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Hilton Kaplan,
MBBCh FCSSA PhD,
New Jersey Center for
Biomaterials

Present and Future ECM Derived Products in Wound Care & Soft Tissue Reconstruction

Over the past three decades, researchers have pioneered techniques for decellularizing tissues aiming to fulfill a crucial need: Providing off-the-shelf donor tissue extracellular matrix (ECM) supplies for transplant so they may be recellularized with host stem cells as needed to become the recipient's own tissues. This process aims to overcome two critical disadvantages of tissue transplantation: 1) donor shortages - only 50% of the patients on waiting lists in the United States will receive an organ within 5 years [UNOS 2011]; and 2) host rejection and immunosuppression - ~20% of renal transplant recipients experience acute rejection within five years [Song 2013].

At the **NJ Symposium on Biomaterials Science** on **November 9, 2015**, Dr. Hilton Kaplan will discuss the future of ECM-derived products for wound care and soft-tissue reconstruction as well as the successes and failures of the past. Dr. Kaplan will focus on the tissue-engineering perspectives of this rapidly advancing field and with an emphasis on neurovascularizing tissues and creating tissue-synthetic hybrid scaffolds.

Dr. Hilton Kaplan currently serves as the Associate Director of the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials. In addition, he is a Research Associate Professor at Rutgers University and an Adjunct Professor in Regulatory Science at the University of Southern California. He has held various clinical and research positions in industry throughout his career, including Senior Medical Director at Allergan, a Fortune 500 healthcare company, and Vice President of Clinical Sciences at LifeCell, the pioneers of decellularized dermis.

As both a Plastic, Reconstructive and Maxillofacial Surgeon, and a Biomedical Engineer, Dr. Kaplan's research focuses on tissue engineering, specifically decellularized composite tissues for limb and face allotransplantation, and on neurosciences, such as neural prosthetics and implantable man-machine interfaces.

Dr. Kaplan has a long history of passionately advocating for burn prevention and reconstruction as a burn surgeon and a founding board member of the non-profit Grossman Burn Foundation. Additionally, he is a founding director of the non-profit Look-at-Us Alliance for Craniofacial Differences. As the adoptive father of a spirited burn survivor, his work serves as a profound extension of his personal life.

By attending the **NJ Symposium on Biomaterials Science**, not only will you hear from one of the foremost experts in the biomedical/biomaterials field, but also one who elevates knowledge through his passion.

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