

28th TRCCC Annual Meeting Detailed Agenda
February 25-27, 2026
Forging Ahead in the Era of Immunotherapy

Wednesday February 25, 2026

11:00am – 7:00pm Registration Hours

Annual Meeting Commences

2:00-2:10pm	Welcome Remarks – Jonathan, Alex & Jos
2:10-2:40pm	Introduction & Case CCC Director's Remark: Gary Schwartz, MD (Case CCC)
2:40-4:00pm	Plenary Session I: Immuno-Oncology Mediated Toxicity & TLS Chair:
2:40-3:10	Speaker 1: Nirali Shah, MD (POB/NCI/NIH) Title: <i>Bedside-to-Bench: The role of bedside clinician in investigating novel CAR T-cell toxicities</i> Introduction by:
3:10-3:35	Speaker 2: Tullia Bruno, PhD (UPMC) Title: <i>Harnessing B cells and tertiary lymphoid structures for improved anti-tumor immunity</i> Introduction by:
3:35-4:00	Speaker 3: Andy Gunderson, PhD (OSU) Title: <i>The function of tertiary lymphoid structures in cancer</i> Introduction by:

4:00-4:20pm Break and hotel check in

4:20pm-6pm Breakout session Oral Presentation Blocks 1-5

6:00-6:30pm Welcome Reception

6:30-8:30pm Poster Session 1 – Poster #1-60 (Odd # 6:30-7:30; Even # 7:30-8:30)

- Scavenger Hunt –

7-8pm Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday February 26, 2026

8am-7pm Registration Hours

8am-9:40am Breakout Session Oral Presentations Blocks 6-10

9:40am-10am Break

10am-11:25am Plenary Session II: Tumor Microenvironment & Microbiome

Chair:

10:00-10:25 Speaker: **Marlies Meisel, PhD (UPMC)**
Title: *Lifestyle as an adjuvant: Mechanisms that enhance cancer treatment*
Introduction by:

10:25-11:00 Speaker: **Natalie Silver, MD (Case CCC)**
Title: *Intratumoral bacteria as drivers of tumor immunosuppression and immunotherapy resistance*
Introduction by:

11:00-11:25 Speaker: **Jiahe Li, PhD (UMich)**
Title: *Engineering and harnessing microbes to solve complex problems in biology and medicine*
Introduction by:

11:30am-12:30pm Lunch with the Advocates (Heather Gibson / sponsorship?)

12:40pm-2:40pm Emerging Science Working Group (ESWG) (*confirmed)**ESWG A: Antigenic Targets (Melenhorst; Shah / Host:)**

Nik Sourakis*	<i>From cold to hot: Reprogramming MHC-I</i>	Penn
	<i>Antigen presentation to create synthetic</i>	
	<i>Immune responses against pediatric cancers</i>	
Rachel Abbotts	<i>Viral mimicry / TP53 (TBA)</i>	WVU
Leonid Cherkasky*	<i>Armoring CAR T cells for efficiency in</i>	Roswell
	<i>solid tumors</i>	
Mohammad Dezfulian	<i>Antigen landscape in TME (TBA)</i>	Penn
Mark Yarchoan	<i>Therapeutic cancer vaccines for liver cancer</i>	JHU

ESWG B: Cell Fate & Function in TME (Bruno / Mace)

Michael Wilson*	<i>KMT2 proteins as regulators of</i>	Karmanos
	<i>Immunogenicity in endometrial cancer</i>	
Hong Han	<i>Decoding complexity to achieve Precision:</i>	McMaster
	<i>multilayer cell fate control in cancer</i>	
Rebecca Obeng*	<i>Stem-like CD8 T cells in TLSs</i>	Case CCC

Nyall London*	<i>Rare sinonasal malignancies: the tumor immune microenvironment, animal models, and translational advances</i>	JHU
<u>ESWG C: Microbiome & Metabolites (Miesel /)</u>		
Molly Kledzik	Microbiome (TBA)	WVU
Abby Overacre*	<i>A delicate balance: microbes driving Immunotherapy and immune related adverse events</i>	Pitt
Donnele Daley*	<i>The influence of gut dysbiosis on pancreatic inflammation and oncogenesis</i>	UMich
Blake Wilde	<i>Metabolism & oncometabolites driven CA</i>	Roswell
<u>ESWG D: Nucleotides, Small Molecules & Immune Response (S. Huang /)</u>		
Eunhee Yi*	<i>Genomic plasticity of cancer cells in the Tumor microenvironment</i>	MSU
Irina Elcheva	TBA	Penn State
Isaac Harris	<i>Understanding the roles of antioxidants in health and disease</i>	Rochester
Ileana Soto Mauldin*	<i>A novel immunotherapy to enhance T-cell infiltration in triple-negative breast cancer and melanoma</i>	UVA
Jennier Jacob*	<i>Utilizing outbred mice to identify oncogene Regulatory genes driving tumor onset and Treatment response</i>	MSU

2:40pm-3:40pm	Special Topic Workshops
	1) Primer on Cell Therapy – from Concept to First-in-Human [Christopher Choi (Roswell); Jos Melenhorst (Case CCC)]
	2) Lay abstract workshop with advocate [Heather Gibson (Karmanos); Kristin Anderson (UVA); Maria Castro (UMich)]

3:40pm-4:30pm	Break
4:30pm-6:00pm	Breakout Session Oral Presentation Blocks 11-15
6:00pm-6:30pm	Dinner buffet
6:30pm-8:30pm	Poster Session 2 – Poster 61-120 (odd # 6:30-7:30; even # 7:30-8:30)

- Scavenger Hunt –

8:00pm Organizers' Dinner

Friday February 27, 2026

8:00am-12pm Registration Hours

7:15am-8:15am	1) Organizers-Sponsors Breakfast 2) Mentorship & Career Guidance Dialogue Breakfast
8:15am-8:45am	Meet the Editors – Journal of ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC) Speakers: Michael Lotze, Editor-In-Chief Kristin Anderson, Social Media Editor Title: <i>How to write a great research paper, and get it accepted by a good journal</i> Introduced by:

8:45am-9:50am	Trainee Spotlight (15 min talks by postdocs) – SITC sponsorship Speaker 1: Speaker 2: Speaker 3: Speaker 4: Chairs:
9:50am-10:20am	Sponsor / Exhibitor Presentations Speaker: G-Rex Representative Title: <i>Leading CGT from Good to Great through Quality by Design</i> Introduced by:

10:20am-10:45am Break

10:45am-11:50am	Plenary Session III: Optimizing Cellular Therapies for Cancer Chair: Kristin Anderson
10:45-11:15	Speaker 1: Jos Melenhorst, PhD (Case CCC) Title: <i>Engineering from the Source: T cell differentiation and polarization as gatekeepers of CAR T outcomes</i> Introduction by:
11:15-11:35	Speaker 2: Stan Huang, PhD (OSU) Title: <i>Cancer hijacks mitochondrial function in macrophages to power immune escape</i> Introduction by:
11:35-12:00	Speaker 3: Qiwei Wang, PhD (UVA) Title: <i>Targeting tumor-TAM interactions to advance immuno-oncology in triple-negative breast cancer</i> Introduction by:

12:00pm – 1:20pm Luncheon
2027 TRCCC Annual Meeting – McMaster
Awards / Prizes Announcements

1:20pm-1:30pm Closing Ceremony
Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD

U Pitt
President, TRCCC 2026-2027

See you in 2027!
