

28<sup>th</sup> 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  
(*Exhibit Hall Registration*)

**28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING COMMENCES**

2:00-2:10pm ( <i>Exhibit Hall</i> )	Welcome Remarks: Jonathan Bramson & Alex Huang
2:10-2:40pm ( <i>Exhibit Hall</i> )	Case CCC Director's Remark: Gary Schwartz, MD (Case CCC) Introduced by: Jos Melenhorst      Timekeeper: Indrani Das
2:40-4:00pm ( <i>Exhibit Hall</i> )	<b>Plenary Session I: Immuno-Oncology Mediated Toxicity &amp; TLS</b> Chair: Scott Gerber      Timekeeper: Jude Franklin
2:40-3:10	Nirali Shah, MD (POB/NCI/NIH) <b>Keynote</b> <i>Bedside-to-Bench: The role of the bedside clinician in investigating novel CAR T-cell toxicities</i> Introduced by: Claire Fritz
3:10-3:35	Tullia Bruno, PhD (UPMC) <i>Harnessing B cells and tertiary lymphoid structures for improved anti-tumor immunity</i> Introduced by: Gustavo Borjas
3:35-4:00	Andy Gunderson, PhD (OSU) <i>The function of tertiary lymphoid structures in cancer</i> Introduced by: Alex Crane



4:00-4:20pm      Break and Hotel Check-in

4:20pm-6pm      Breakout Oral Presentation Sessions 1-6  
(*Sunburst / Snowflake / Wintergreen / Seasons 2-3 / Seasons 4-5 / Chestnut*)



6:00-8:00pm  
(*Exhibit Hall*)

Welcome Reception

6:30-8:30pm  
(*Exhibit Annex*)

**Poster Session I** – Poster #1-84 (Odd # 6:30-7:30; Even # 7:30-8:30)  
& Scavenger Hunt

7-8pm  
(*Hemlock Room*)

Board of Directors Meeting

## Thursday February 26, 2026

8am-7pm Registration Hours  
(*Exhibit Hall Registration*)

8am-9:40am Breakout Oral Presentation Sessions 7-11  
(*Sunburst / Snowflake / Wintergreen / Seasons 2-3 / Seasons 4-5*)



9:40am-10am Break  
(*Exhibit Hall*)

10am-11:15am ( <i>Exhibit Hall</i> )	<b>Plenary Session II: Tumor Microenvironment &amp; Microbiome</b>
	Chair: Grace Chen Timekeeper: Gustavo Borjas
10:00-10:25	Marlies Meisel, PhD (UPMC) <i>Lifestyle as an adjuvant: Mechanisms that enhance cancer treatment</i> Introduced by: Emily Blaum
10:25-10:50	Natalie Silver, MD (Case CCC) <i>Intratumoral bacteria as drivers of tumor immunosuppression and immunotherapy resistance</i> Introduced by: Dan Kingsley
10:50-11:15	Jiahe Li, PhD (UMich) <i>Engineering and harnessing microbes to solve complex problems in biology and medicine</i> Introduced by: Javier Urcuyo Acevedo



11:20am-12:30pm Lunch with the Advocates (Heather Gibson)  
(*Grand Ballroom*)



12:40pm-2:40pm **Emerging Science Working Group (ESWG)**

<b>ESWG A: Antigenic Targets</b> ( <i>Seasons 3-4</i> )	(Chairs: Jos Melenhorst & Nirali Shah) (Timekeepers: Claire Fritz & Jude Franklin)
Nik Sgourakis	<i>From cold to hot: Reprogramming MHC-I</i> Penn <i>Antigen presentation to create synthetic</i> <i>Immune responses against pediatric cancers</i>
Leonid Cherkasky	<i>Armoring CAR T cells for efficiency in</i> Roswell <i>solid tumors</i>
Mohammad Dezfulian	<i>Charting the uncharted: A comprehensive</i> Penn <i>atlas of T cell antigen recognition in cancer</i>
Mark Yarchoan	<i>Targeted immunotherapy for an</i> JHU <i>"undruggable" cancer driver</i>

**ESWG B: Cell Fate & Function in TME**  
(*Sunburst*)

Michael Wilson	(Chairs: Tullia Bruno & Tom Mace) (Timekeepers: Indrani Das & Gustavo Borjas)
	<i>KMT2 proteins as regulators of</i> Karmanos

Jennifer Jacob	<i>Immunogenicity in endometrial cancer Utilizing outbred mice to identify oncogene regulatory genes driving tumor onset and Treatment response</i>	MSU
Rebecca Obeng Heather Gibson	<i>Stem-like CD8 T cells in immune niches The influence of genetic ancestry on the lung cancer microenvironment and Immunotherapy efficacy</i>	Case CCC Karmanos
Nyall London	<i>Rare sinonasal malignancies: the tumor immune microenvironment, animal models, and translational advances</i>	JHU

#### **ESWG C: Microbiome & Metabolites**

*(Snowflake)*

Molly Kledzik	<i>Evaluating the gut microbiome in metastatic colorectal cancer patients in Appalachia</i>	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>Metabolic states as drivers of tumor initiation and plasticity</i>	Roswell
Brian Altman	<i>BMAL1 and circadian rhythms support robust immune signaling in lung cancer</i>	Rochester

#### **ESWG D: Nucleotides, Small Molecules & Immune Response**

*(Wintergreen)*

Eunhee Yi	<i>Genomic plasticity of cancer cells in the Tumor microenvironment</i>	MSU
Irina Elcheva	<i>Oncofetal RNA-binding proteins of IGF2BP family function at the regulatory intersection of cell cycle and immune signaling</i>	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
Rachel Abbotts	<i>Viral mimicry: Maximizing immunotherapy responses in NSCLC</i>	WVU

2:40pm-3:40pm

*(Exhibit Hall)*

#### **Special Topic Workshops**

1) ***Primer on Cell Therapy – from Concept to First-in-Human*** [Christopher Choi (Roswell); Jos Melenhorst (Case CCC)]

(Grand Ballroom) 2) **Lay Abstract Workshop with Advocate** [Heather Gibson (Karmanos); Kristin Anderson (UVA); Maria Castro (UMich)]

3:40pm-4:20pm Break  
(Exhibit Hall)

4:20pm-6:00pm Breakout Oral Presentation Sessions 12-16  
(Sunburst / Snowflake / Wintergreen / Seasons 2-3 / Seasons 4-5)



6:00pm-8:00pm Dinner Buffet  
(Exhibit Hall)

6:30pm-8:30pm Poster Session II – Poster 85-191 (odd # 6:30-7:30; even # 7:30-8:30)  
(Exhibit Annex)

– Scavenger Hunt –

8:00pm-10:00pm Organizers' Dinner (by invitation only)

## Friday February 27, 2026

8:00am-12pm Registration Hours  
(Exhibit Hall Registration)

7:00am-8:00am Organizers-Sponsors Breakfast  
(Slopeside Dining Room)

8:00am-8:30am **Meet the Editors – Journal of ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC)**  
(Exhibit Hall)  
Michael Lotze, Editor-In-Chief  
Kristin Anderson, Associate Editor for the Reviews Section  
*How to write a great research paper, and get it accepted by a good journal*

8:30am-9:40am **Trainee Spotlight - SITC sponsorship**  
(Exhibit Hall)  
Chairs: Rebecca Obeng & Heather Gibson  
Timekeeper: Jude Franklin



8:35-8:50 Anthony Sloan CaseCCC  
*Platelets regulate glioblastoma growth and immunity via sex-dependent PAR4-Erb signaling*

8:50-9:05 Dipyaman Patra UPMC  
*Lifestyle induced susceptibility to immune-related adverse events (LISA)*

9:05-9:20 Sung Hee Choi CaseCCC  
*TGF- $\beta$  regulates oncogene expression and the immune microenvironment*

9:20-9:30	<i>in Osteosarcoma</i> Tomomi Sanomachi <i>CLDN18.2-targeted CAR T with potent antitumor activity in GI and other solid tumors</i>	Penn
9:30-9:40	Beatriz Oliveira <i>Preclinical assessment of gene targets associated with improved CAR T-cell efficacy</i>	CaseCCC
9:40am-10:15am <i>(Exhibit Hall)</i>	<b>Sponsor / Exhibitor Presentations</b> Chair: Dan Powell	Timekeeper: Indrani Das
9:40-9:55	Josh Ludwig (Scale Ready / Black Diamond Sponsorship) <i>Leading CGT from Good to Great through Quality by Design</i>	
9:55-10:05	Robert Baiocchi (Sobi / Platinum Sponsorship) <i>Targeting IFNg in hyperinflammatory syndromes</i>	
10:05-10:15	Alex Chenchik (Collecta / Platinum Sponsorship) <i>Next-generation immune profiling: Tracking antigen-driven clonotypes</i>	
10:15am-10:45am <i>(Exhibit Hall)</i>	Break	
10:45am-12:05pm <i>(Exhibit Hall)</i>	<b>Plenary Session III: Optimizing Cellular Therapies for Cancer</b> Chair: Scott Olejniczak	Timekeeper: Alex Crane
10:45-11:15	<b>Jos Melenhorst, PhD (Case CCC)</b> <i>Engineering from the Source: T cell differentiation and polarization as gatekeepers of CAR T outcomes</i> Introduced by: Javier Urcuyo Acevedo	<b>Keynote</b>
11:15-11:40	<b>Stan Huang, PhD (OSU)</b> <i>Cancer hijacks mitochondrial function in macrophages to power immune escape</i> Introduced by: Dan Kingsley	
11:40-12:05	<b>Qiwei Wang, PhD (UVA)</b> <i>Targeting tumor-TAM interactions to advance immuno-oncology in triple-negative breast cancer</i> Introduced by: Indrani Das	
12:10pm – 1:20pm <i>(Grand Ballroom)</i>	Luncheon 2027 TRCCC Annual Meeting – McMaster AAI Awards Announcements	Jonathan Bramson TRCCC Team
1:20pm-1:30pm <i>(Grand Ballroom)</i>	Closing Ceremony Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD	President, TRCCC 2026-2027

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*See you in 2027!*

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