

CAHON Winter Symposium 2025 Summary

Date: December 6, 2025

Location: Westgate Lakes Resort, Orlando, FL

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 PM (EST)

The 2025 CAHON Winter Symposium brought together a dynamic community of hematology/oncology professionals for an evening of scientific insight, mentorship, and connection. Despite heavy rain in the evening that caused some travel delays, attendees arrived with enthusiasm and resilience, underscoring the dedication that defines the CAHON community. The warm atmosphere of Westgate Lakes Resort provided a welcoming backdrop for an evening filled with collaboration, learning, and celebration.

Welcoming Remarks & Organizational Vision

The program opened with remarks by **Dr. Jing-Zhou Hou**, CAHON Board Chair, who greeted attendees and acknowledged special guests. His welcome set a thoughtful and celebratory tone, recognizing both the challenges of the day's weather and the commitment shown by participants who traveled under difficult conditions. He reminisced about the first official CAHON meeting that took place during 2005 ASH meeting 20 years ago in Atlanta, GA. An announcement was shared in the "ASH News Daily" and more than 60 people attended the reception including Dr. Ronald Levy and then ASCO President, Dr. Sandra Horning.

Dr. Liang Deng, CAHON President, followed with organizational updates focused on CAHON's continued growth. She highlighted new member engagement initiatives, expanding communication platforms, and the importance of fostering leadership and representation in the global oncology community.

Dr. Delong Liu, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Hematology & Oncology (JHO)*, provided updates on CAHON's journals. His report underscored rising impact metrics, expanding readership, and ongoing efforts to elevate high-quality scientific publication across the field.

Scientific Highlights

This year's scientific session delivered high-impact updates from CAHON leaders.

CAR T Cell Update – Dr. Peihua (Peggy) Lu, MD

Medical Executive President & Executive Director

Lu Daopei Hospital / Lu Daopei Institute of Hematology, Beijing, China

Dr. Peggy Lu opened the scientific session with a forward-looking overview of CAR T-cell therapy, drawing on her leadership in China's rapidly evolving cellular therapy ecosystem. She discussed recent clinical advances, emerging technologies, and real-world outcomes that are helping shape the next era of engineered therapies.

T Cell NHL Update – Dr. Jia Ruan, MD, PhD

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Weill Cornell Medicine / NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Jia Ruan presented a clear and comprehensive overview of peripheral T-cell lymphomas (PTCL), a rare and biologically heterogeneous group of diseases with substantial unmet clinical need. Her presentation emphasized the growing role of biomarker-driven, subtype-specific therapies, reviewed current frontline standards (including CD30-directed approaches), and highlighted emerging targeted and epigenetic strategies in the relapsed/refractory setting, underscoring a promising shift toward integrating these therapies earlier in treatment.

CLL Update – Dr. Jing-Zhou Hou, MD, PhD
Hematologist–Oncologist and Clinical Investigator
Director, Clinical Research for Hematological Malignancies
UPMC Hillman Cancer Centers

Dr. Jing-Zhou Hou delivered a high-level yet data-rich overview of the evolving treatment paradigm for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) in 2025. His presentation highlighted major shifts toward targeted, time-limited therapies and clearly articulated how clinicians are navigating decisions between continuous BTK inhibitor–based strategies and fixed-duration venetoclax-based combination regimens, with growing incorporation of MRD-guided approaches.

Together, these talks highlighted the rapid pace of scientific advancement in hematologic malignancies and reinforced CAHON’s commitment to supporting innovation and international scientific collaboration.





Celebrating Emerging Leaders

The Young Investigator Award (YIA) ceremony, presented by Dr. Huichun Zhan from the CAHON Academic Committee and CAHON President, Dr. Liang Deng, honored outstanding early-career researchers whose work represents the future of hematology and oncology. Their recognition reflects CAHON's dedication to mentorship, academic excellence, and fostering rising talent.



Pictured: Huichun Zhan (Stony Brook Medicine & Northport VAMC), Lay She Ng (University School of Medicine), Alex Niu (Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center), Xuezhu Sunny Wang (Boston Children's Hospital), Xi Yang (University of Michigan), Tiantian Zhang (City of Hope), Xiaoyi Xavier Zhang (NYC Health & Hospital/Jacobi), Kevin Zhu (University of Vermont), and Liang Deng (Memorial Sloan Kettering) Not Pictured: Annie Xiao (City of Hope)

Closing Remarks & Community Connection

Dr. Hou returned to the podium to deliver closing remarks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, organizers, and attendees who made the evening a success.

The formal program concluded with a relaxed social gathering, where members, fellows, and trainees engaged in lively discussions, took a group photo, exchanged ideas, and strengthened the sense of community that is central to CAHON's mission.

A Community Moving Forward Together

The 2025 Winter Symposium served as a reminder of the collective strength and creativity within CAHON. Despite travel delays and challenging weather, the evening was filled with scientific rigor, heartfelt connections, and renewed optimism for the future of cancer and blood disease research.

With its strong leadership, evolving initiatives, and deeply engaged membership, CAHON continues to expand its impact as a scientific organization and professional network. CAHON is a supportive family for hematology and oncology professionals worldwide.



