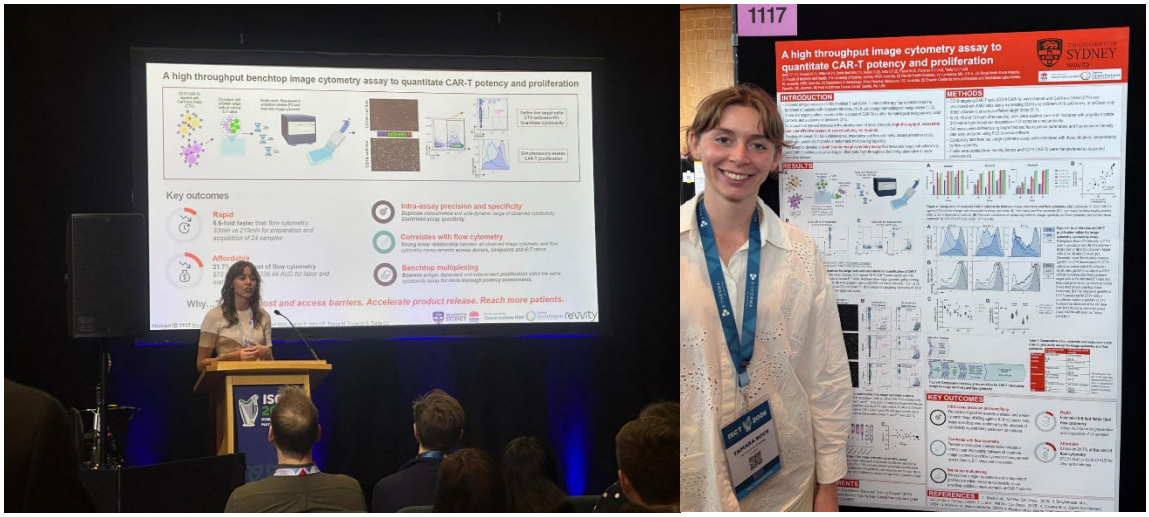
Name: Tamara Bock
Position & Affiliation: PhD candidate, Charles Perkins Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney

Full Reference: **Bock TJ**, Krivosic N, Willis K, Kuksin D, Pierce M, Fiorenza S, Turtle CJ. *A high throughput benchtop image cytometry assay to quantitate CAR-T potency and proliferation.*

Conference/Meeting Name: International Society of Cell and Gene Therapy Annual Meeting
Location: Dublin, Ireland
Dates: 6-9 May 2026
Presentation Type: Poster and elevator pitch



Presenting my elevator pitch and poster presentation at ISCT Dublin 2026.

Conference report

The ISCT Annual Meeting is the largest global cell and gene therapy conference, convening over 3,000 delegates from research, industry and clinical settings in Dublin, Ireland, 6-9 May 2026. This year's theme, *"The Golden Age of Cell and Gene Therapy"*, celebrated a field defined by rapid innovation and a growing commitment to making these treatments accessible to all patients. A defining feature of ISCT is its Translational Pathway Program, four dedicated plenaries, concurrent sessions, and roundtables sequenced to mirror each stage of the development pipeline (from early laboratory discovery through clinical trials to regulatory approval and patient access). The meeting opened with the Presidential Plenary, *'CAR-T Therapy: Past, Present and Future'*, with presentations from Prof. Bruce Levine and Prof. Stephan Grupp (University of Pennsylvania) and A/Prof. Sara Ghorashian (UCL/Great Ormond Street Hospital).

There was particular buzz around *in vivo* cell therapy and artificial intelligence (AI) in manufacturing. Current cell therapies require a patient's cells to be collected, engineered in a specialist facility, and reinfused, a process that is costly and inaccessible for many patients, particularly those in rural areas. *In vivo* approaches aim to deliver genetic instructions directly into the body, bypassing this process entirely, and were highlighted as a breakthrough with real potential to increase access to therapies. AI sessions included engaging debates around how much decision making should be automated versus kept in human hands, especially when considering regulatory perspectives.

Attending ISCT significantly advanced my professional development allowing me the opportunity to develop communication skills and engage critically with other researchers and industry partners. Presenting my poster and elevator pitch on our novel assay for measuring the cytotoxicity of CAR-T cell products sparked productive conversations with researchers from Western Australia, the UK, and the USA. A personal highlight was the Early-Stage Professional Mentoring Summit. In this panel discussion with Prof. Emily Blyth, Prof. Daniel Weiss and Dr. Mikey Creane we had conversations surrounding choosing your mentors and sponsors, supporting ECRs in science and in particular supporting women and parents in science. It was a refreshing and inspiring session that highlighted the wonderful community that ISCT fosters.