

IATA

CARGO

EXPERTS

CONFERENCE



AirCargoBelgium

Brussels, Belgium

24-25 September 2025

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Precision Therapy Logistics

IATA Cargo Experts Conference (CEC)
Brussels, Belgium
24 – 25 September 2025





Air cargo community organization at Brussels Airport

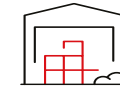
165 members



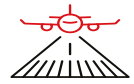
Industry



Freight
forwarders



Ground
Handlers



Airlines



Community
Projects



Networking
and Lobbying



Air Cargo Belgium

“We strive to make BRUcargo the most attractive, efficient, innovative, digital and successful logistical platform”





‘1 in 2 people will
develop cancer in their
lifetime’

Pharma of the Future

From Big Pharma



To Precision Therapies

Precision Therapies

“Precision therapies are medical treatments tailored to the specific characteristics of individual patients, such as their genetic profile”





Bayer invests 250 million USD in new cell therapy manufacturing facility in the U.S.

Health

Belgian university hospitals invest €14 million in new cell and gene therapy facility

Belgian university hospitals UZ Leuven and KU Leuven are investing €14 million in a new facility for the production of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs). It's expected to be operational by the end of 2025.

AstraZeneca pays up to \$1bn for biotech firm 'that could transform cell therapy'

MANUFACTURING

Bharat Biotech enters cell and gene therapy market with \$75M production investment: reports

By Joseph Keenan · Mar 24, 2025 9:01am

BIOTECH

Takeda's gene therapy ambitions rise another \$2B in 4-program Code Bio pact



Gene therapy trial saves boy, 4, from 'death sentence'

Eisa Hussain received the treatment for leukocyte adhesion deficiency 1, a disease that means children cannot fight off infections

Scientists give pioneering gene therapy to infant patient

Child suffering from rare liver disease shows improved health after treatment

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Infant with rare, incurable disease is first to successfully receive personalized gene therapy treatment

NIH-supported gene-editing platform lays groundwork to rapidly develop treatments for other rare genetic diseases.

Breakthrough Gene Therapy Saves Infant With Rare Metabolic Disease

May 19, 2025










By Ryan Flinn

6-Year-Old Boy Who Was Born Blind Gets Vision Partially Restored After 'Life-Changing' Gene Therapy

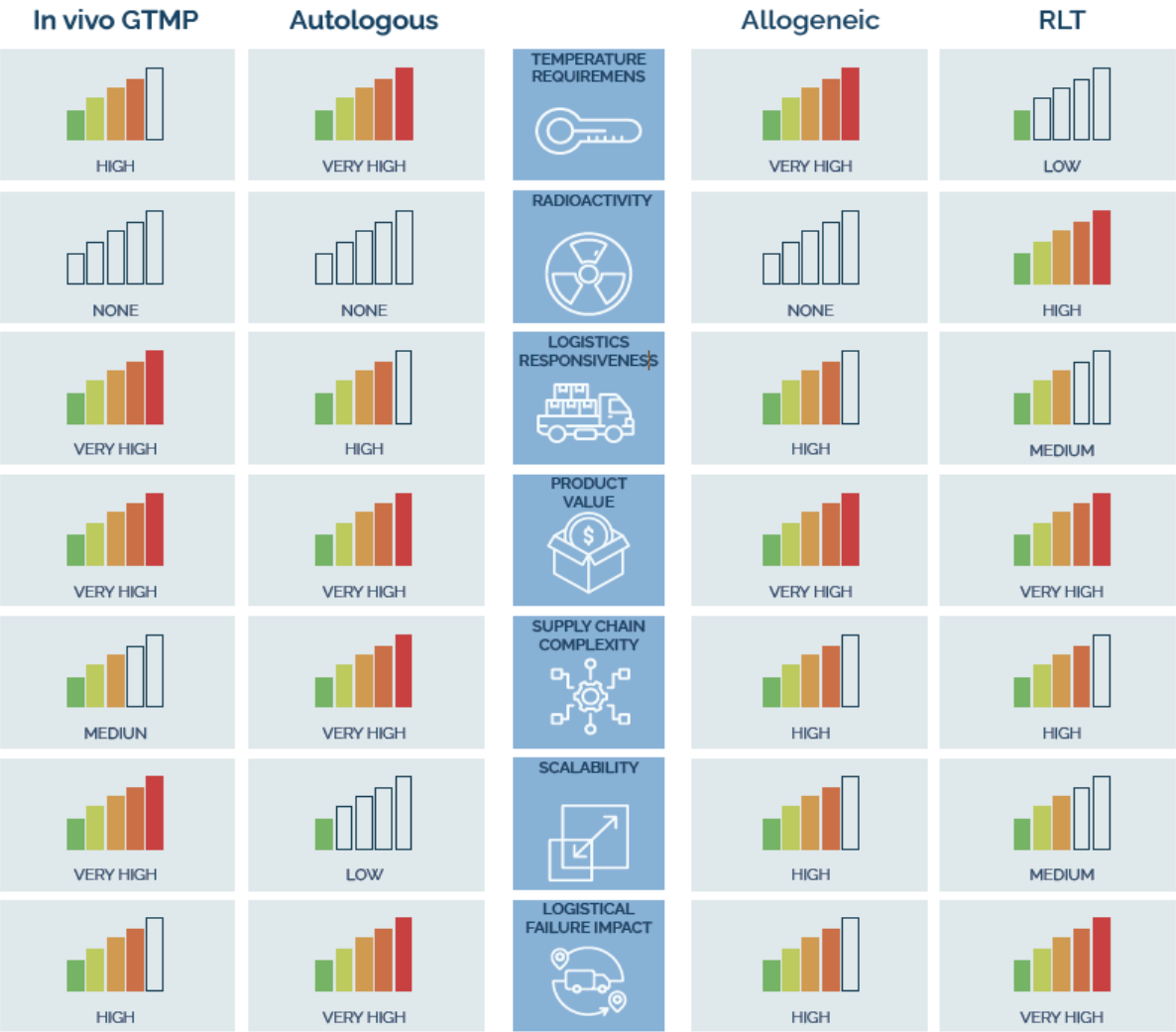
Jace, now 6, was born with a rare genetic condition that causes blindness

By [Vanessa Etienne](#) | Published on February 21, 2025 02:59PM EST

Logistical Challenges

Supply Chain	 Manufacturer	 Freight Forwarder	 Customs	 Ground Handler	 Airline	 Ground Handler	 Customs	 Freight Forwarder	
Challenges		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival delays - Truck prioritization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custom delays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loading/off-loading issues - Temperature issues - Compliance & screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temperature issues on tarmac - Safety and security - Fleet utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loading/off-loading issues - Temperature issues - Compliance & screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custom delays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival delays - Truck prioritization 	

Logistical Challenges



Source: Pharma.Aero (december 2024), Precision Therapy Logistics - White Paper



Logistical Challenges



PRODUCT

No possible (f.e
autologous therapies

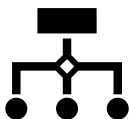
INVENTORY

Strict temperature
control required

PRODUCT
STABILITY

Very short shelf life
and lead times.

SHELF LIFE



PROCESS

Limited
standardization and
harmonization

STANDARDIZATION

Complex processes
and quality
management

QUALITY

Transparency and
real-time visibility
often lacking

TRACKING



PEOPLE

Lack of knowledge
among customs and
logistics personnel

KNOWLEDGE

Training needed in
cold chain
management

TRAINING

24/7 availability is
required

RESPONSIVENESS



Precision Therapy Logistics Gateway

*“The **Precision Therapy Logistics Gateway (PTLG)** project aims to develop a **secure, reliable, and standardized logistics chain** for innovative precision therapies, such as cell and gene therapies. By designing and validating specific standards, the initiative seeks to establish an **international benchmark** for the transport of patient-critical, fragile, and high-value medical shipments.”*

Project partners



Funding partners



Precision Therapy Logistics Gateway

3 Phases

- **Phase 1:** Exploratory analysis of the current situation and risks (COMPLETED)
- **Phase 2a:** In-depth, evidence-based analysis of the current situation and risks
- **Phase 2b:** Development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and an internationally recognized transport label
- **Phase 3:** Development of a physical Precision Therapy Logistics Gateway



Ecosystems



SOP Groups

SOP Consortium

Expert Group:

Neutral or non-commercial actors



SOP Advisory board:

Experts from governmental and regulatory agencies, leading international airports, legal and ethical professionals, international networks, patient organizations, and customs.



SOP User Group (to be confirmed):

Representatives from the operational side of the supply chain, including logistics providers, transportation companies, handling agents, air carriers, ATMP manufacturers,...



Logistical Sector Needs

Takeways SOP groups and pharmae.aero PTLG workshop



A standardized process

While the industry acknowledges the need for a new logistics plan to manage ATMPs, a harmonised framework is still lacking



Clear shipment requirements

Misalignments occur when shippers provide an incomplete or inaccurate view of the logistics needs of their products



Stakeholder training

Thorough operator training helps avoid potential downstream delays (such as at customs) and ensures swift response to any deviations.



Overcoming customs challenges

Efficient customs clearance continues to be a common challenge, partly because there are no product codes specifically designated for ATMPs



An international ATMP shipping label

To enhance the speed and safety of ATMP shipments, a standardized label will highlight their critical nature throughout the logistics process

Key Takeaways

- **Precision therapies are the future** of pharmaceutical healthcare
- High **demanding logistics requirements** are in place for these products
- A broad and **collaborative ecosystem** is vital
- Logistical excellence is hindered by **insufficient standardization and lack of knowledge**

