestically, the ICMS focuses on therapies that fall under the classification of the practice of medicine, and as such are controlled by state medical boards and do not require FDA approval. We constantly monitor changes in the domestic and international regulatory environment that may result in a treatment being reclassified as a drug. An example of a potential reclassification is the FDA’s recent comments regarding adipose tissue based treatments- so called stromal vascular fraction (SVF). These SVF treatments utilize cells that are harvested by liposuction of fat tissue and utilize an enzyme separation process to obtain the mesenchymal stem cells.

The current inclination by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is that adipose tissue based treatments (SVF) are considered beyond minimal manipulation, and therefore do not fall under the practice of medicine (thus, must be administered under the guidelines of an FDA trial). The final decision by the FDA with regards to SVF is pending, however, once their decision is finalized, the ICMS will strictly enforce their position among our membership base and our Institutional Review Board practices.