

Greetings and welcome to the newest edition of The Cure Chronicles!

We're thrilled to share ongoing advancements in cell and gene therapy across various disease fronts. Our dedication to advancing technologies and approaches remains unwavering as we strive to reduce their costs.

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Latest News and Events

## Fiocruz and Caring Cross Announce Collaboration Agreement to Enable Access to Affordable CAR-T Therapy in Brazil and Latin America



Photo Caption: Brazilian Minister of Health, Nisia Trindade, unveils groundbreaking partnership with Caring Cross during press conference at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, marking a pivotal moment in healthcare innovation.

Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), a foundation from the Brazilian government's Ministry of Health, and Caring Cross, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to accelerating the development of advanced medicines and enabling access to advanced medicinal cures for all patients, everywhere, today announced a collaboration to develop local manufacturing of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cell and stem cell gene therapies for oncology, infectious, and genetic diseases in Brazil, including CAR-T cell therapies for leukemia, lymphoma, and HIV infection.

Under the terms of the agreement, Caring Cross will provide technology, materials, and training to the Institute of Technology on Immunobiologicals (Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz) for the manufacture of CAR-T cell therapies and lentiviral vectors aimed for clinical development and approval. The initial phase of the program will focus on CAR-T cell therapies for leukemia and lymphoma, improved versions of products that are successfully treating patients in selected countries. The collaboration will also advance a therapeutic product for HIV, currently in U.S. clinical trials, designed for the treatment and potential cure of HIV infection, with the expectation of new co-development projects for other diseases.

[READ PRESS RELEASE](#)

[Caring Cross and ImmunoAdoptive Cell Therapy \(ImmunoACT\) Announce Agreement to Commercialize TriCAR-T Cell Immunotherapy for Leukemia and Lymphoma](#)

Caring Cross - Press Release  
May 7, 2024

[Caring Cross and Fiocruz Partner for Low-Cost CAR-T Manufacturing in Brazil](#)  
[Genetic Engineering News](#)

April 17, 2024

[Brazil Finds a Way Around Gene Therapy's High Price](#)

Bloomberg News  
April 10, 2024

[Fiocruz and Caring Cross join forces to produce affordable CAR-T therapy](#)

The Pharma Letter  
Mar 27, 2024

INFOGRAPHIC

## Breaking barriers, bridging gaps: CAR-T cell therapies offer hope, but affordability is key



COMMUNITY LEADER SPOTLIGHT



### An interview with Martín Bonamino

Researcher at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) and at the Brazilian National Cancer Institute

**Q: Tell us about your background and how you came to be in your current position.**

**A:** I was trained as a biomedical scientist and later at the gene therapy and immunotherapy fields in Italy. Since 2005 I lead a group developing gene therapies and immunotherapies at the National Cancer Institute in Brazil. Since 2016 I also co-lead the cancer translational program at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, in Rio de Janeiro.

**Q: Tell us what is the focus of your efforts at the present time and what motivates you.**

**A:** We are motivated to develop new immuno-based gene therapies to treat malignancies. Since these therapies are very expensive, our developments always consider cost-effectiveness so we can offer these solutions to the Brazilian population in the public health system.

**Q: What is your vision for the future and how would you overcome any challenges?**

**A:** I think new ways to produce therapies such as CAR-T cells will render these therapies affordable to the general population. To achieve this, collaboration with groups developing different aspects of the therapy is key to overcome challenges related to therapy development hurdles.

**Q: If there is one thing that would make a difference to your efforts, what would it be?**

**A:** Definitely, approaches to make therapies more accessible to the population.

**Q: What is a fun fact about yourself that you would like to share?**

**A:** I was born in Argentina and grew up in Brazil. Every 4 years there are moments of tension at home with fans of different teams in the football World Cup.

LATEST INDUSTRY NEWS

[Preliminary Clinical Trial Results Show ‘Dramatic and Rapid’ Regression of Glioblastoma after Next Generation CAR-T Therapy](#)

Massachusetts General Hospital

[Infographic: Understanding CAR-T vs TCR Approaches](#)

The Scientist

[First patient in Hollings clinical trial of ‘purified’ CAR-T-cell therapy recovering well at home](#)

Medical University of South Carolina

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

[Beyond Efficacy: Safety and Access Issues in Lentiviral Gene Therapy](#)

May 17, 2024

Kenneth Cornetta

Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine

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TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

[Clinical Advances/Challenges with GEx](#)

June 7, 2024

Dr. Kevin Curran, PhD

Founder, Rising Tide Biology / University of Washington

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SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

[CAR-T Cell Targeting and Enhancements](#)

June 21, 2024

Avery D. Posey, Jr, PhD

Assistant Professor at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

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This event will last approximately 30-40 minutes and consist of a presentation and Q&A session. All our events are on Fridays at 3 pm EST and require registration to access the live webinar. A recorded replay will only be available to Caring Cross Community members (Membership is free).

RECENT EVENTS

If you missed these recent events, click on the links below to view them.

[Non-viral vs. viral delivery for GEx \(LNP, VLP, electroporation\)](#)

[If we build it, they will come...except if they can't: strategies to enhance access to gene-modified cell therapies](#)

[Introduction to gene editing: focus on biology, CRISPR/Cas9, and base and prime editing](#)

[Financing a new biotech: review where money may come from and some general costs to consider](#)

[Getting Ready to Provide Genetic Therapies for Sickle Cell Disease](#)

[Drug Development: Overview of FDA Regulatory Process, Focus on Details Pertinent to CGTx](#)

[5 Key Things to Know about Medicare Coverage & Reimbursement for CAR-T](#)

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