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Adipose-Derived Therapies for Regenerative Medicine

Abstract: Lauren Kokai, PhD is co-director of the Adipose Stem Cell Center at the University of Pittsburgh, faculty of the McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine (MIRM) and an Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery, School of Medicine. Dr. Kokai has a broad background in soft tissue engineering with specific training in development of novel biomaterials and drug delivery systems for adipose tissue regeneration and use of mesenchymal stem cells for tissue engineering and cell therapy applications. Dr. Kokai’s lecture will focus on adipose-derived therapeutics, which include small particles of intact tissue, acellular matrix, and stromal cells obtained through enzymatic tissue digestion. Each of these therapeutics has a unique mechanism of action and clinical applications. In this talk, Dr. Kokai will discuss her experience with adipose-derived therapies in regenerative medicine applications. Studies to be discussed include: 1) the use of adipose particles and adipose stromal cells for tissue replacement and wound healing and 2) the development and clinical use of decellularized adipose tissue as an off-the-shelf soft tissue filler.