

Cardiac Regeneration – Picking up the Pieces: *Cell Therapy*

Gabriela M. Kuster

Division of Cardiology and Department of Biomedicine
University Hospital Basel

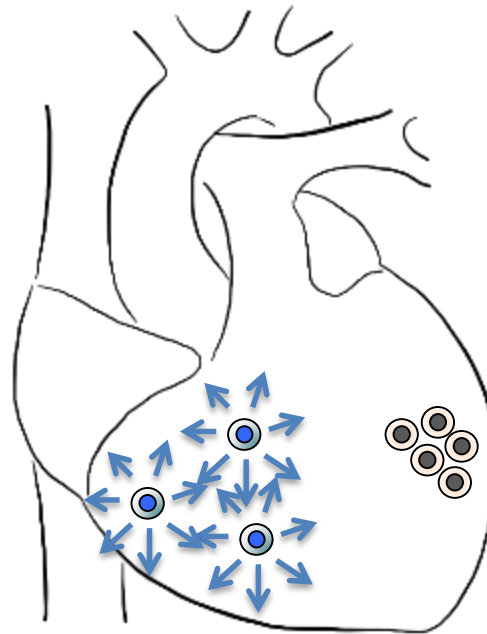
SGK Annual Assembly 2015, Zurich

Disclosures: none

Mechanisms of cell-based myocardial repair

Paracrine Effects

- ↓ Apoptosis/Cell Death
- Recruitment and Activation of Resident Stem Cells
- Cardiomyogenic Differentiation of Resident Stem Cells
- Angiogenesis, Vasculogenesis
- Modulation of Matrix Remodeling



Direct Effects

- Creation of a Niche-like Environment
- Transdifferentiation into Cardiomyocytes, Endothelial Cells and Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells

Scar Stabilization
↑ Capillary Density
Cardiomyogenic Rebuilding

REVERSE REMODELING
↑ CONTRACTILE PERFORMANCE

Adapted from: Kuster GM et al., in: Translational Regenerative Medicine, Elsevier, in press

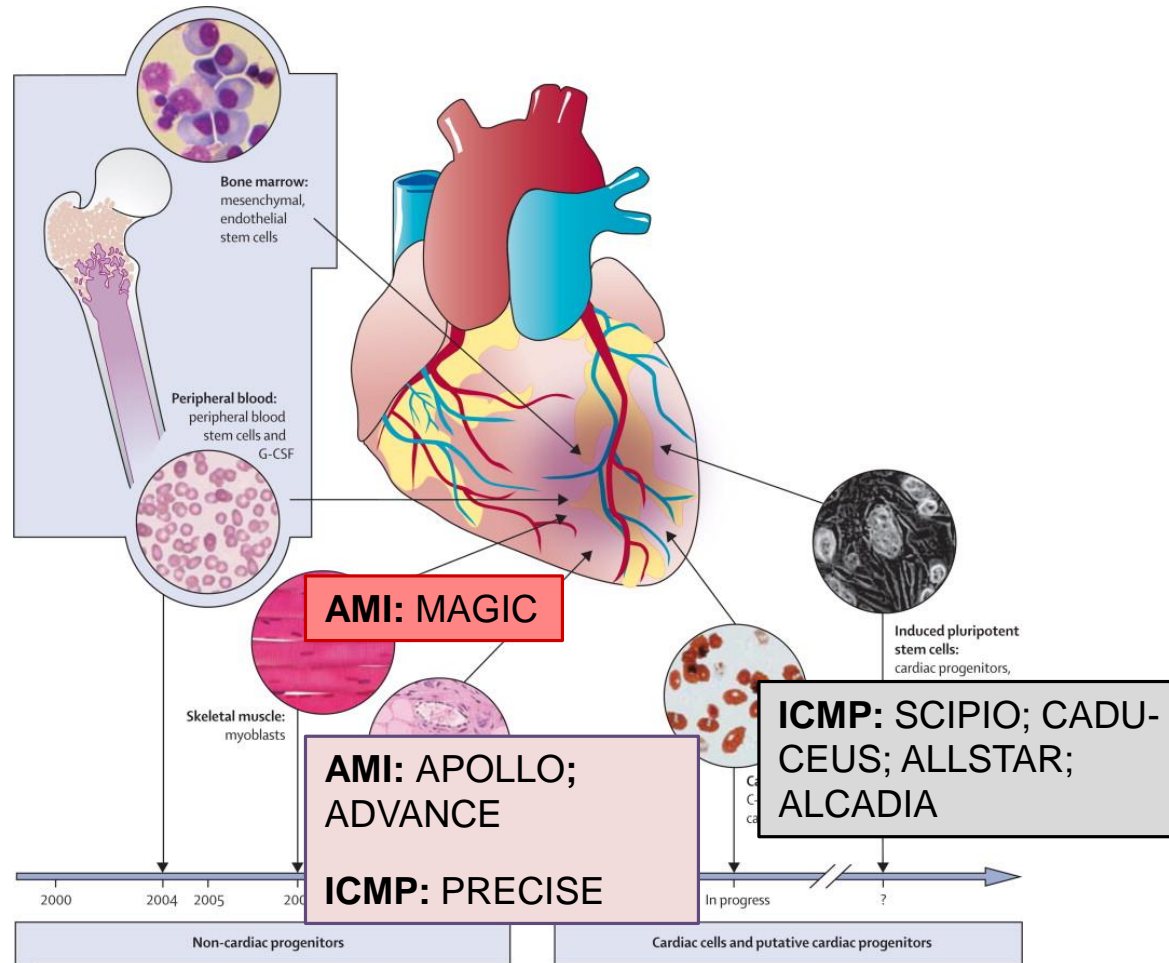
Timeline of clinical trials

BMMNC:

AMI: TOPCARE-AMI; BOOST; REPAIR-AMI; ASTAMI; BONAMI; FINCELL; HEBE; TIME; Late TIME; Swiss AMI

ICMP: TOPCARE-CHD; FOCUS-CCTR

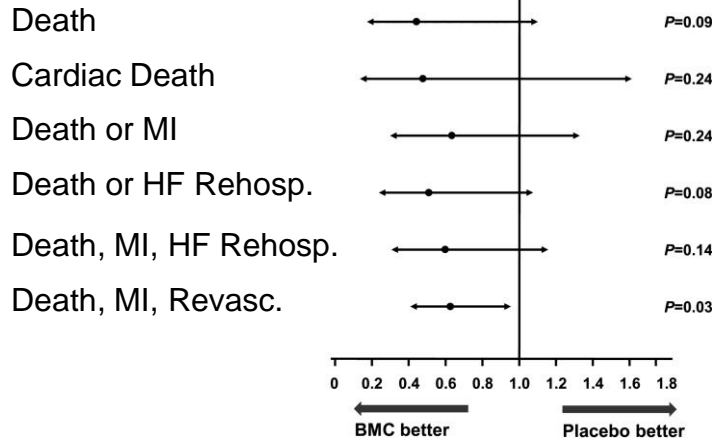
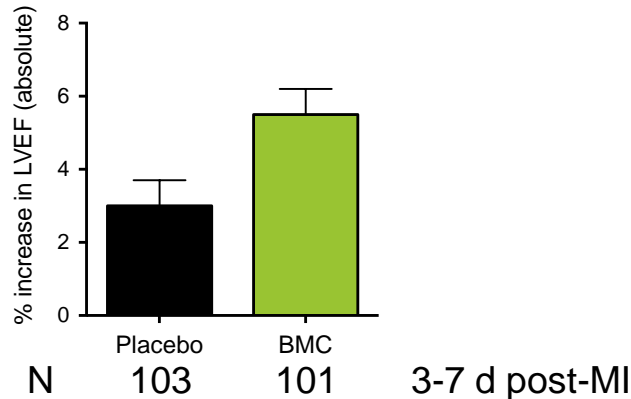
BM-MSC in ICMP: POSEIDON; C-CURE



Adapted from: Ptaszek LM et al., Lancet 2012

Contradictory results from randomized controlled trials

Repair-AMI



Schachinger V et al., NEJM 2006
Assmus B et al., Eur Heart J 2014

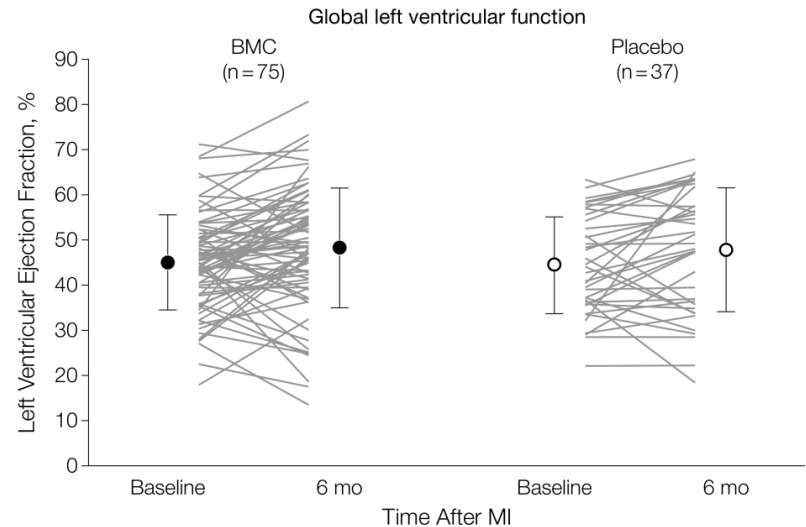
Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network (CCTR):

TIME N=120; 3-7 d *JAMA* 2012

Late-TIME N=87; 2-3 wks *JAMA* 2011

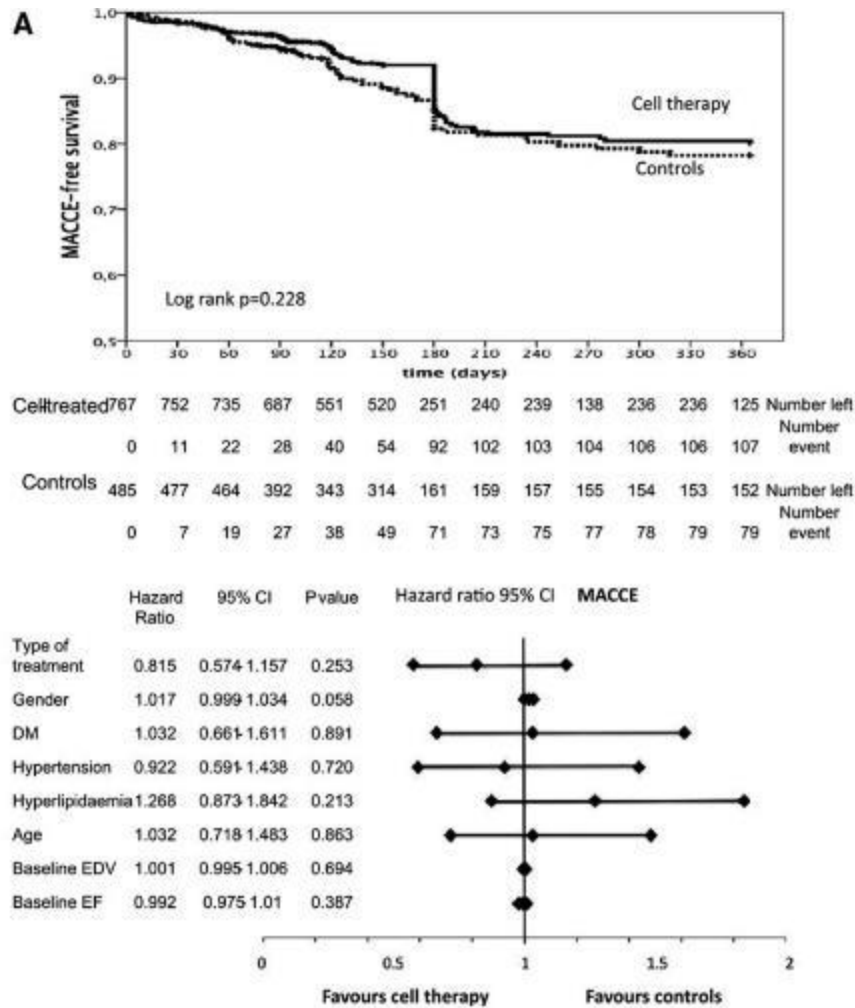
Swiss-AMI: N=200, 5-7d, 3-4wks, *Circ* 2013

CCTR TIME



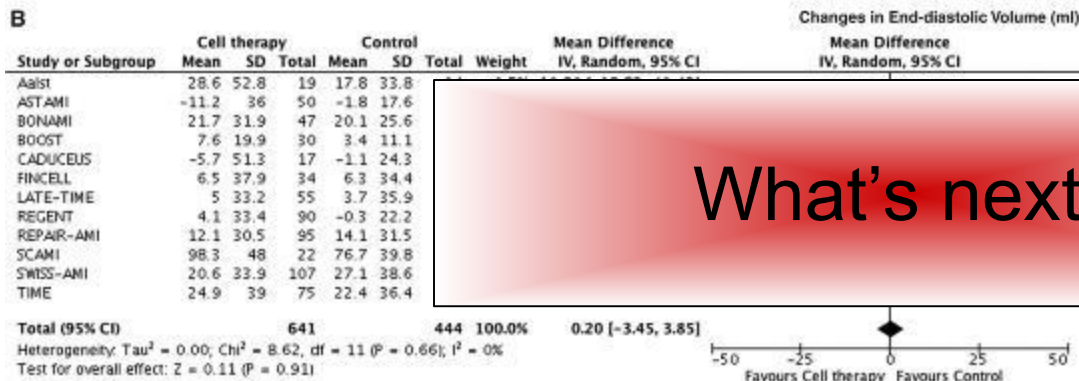
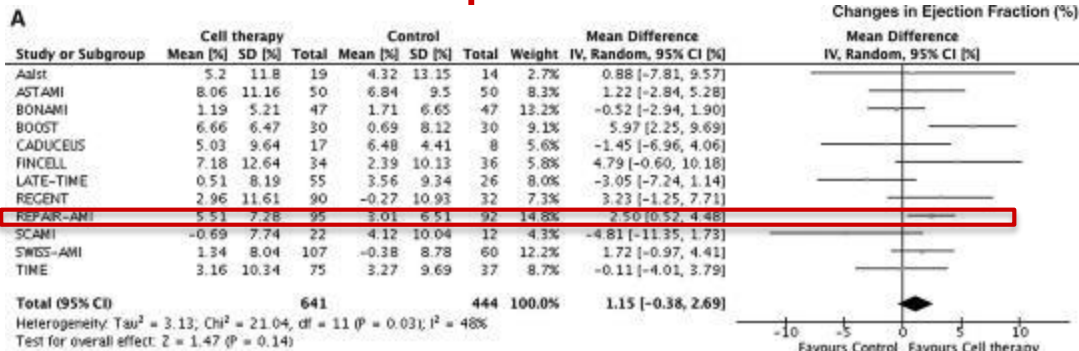
Traverse JH et al., JAMA 2012

The ACCRUE patient-level meta-analysis: primary EP

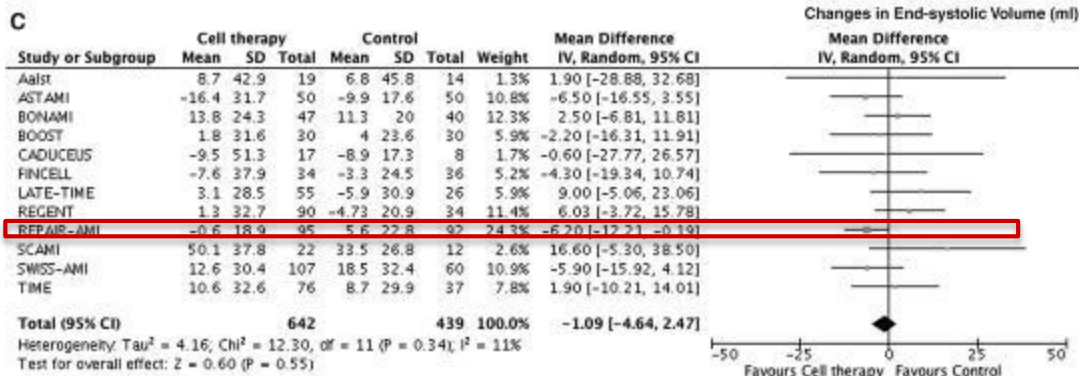


Gyöngyösi M et al., Circ Res 2015

The ACCRUE patient-level meta-analysis: Remodeling



What's next?



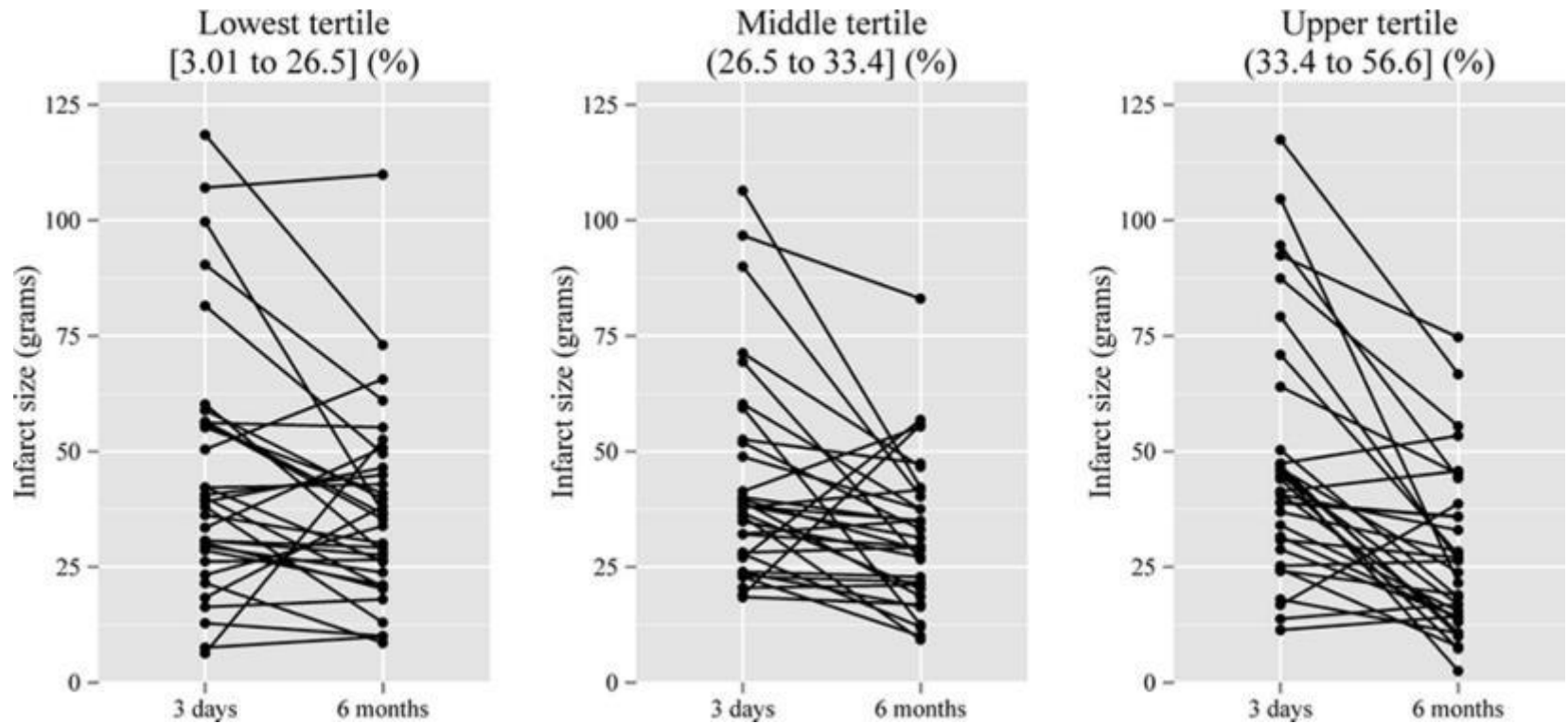
Gyöngyösi M et al., Circ Res 2015

BAMI. The effect of i.c. reinfusion of BMMNCs on all-cause mortality in acute MI

- Multinational, multicentre, randomised open-label, controlled, parallel-group phase III study (EC FP7).
- Aim: to demonstrate that a single i.c. infusion of autologous BMMNCs is safe and reduces all-cause mortality in patients with reduced LVEF ($\leq 45\%$) after successful reperfusion for acute MI when compared to a control group of patients undergoing best medical care.
- Study design based on Repair-AMI. Inclusion of 3000 patients (currently ongoing). Completion expected in 2018.

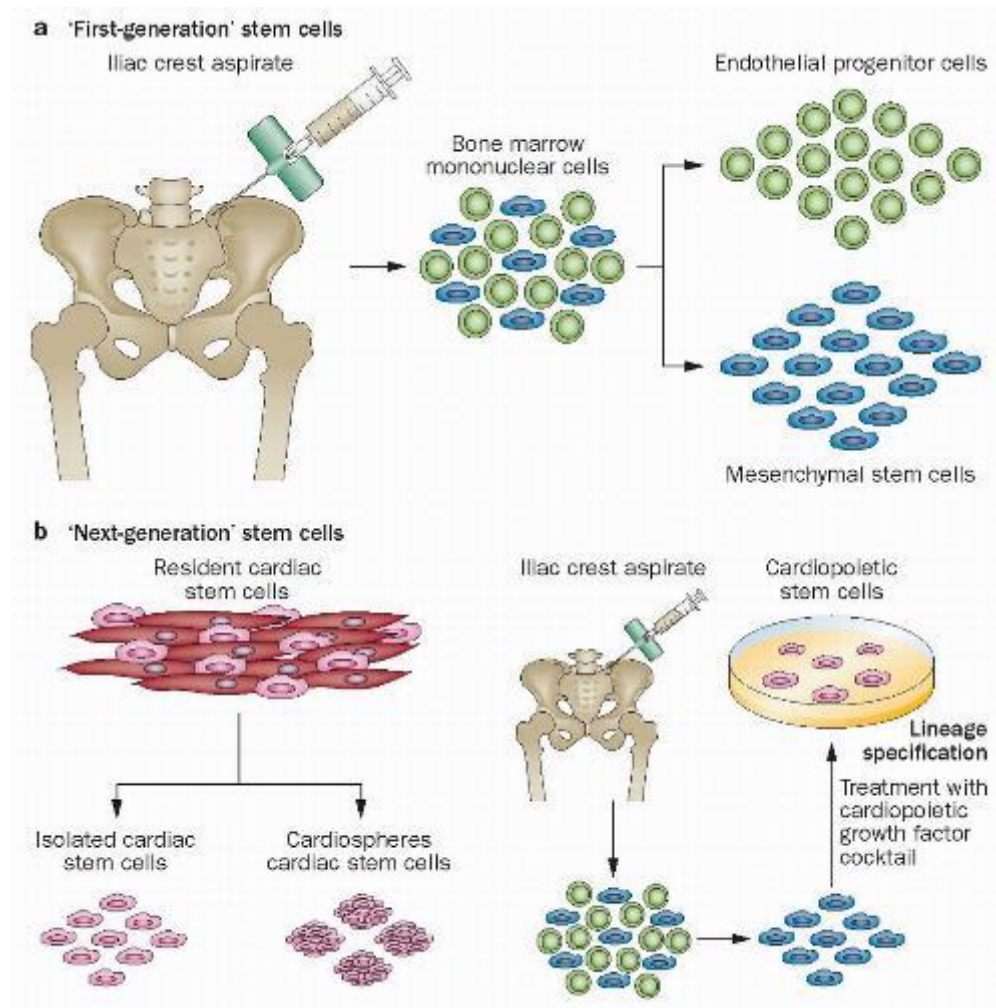
NCT01569178

Cell type analyses from the CCTRN TIME trial



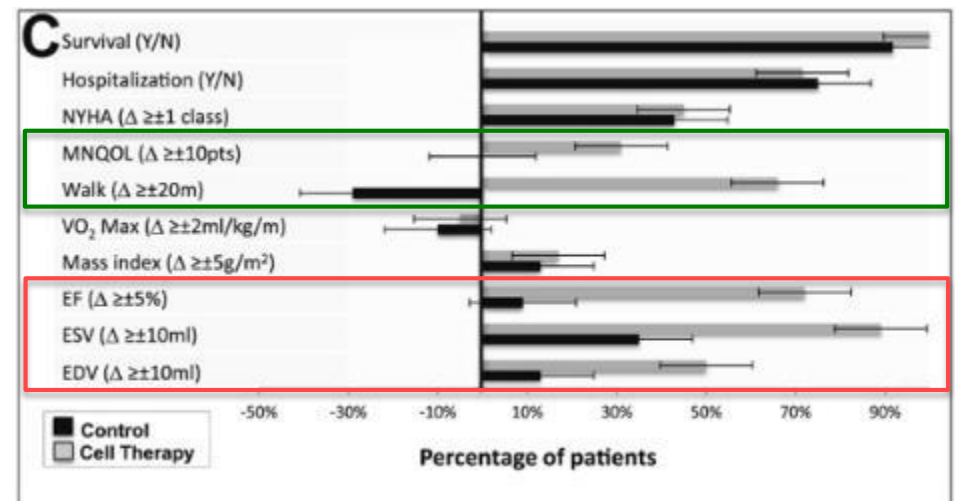
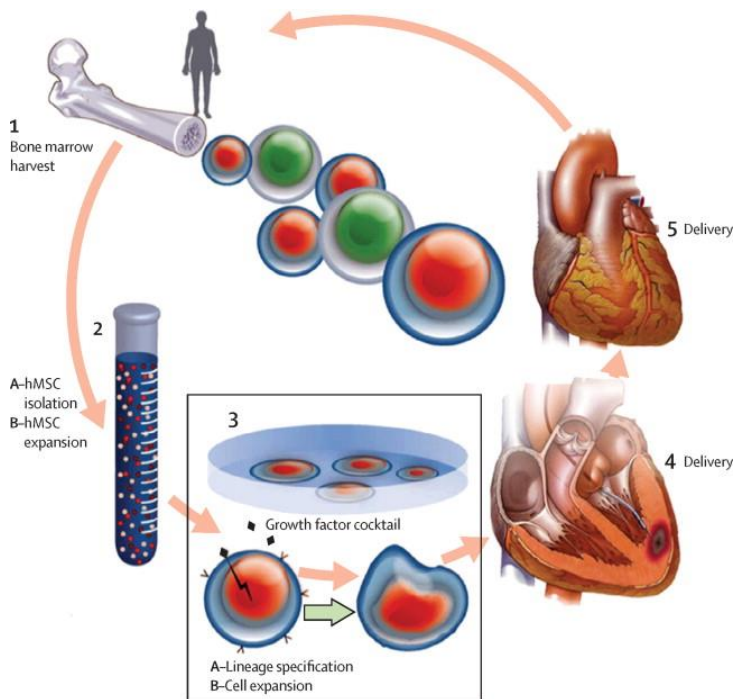
Shutt RC, *Circ Res* 2015

Cardiac derived cells and lineage specification



Behfar A et al., Nat Rev Cardiol 2014

C-Cure: cardiogenic lineage specification of BM-MSC

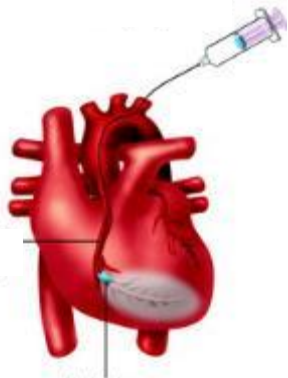


Bartunek J et al., JACC 2013

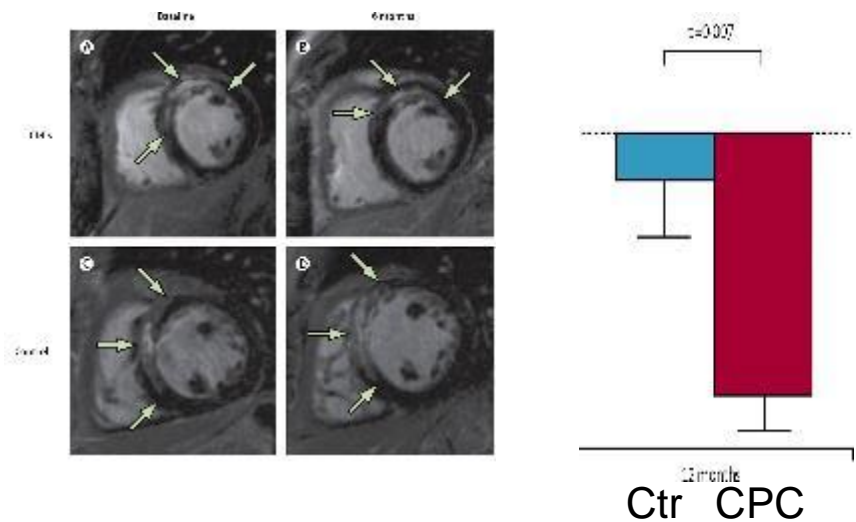
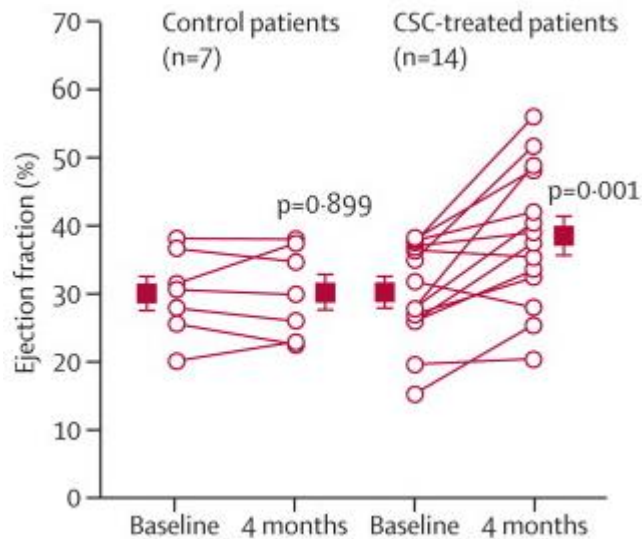
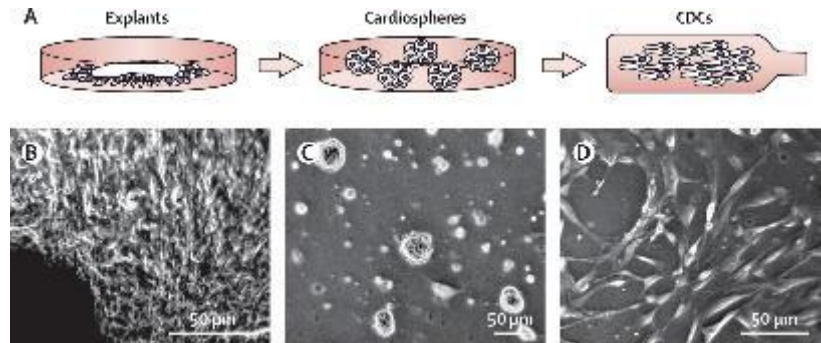
Advantages of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs)

- Easily accessible either through bone marrow aspiration (bone marrow-derived) or liposuction (adipose tissue-derived)
- Identification through defined panel of surface markers and lack of hematopoietic markers
- Immunoprivileged: lack of MHCII, low expression of MHCI, immunomodulatory properties
- Suited for allogeneic transplantation and – hence – potential off-the-shelf use, enabling quality control and potency testing

SCIPIO and CADUCEUS



i.c. application of
c-kit+ CPC

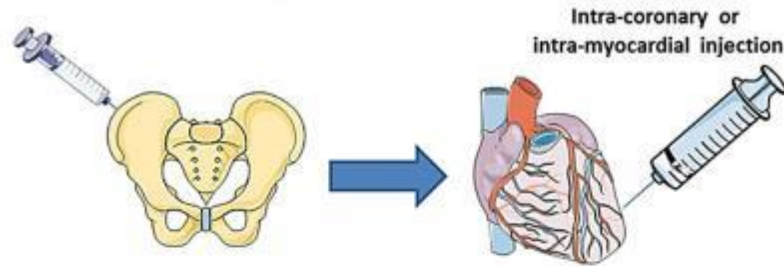


Bolli R et al., Lancet 2011

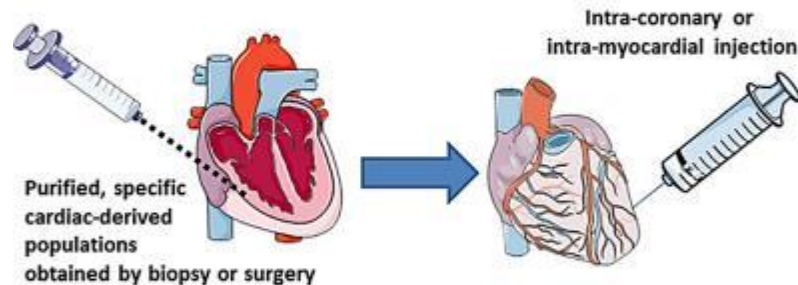
Makkar RR et al, Lancet 2012

Reprogramming and beyond

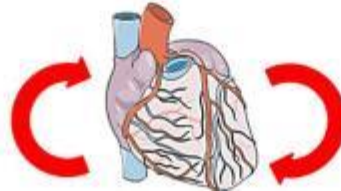
First Generation: BM-derived cell injection



Second Generation: Cardiac-derived cell injection

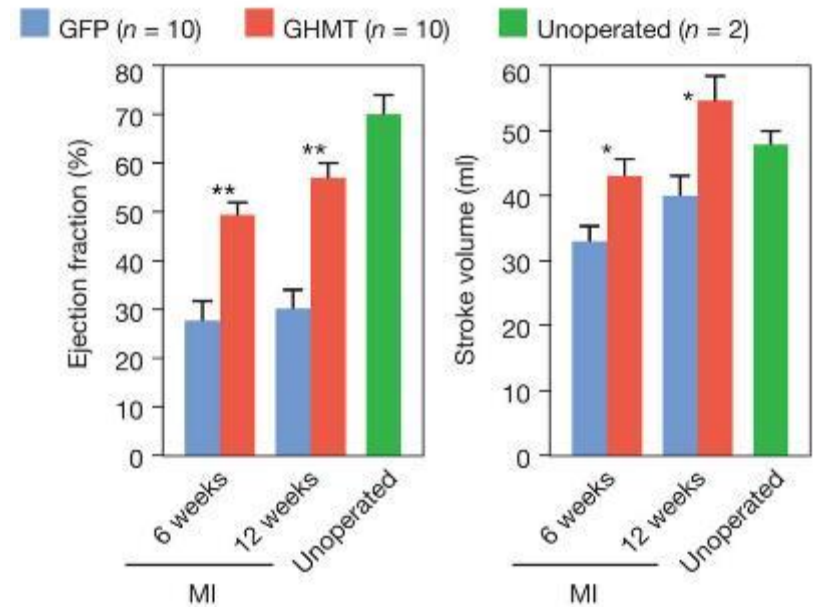
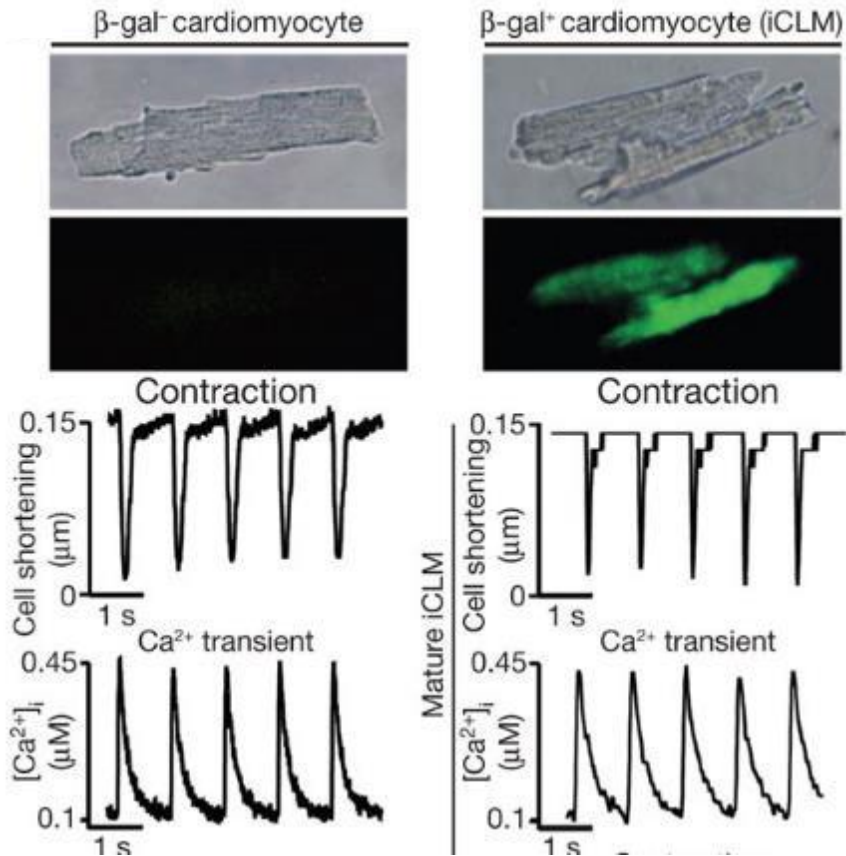


Third Generation: in situ cell reprogramming, cardiomyocyte dedifferentiation, or stimulation of endogenous cardiac stem cells



Kovacic JC and Fuster V, Circ Res 2015

Reprogramming of dividing non-myocytes



Song K et al, Nature 2012

Conclusions and Outlook

- Transplantation of BMCs into the injured myocardium is safe, but clinical efficacy appears limited.
- Cardiac committed cells such as resident cardiac stem/progenitor cells (CPCs) or primed cardiogenic mesenchymal stem cells, with supposedly greater cardiomyogenic differentiation potential, may hold promise for the future.
- Alternative approaches include direct genetic reprogramming of dividing nonmyocytes into cardiomyocytes, induction of cardiomyocyte proliferation, stimulation of endogenous CPCs or use of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS).
- Combination of cell therapy with tissue engineering strategies (use of matrices, decellularized scaffolds, biopolymers etc.) are under investigation.

Thank you for your attention