



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
	Tulia Bruno, PhD	UPMC	TBA
	Andy Gunderson, PhD	OSU	TBA
Breakout Session	Oral Presentations #1		
Poster Session	Poster Session 1A/1B		
Thursday February 26, 2026			
Breakout Session	Oral Presentations #2		
Plenary Session 2	Optimizing Cellular Therapies for Cancer		
	Marlies Miesel, PhD	UPMC	Lifestyle as an adjuvant: Mechanisms that enhance cancer treatment
	Natalie Silver, MD	Case CCC	Intratumoral bacteria as drivers of tumor immunosuppression and immunotherapy resistance
	Jiahe Li, PhD	U Michigan	TBA
Advocacy	Luncheon		
Breakout Session	Emerging Science Working Group (concurrent sessions with member institutional faculty) 1) ESWG A: Antigenic Targets 2) ESWG B: Cell Fate & Function 3) ESWG C: Microbiome & Metabolites 4) ESWG D: Nucleotides, Small Molecules & Immune Responses		
Special Topic Workshops	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 #2		
Poster Session	Poster Session 2A/2B		
Friday February 27, 2026			
Trainee Spotlight	TBA		
Sponsor / Exhibitor Presentations	TBA		
Plenary Session 3	Tumor Microenvironment & Metabolites		
	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
	Mark Yarchoan, MD	JHU	TBA
Award, Prizes & Closing Remarks	Case CCC / McMaster		

*** See You Soon! ***