

### **ASTCT Statement on Dr. Peter Marks**

ASTCT would like to recognize Dr. Peter Marks' significant contributions to the cell and gene therapy field through his work at the FDA as the Director of Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). Our members across multiple medical disciplines appreciate Dr. Marks for his unwavering efforts in furthering research and science, which has led to greater patient access to many life-saving therapies and care especially for immunocompromised patients and patients with previously incurable cancers. Dr. Marks has been an advocate for a more efficient drug approval process, and we are grateful for his commitment to aiding the American public's access to needed therapies and recognize that these groundbreaking efforts have heightened the United States' position as the world leader in cell and gene therapy.

We know Dr. Marks as a respected, thoughtful, innovative and dedicated leader at the FDA, always open for discussion and collaborating with stakeholders. Through his professional efforts, thousands of patients have been treated with the very best therapies and given new opportunities for life saving treatment. We know that countless lives have been saved.

His departure will be widely felt within our community. Our Society remains committed to rigorous scientific discovery and to aggressively promoting patient access to the life-saving treatments of cell transplant and cellular therapies. This outcome can only be a reality and occur with continued unwavering support for critical science, research, and promotion of evidence-based medicine. Dr. Marks was clearly an advocate for these values and his replacement must stand for the same. We hope that his resignation does not impede progress in our field. American lives depend on these therapies.

We must trust that appropriate consideration will be placed in identifying an individual or individuals who will continue to support the values held dear by ASTCT including scientific truth, transparency, innovation, and collaboration. In addition to thanking Dr. Marks for his years of visionary leadership and tireless public service, ASTCT reasserts our commitment to upholding these values so that the very best medicines may continue to be available for the patients we serve. We have a long history of curing people who had no other chance for survival. All present and future patients deserve this same or even better, opportunity. This is our mission. We feel the acute loss but our Society members will continue to work tirelessly for a better future for our patients.