

Wednesday February 25, 2026

28TH ANNUAL MEETING COMMENCES



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

7-8pm Board of Directors Meeting
(Hemlock Room)

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 **Plenary Session II: Tumor Microenvironment & Microbiome**
(Exhibit Hall) Chair: Grace Chen Timekeeper: Gustavo Borjas

10:00-10:25 Marlies Meisel, PhD (UPMC)
Lifestyle as an adjuvant: Mechanisms that enhance cancer treatment
Introduced by: Emily Blaum

10:25-10:50 Natalie Silver, MD (Case CCC)
Intratumoral bacteria as drivers of tumor immunosuppression and immunotherapy resistance
Introduced by: Dan Kingsley

10:50-11:15 Jiahe Li, PhD (UMich)
Engineering and harnessing microbes to solve complex problems in biology and medicine
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)**

ESWG A: Antigenic Targets
(Seasons 3-4)

(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)

(Chairs: Tullia Bruno & Tom Mace)
(Timekeepers: Indrani Das & Gustavo Borjas)

Michael Wilson	<i>KMT2 proteins as regulators of</i>	Karmanos
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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</i> The influence of genetic ancestry on the lung cancer microenvironment and Immunotherapy efficacy	Case CCC Karmanos
Nyall London	<i>Rare sinonasal malignancies: the tumor immune microenvironment, animal models, and translational advances</i>	JHU
<u>ESWG C: Microbiome & Metabolites</u> (Snowflake)		
	(Chairs: Marlies Meisel & Natalie Silver) (Timekeeper: Alex Crane & Emily Blaum)	
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
<u>ESWG D: Nucleotides, Small Molecules & Immune Response</u> (Wintergreen)		
	(Chairs: Stan Huang & Andy Gunderson) (Timekeeper: Javier Acevedo & Dan Kingsley)	
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

Special Topic Workshops

(Exhibit Hall)

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

4:20pm-6:00pm (Sunburst / Snowflake / Wintergreen / Seasons 2-3 / Seasons 4-5)	Breakout Oral Presentation Sessions 12-16	
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6:00pm-8:00pm Dinner Buffet
(Exhibit Hall)

6:30pm-8:30pm (Exhibit Annex)	Poster Session II – Poster 85-191 (odd # 6:30-7:30; even # 7:30-8:30)
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– 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 (Slopeside Dining Room)	Organizers-Sponsors Breakfast
8:00am-8:30am (Exhibit Hall)	Meet the Editors – Journal of ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC) Michael Lotze, Editor-In-Chief Kristin Anderson, Associate Editor for the Reviews Section <i>How to write a great research paper, and get it accepted by a good journal</i>

8:30am-9:40am (Exhibit Hall)	Trainee Spotlight - SITC sponsorship Chairs: Rebecca Obeng & Heather Gibson Timekeeper: Jude Franklin	
8:35-8:50	Anthony Sloan <i>Platelets regulate glioblastoma growth and immunity via sex-dependent PAR4-Erb signaling</i>	CaseCCC
8:50-9:05	Dipyaman Patra <i>Lifestyle induced susceptibility to immune-related adverse events (LISA)</i>	UPMC
9:05-9:20	Sung Hee Choi <i>TGF-β regulates oncogene expression and the immune microenvironment</i>	CaseCCC

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 (Exhibit Hall)	Sponsor / Exhibitor Presentations 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 (Cellecta / Platinum Sponsorship) <i>Next-generation immune profiling: Tracking antigen-driven clonotypes</i>	

10:15am-10:45am Break
(Exhibit Hall)

10:45am-12:05pm (Exhibit Hall)	Plenary Session III: Optimizing Cellular Therapies for Cancer Chair: Scott Olejniczak Timekeeper: Alex Crane	
10:45-11:15	Jos Melenhorst, PhD (Case CCC) <i>Engineering from the Source: T cell differentiation and polarization as gatekeepers of CAR T outcomes</i> Introduced by: Javier Urcuyo Acevedo	Keynote
11:15-11:40	Stan Huang, PhD (OSU) <i>Cancer hijacks mitochondrial function in macrophages to power immune escape</i> Introduced by: Dan Kingsley	
11:40-12:05	Qiwei Wang, PhD (UVA) <i>Targeting tumor-TAM interactions to advance immuno-oncology in triple-negative breast cancer</i> Introduced by: Indrani Das	

12:10pm – 1:20pm Luncheon
(Grand Ballroom) 2027 TRCCC Annual Meeting – McMaster Jonathan Bramson
AAI Awards Announcements TRCCC Team

1:20pm-1:30pm Closing Ceremony
(Grand Ballroom) Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD President, TRCCC 2026-2027

See you in 2027!
