CHASING REGENERATIVE MEDICINE IN TRANSPLANTED LUNGS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USING KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS AS A MODEL

HABBA MAHAL [1], DR KIM SOLEZ [1]

INTRODUCTION

The Disparity:
Regenerative strategies in transplant medicine have seen significant progress in kidney transplantation, yet remain limited in lung allografts.

The Lung Challenge:
The lung's unique immunologic microenvironment and vulnerability to local stressors (infection, aspiration, pollutants) create a hostile landscape for sustained recovery.

Systemic Compounding:
Graft repair mechanisms are further impaired by systemic modifiers, including metabolic dysfunction, hemodynamic instability, and recipient frailty.

THE KIDNEY AS A BIOLOGICAL PROXY

Experimental Accessibility:
As a better-understood system, the kidney serves as a model for studying graft remodelling and the induction of immune tolerance.

Shared Biological Principles:

- Extracellular Matrix (ECM) Signalling: Understanding the scaffold of graft adaptation.
- Endothelial-Immune Crosstalk: Mapping the cellular dialogue during rejection and repair.
- Reparative Cell Recruitment: Identifying common pathways for host-derived regeneration.

Comparative Feature	Kidney: The Protected Microenvironment	Lung: The Hostile Microenvironment
Environmental Interface	**Closed System:** Shielded from direct external insults; primarily hematogenous interface.	**Open System:** Continuous exposure to ambient air, pollutants, and external pathogens.
Local Stressors	**Limited:** Regulated internal environment with predictable physiological cues.	**High-Intensity:** Vulnerable to infection, particulate matter, and gastric aspiration.
Systemic Modifiers	Metabolic dysfunction and hemodynamic instability.	Compounded by frailty, metabolic stress, and hemodynamic dysfunction.
Immunologic Tone	Well-characterized; established models for inducing immune tolerance.	Unique and hyper-reactive; constant antigenic priming from the environment.
Regenerative Status	**Advanced:** Significant progress in remodeling and sustained graft recovery.	**Limited:** Current strategies are restricted by the complexity of local "insults."
Clinical Modeling	Experimentally accessible; clearer biological "signal" vs. "noise."	High complexity; biological repair signals are often obscured by injury.

AI-DRIVEN MODELLING & TRANSLATION

The Mediator: AI serves as the bridge between biological complexity and actionable intervention design.

Predictive Capabilities:

- Integrating biological, environmental, and clinical determinants of graft adaptation.
- Modeling the "Fibrotic Threshold": Predicting when structural decline transitions from reversible injury to self-propagating fibrosis.
- Translational Pipeline: Leveraging kidney-derived regenerative insights to inform novel therapeutic strategies specifically tailored for the lung's microenvironment.

RECIPIENT FRAILTY: A CRITICAL MODIFIER

- **The Vulnerability Factor:** Frail recipients often face accelerated graft dysfunction and diminished therapeutic response.
- **Precision Application:** Understanding the dual nature of regenerative strategies, ensuring they mitigate rather than exacerbate frailty-associated vulnerabilities.
- **Patient-Centred Focus:** Aligning biological interventions with the systemic reality of the recipient to ensure long-term applicability.

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- **Synthesized Strategy:** Positioning kidney-to-lung translation through an AI lens accelerates the development of viable regenerative therapies.
- **Interdisciplinary Synergy:** Bridging transplant medicine, computational biology, and tissue engineering.
- **Operationalization:** Moving from conceptual frameworks to refined, data-driven clinical roadmaps for allograft maintenance and repair.