



# CAHON UPDATE

## CAHON Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

By CAHON



Present were all members of the CAHON Board (from left to right): 1<sup>st</sup> row: Drs. Michael Wang, DeLong Liu, RuiRong Yuan, Jeffrey Ye and Jing-Zhou Hou; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Drs. Zihai Li, Richard Xu, Weijing Sun, Ke Liu, Wenru Song and David Chang.

After one year of meticulous planning and intense work, spearheaded by the conference chairperson Dr. DeLong Liu, the Chinese American Hematologist Oncologist Network ([www.CAHON.org](http://www.CAHON.org)) celebrated the special day with a daylong symposium on the latest developments in the fields of hematology and oncology. Publicized as the Second New York Oncology Forum (Click [here](#) for meeting

program), the event took place in the Sheraton La Guardia East in Flushing, New York on October 3, 2015.

The highly anticipated meeting attracted clinicians from academia and private practices, clinical fellows, nurses, pharmacists, medical students as well as laboratory scientists working in the related areas.

### #1 NYOF program

[The NY Oncology Forum Program, chaired by Dr. DeLong Liu](#)

### #2 Announcement of 2015 CAHON Awardees

[Outstanding Service Award](#)  
[Lifetime Achievement Award](#)  
[Junior Investigator Award](#)

### #3 2015 CAHON Annual Meeting Presentation

[Reflects the achievements in the first decade and aims for higher goals in years to come](#)

*Bridge the gap between China and the United States and advance the knowledge of hematology and oncology*

## The future of cancer care and immunotherapy took center stage in the day program

Despite the storm brought to the large part of the East Coast states by the Hurricane Joaquin, more than 150 health care professionals from around the country participated in the event, including 70 CAHON members, all the board members of CAHON, and a majority of the current CAHON executive team.

The meeting was kick-started by two keynote speeches. Dr. Peter Yu, the immediate-past president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), presented his vision on the future of cancer care by focusing on precision

medicine, cancer genetics, immunotherapy and cancer care delivery that is measured by best quality of care and high affordability. He also recognized the roles of CAHON in the effort of bridging the gap between China and the rest of the world in high quality patient care in the last ten years.

The second keynote lecture was delivered by the recipient of the inaugural CAHON Lifetime Achievement Award, **Dr. Lieping Chen**. Dr. Chen is a pioneer in exploiting the PD1 immune checkpoint pathway for cancer immunotherapy



Keynote speakers Drs. Lieping Chen (second left) and Peter Yu (second right) with the session chairs Drs. Wenru Song and Zihai Li.

and is the discoverer of the ligand PD-L1 (B7-H1) as well as a strong supporter to CAHON's missions in promoting Sino-US exchange in oncology and hematology.



*Dr. Lieping Chen, the recipient of the Inaugural CAHON Lifetime Achievement Award, answers questions from the audience on the present and future of cancer immunotherapy.*

In a series of papers in Nature Medicine from 1999 to 2002, Dr. Chen's group discovered PD-L1, and established the principle of blocking PD-L1 for treatment of established cancer. He later played instrumental roles for the first in-human study of blocking PD1 for treatment of advanced cancers. Dr. Chen chronicled the ongoing renaissance of cancer immunology, highlighted the need for better biomarkers for predicating clinical responses to immunotherapy and portrayed a bright future of combination immunotherapy as a main modality for treatment of a majority of cancers.

The day program was jam-packed with 10 sessions featuring active CAHON members to highlight the latest developments in the fields of hematology and oncology, including hematological malignancy, GI cancers, lung cancer, head and neck cancer and



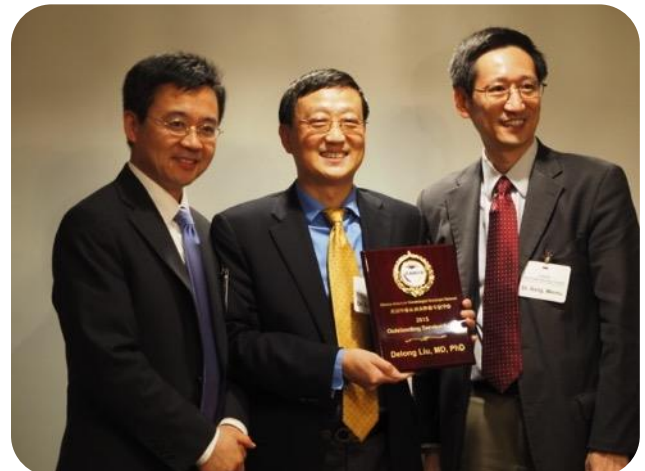
## CAHON reflects its accomplishments of the last 10 years and aims higher goal in years to come

neuroendocrine tumors. In addition, drug development and molecular diagnosis were discussed.

Sessions focused on career development, medical education, as well as opportunities for CAHON members to consult and practice medicine in China, triggered intense discussion and interests. Throughout the day, the enthusiasm and excitement permeated every conference rooms and hallway. The authoritative deliveries of the cutting

edge contents in hematology and oncology by CAHON members were greeted with appreciation, lively discussions and the desire to

extend the discussions beyond the time allowed. CAHON's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration culminated in the evening during the Annual Business Meeting and the Award Ceremony. The CAHON president Dr. Jing-Zhou Hou started the



*Dr. Delong Liu (center) receives the CAHON Outstanding Service Award.*

evening by inviting each and every meeting participant to introduce themselves to the entire group. The introductions lasted a little longer than intended, simply because there were so many accomplishments and career



*Dr. Lieping Chen (center) receives the CAHON Lifetime Achievement Award.*

highlights by CAHON members. It also reinforced the notion that CAHON is an organization with members enjoying extensive research experience, often equipped with additional Ph.D. or other post-graduate trainings in major medical centers around the United States. Repeatedly, members stood up and expressed their desire to volunteer and help to move CAHON to the next level. In addition, more than thirty written surveys were turned in with many wonderful ideas on how to help members and strengthen the organization.

Dr. Wenru Song, the current chair of the CAHON Board of Directors, highlighted the [journey of the last 10 years of CAHON](#). In Feb 2014, an open letter by 23 founding CAHON members was written and distributed to at the time still very few Chinese hematologists and oncologists training and practicing in the

United States. A vast majority of the signees of the letter were then still fellows-in-training. Now, all of them are leaders in their respective fields including various sectors of hematology and oncology such as academia, private practice, industry and government agencies. The last 10 years have witnessed the efforts by CAHON members collectively in fulfilling the missions of CAHON to serve as a bridge among CAHON members, between China and the United States. Dr. Song reiterated the commitment of CAHON to work with other partner organizations either in the US (such as ASCO, ASH, AACR and SITC) or in Asia (such as CSCO, COS, China FDA) to advance the development of hematology and oncology. CAHON is also keenly interested in promoting hematology and oncology exchange and collaboration with local hospitals in China. An example is the upcoming inaugural Sino-America Oncology Forum in Zhengzhou in October 2015, co-organized by CAHON and the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University.

One key obligation of CAHON is to cultivate scholarly work and invent cancer medicine. For this effort, CAHON takes special pride in playing active roles in promoting scientific publication in this exciting field. Dr. Delong Liu, the founding president of CAHON, and the founding Editor-in-Chief of CAHON's flagship journal, *Journal of Hematology and Oncology*, shares with members that this journal is now one of the leading destinations for cancer manuscripts. Dr. Liu also updated the healthy trend of manuscript submission to three additional journals, including *Experimental Hematology and Oncology*, *Stem Cell Investigation* and *Biomarker Research*. He urged CAHON members to submit their work to these journals and contribute to the peer review and editorial process.



*Dr. Jeffrey Ye (center) receives the CAHON Outstanding Service Award.*

The evening reached its climax when the inaugural CAHON Outstanding Service Awardees (OSA) and CAHON Lifetime Achievement Awardee (LAA) in Hematology and Oncology were presented. This year, CAHON proudly honored [Dr. DeLong Liu](#) and [Dr. Jeffrey Ye](#) in the category of OSA and [Dr. Lieping Chen](#) as the LAA. While the contributions of Dr. Liu and Dr. Chen to CAHON are described above, Dr. Ye is one of the founding board members of CAHON and

the past chair of the CAHON Board who has been a steadfast steward and treasurer for CAHON for the last 10 years. The night was made even brighter by honoring three CAHON Junior Investigator Awardees - Mr. Tiangfang He (Middlebury College), Miss Ivy Shi (University of Pittsburg) and Miss Jacqueline Wang (University of Chicago), all of whom have demonstrated their potential and commitment to the field of biomedicine even though all three are still pursuing their undergraduate studies.

The CAHON celebration went deep into the night. Dr. Zihai Li, the president-elect of CAHON for 2016-2018, called upon the active involvement of all CAHON members to engage in new initiatives for the organization. He stressed the importance of specific deliverables. From education and research to clinical practice, it is clear that CAHON has yet to realize its full potential and impact in the field of hematology and oncology. It is the belief of everyone, however, that the dawn of precision cancer care is already upon us and that the conversion of cancers to chronic diseases or even cure of some cancers is now within reach. CAHON is proud to be one of the driving forces to make that vision a reality.

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*CAHON is a non-profit organization devoted to bridging the gap between China and the United States in high quality patient care, education and research in hematology and oncology. See [www.cahon.org](http://www.cahon.org) for more information.*

