

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY SYSTEMS FOR A CELL PROCESSING FACILITY: A Case Study

CLIENT: A company responsible for the receipt, processing, cryopreservation, testing, storage and distribution of Human Cellular and Tissue Products (HCT/P).

OPPORTUNITY: Client considered accreditation by an international, government sponsored organization to be an urgent mission critical business objective. However, in a voluntary audit, client was denied accreditation due to non-compliance with required cGMPs. The accrediting auditor cited:

- Significant gaps in the overall design, implementation and compliance of Quality Systems
- Failure to comply with existing written procedures
- Significant concerns regarding the design and operation of the cell processing facility

The client recognized that it needed to rapidly address these issues. However, the client did not have the requisite experience and knowledge base internally, nor the time and resource to recruit suitably qualified staff to remedy the situation consistent with their business objectives.

SOLUTION: Progenitor Cell Therapy (PCT) has significant experience in the design, construction, validation and operation of GMP manufacturing facilities, the associated quality systems and all elements of regulatory compliance. Recognizing the relevance of such experience, client contracted PCT to assist them to overhaul their quality systems and operations to address the issues cited by the auditor.

To this end, PCT:

- Redesigned the cell processing facility and implemented better flow patterns for materials, personnel, products and waste
- In collaboration with the client's staff, (re)wrote and implemented:
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) describing facility operations, including the controlled movement of materials, personnel, products and waste through the facility
 - A document control system
 - Systems, SOPs and training for materials control, vendor qualification, equipment maintenance, internal auditing, deviation reporting and corrective and preventative action (CAPA)+
 - Revised procedures for the receipt, processing, storage and release of raw materials and products
- Defined and implemented a program for documented compliant training of staff involved in GMP operations
- Provided appropriate training to client's staff
- Managed the follow-up audit by the government sponsored agency and all responses to observations arising from that audit resulting in successful accreditation

RESULT: A voluntary follow up audit by the government-sponsored agency was coordinated and managed by PCT on behalf of the client. PCT subsequently managed the responses to minor observations made by the auditor during the follow up audit. The client received the accreditation required for execution of their business in a timely and cost-effective manner.



Progenitor Cell Therapy is a client-based cell therapy services company that supports the development of cellular therapies by providing cGMP-compliant cell manufacturing and consulting services that address regulatory, financial, technical, process, and quality system strategies. PCT provides a full spectrum of support including process and product development, consulting, validation, due diligence evaluations, tissue collection, processing, and storage, product manufacturing, distribution and transportation.