



Forging Ahead in the Era of Immunotherapy

Wednesday February 25, 2026			
Director Address	Gary Schwartz, MD	Case CCC	Welcome Address
Plenary Session 1	Immuno-Oncology Mediated Toxicity		
	Nirali Shah, MD	NCI / NIH	Bedside-to-Bench: The role of bedside clinician in investigating novel CAR T-cell toxicities
	Tullia Bruno, PhD	UPMC	Harnessing B cells and tertiary lymphoid structures for improved anti-tumor immunity
	Andy Gunderson, PhD	OSU	The function of tertiary lymphoid structures in cancer
Breakout Session	Oral Presentations #1		
Poster Session	Poster Session 1A/1B		
Thursday February 26, 2026			
Breakout Session	Oral Presentations #2		
Plenary Session 2	Tumor Microenvironment & Metabolites		
	Marlies Meisel, PhD	UPMC	Lifestyle as an adjuvant: Mechanisms that enhance cancer treatment
	Natalie Silver, MD	Case CCC	Intra-tumoral bacteria as drivers of tumor immunosuppression and immunotherapy resistance
	Jiahe Li, PhD	Univ. Michigan	Engineering and harnessing microbes to solve complex problems in biology and medicine
Advocacy	Luncheon		
Breakout Session	Emerging Science Working Group (ESWG) (concurrent sessions with member institutional faculty) A: Antigenic Targets C: ESWG C: Microbiome & Metabolites B: Cell Fate & Function Nucleotides D: Small Molecules & Immune Responses		
	1) Getting to Phase I/II: A Practical Cell Therapy Manufacturing Primer (Christopher Choi, Roswell Park; Jos Melenhorst, Case CCC) 2) Drafting Effective Lay Abstracts with Advocates (Heather Gibson, Karmanos; Kristin Anderson, UVA; Maria Castro, UMich)		
Breakout Session	Oral Presentations #3		
Poster Session	Poster Session 2A/2B		
Friday February 27, 2026			
Special Dialogue	Organizers-Sponsors Breakfast & Mentorship & Career Guidance Dialogue Breakfast		
Meet-the-Editors	How to write a great research paper, and get it accepted by a good journal (Michael Lotze & Kristin Anderson)		
Trainee Spotlight	TBA		
Sponsor / Exhibitor Presentations	Leading CGT from Good to Great through Quality by Design (G-Rex)		
Plenary Session 3	Optimizing Cellular Therapies for Cancer		
	Jos Melenhorst, PhD	Case CCC	Engineering from the Source: T cell differentiation and polarization as gatekeepers of CAR T outcomes
	Stan Huang, PhD	OSU	Cancer hijacks mitochondrial function in macrophages to power immune escape
	Qiwei Wang, PhD	UVA	Targeting tumor-TAM interactions to advance Immuno-Oncology in TNBC
Closing Remarks	Case CCC / McMaster		

*** See You Soon! ***