



JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY  
& ONCOLOGY

# ADVANCES IN CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY: TRANSLATING DISCOVERIES INTO CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

MAY 30, 2025  
HYATT REGENCY  
MCCORMICK PLACE  
CHICAGO, IL



# 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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ABOUT CAHON

Founded by Chinese American Hematologists and Oncologists in 2005, the primary missions of CAHON are to foster communications amongst Chinese American medical professionals for the delivery of high-quality health care to patients with neoplastic and hematological diseases, and to promote medical information exchange between the United States and China in the field of hematology and oncology. CAHON strives to serve as a bridge among its members and between Chinese and American Hematology-Oncology communities for medical and educational exchange.



Connect with us



THE STORY BEHIND THE LOGO

CAHON’S logo was designed by Drs. Weijing Sun, Ke Liu, and Jeffrey Ye, under the supervision of the CAHON Board. The design has the following elements and takes the following considerations:

- The overall shape represents the globe.
- The blue, white, red and yellow represent the colors of two nations’ flags. China and the US.
- The yellow and red stripes above the blue represent bridges. One of CAHON’s key missions is to serve as a bridge between Chinese American Hematology-Oncology communities for medical and educational exchange.
- The white space is in the shape of a heart. The hearts of our members continue to drive our mission to provide high quality patient care to everyone.

CAHON 2024-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

In February 2024, the CAHON Board of Directors participated in a professionally facilitated Strategic Planning Retreat during which FOUR key priorities were identified for the next 3-5 years.

- Expand and deepen **COLLABORATION** with global oncology organizations
- Elevate CAHON’s **IMPACT** on patient care and the global oncology community
- Promote **CAREER DEVELOPMENT** and expand members’ professional network in the global oncology community
- Enhance stakeholder **ENGAGEMENT**



ABOUT THE JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Official Journal of CAHON | Impact Factor: 29.9



JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Founded by Professor Delong Liu in 2004, the Journal of Hematology & Oncology is a premier open-access journal providing a platform for high-quality research in hematology and oncology. Recognized as a leading publication in both fields, it ranks in the top quartile (Q1) with a strong impact factor. In addition to original research, the journal features expert reviews and research highlights from leading experts in the field. With a commitment to rapid dissemination, it ensures fast turnaround times, making cutting-edge findings accessible to laboratory scientists, physician-scientists, hematologists, and oncologists worldwide.

# CAHON Membership

## Value of a CAHON Membership

By joining CAHON you will have access to:

- A growing network of Chinese American professionals working in your field
- A private WeChat group where you can submit clinical questions to respected colleagues who are knowledgeable in specific areas of hematology and oncology
- Reduced or waived registration fees for all CAHON events and meetings along with priority hotel reservations
- Members-only section of the CAHON website featuring the member directory, educational webinars, and more; and
- Travel award opportunities

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

**Associate Membership (waived dues)** – Available to:

- **Fellows-in-training** in North America in the field of Hematology, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Gynecological Oncology, Pediatric Oncology Pathology and other oncology-related fields.
- **Residents-in-training, US medical students and foreign medical graduates\*** living in North America who have a demonstrated commitment and eligibility to enter a program in the field of Gynecological Oncology, Pediatric Oncology Pathology and other oncology-related fields.

**Regular Membership (\$100 USD, annual dues)** – Available to:

- **Board certified/eligible physicians** in North America whose predominant interest and professional activities involve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with neoplastic and hematological diseases and/or the research, development and approval of diagnosis tools, treatments, and healthcare policies for patients with neoplastic and hematological diseases. These include Hematologists, Medical Oncologists, Surgical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, Gynecological Oncologists, Pediatric Oncologists and Pathologists, and other oncology-related physicians and surgeons.

**Allied Membership (\$100 USD, annual dues)** – Available to:

- **Health Professionals** in North America who are actively involved in patient care, research, drug development in North America in the field of neoplastic and hematological diseases, who are otherwise not included in the aforementioned categories. Allied Members may include but are not limited to senior medical directors or similar senior level or research track scientists at pharmaceutical companies and tenure track or equivalent assistant professors or above, basic research scientists who are lab heads or principal investigators, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, public health specialists, and nurses in leadership positions in academic or private research institutions.

## Membership Application Requirements:

- Current CV
- Short Bio including a photo and paragraph (max 300 words) that describes training history, areas of expertise or clinical interest and career goals, a statement about expectations from CAHON membership and plans to contribute to CAHON's mission.
- Referral from a current Regular/Lifetime Regular Member (enter a name in a required field)

*\*Foreign medical graduates also must show proof of ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) Certification and provide a letter of recommendation from a clinical oncologist mentor describing dedication and commitment to enter a clinical track*

Visit <https://www.cahon.org/membership> for more information on membership.

Apply for  
CAHON Membership





## Save the Dates!

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### 12th Annual New York Oncology Forum (NYOF) & CAHON 20th Anniversary Celebration

October 4-5, 2025

Sheraton LaGuardia East | Flushing, NY

The CAHON annual New York Oncology Forum (NYOF) is a one-and-a-half-day educational program that includes presentations on new developments and updates from the latest ASH, ASCO and SITC meetings including novel agents for Hematology and Oncology. This annual event draws more than 100 clinicians, researchers, medical students, clinical fellows as well as laboratory and health care related scientists working in hematology and oncology. The members only CAHON 20th anniversary celebration will take place in the evening on Saturday, October 4th.

### Winter Symposium and Reception

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Westgate Lakes Resort & Spa | Orlando, FL

Held in conjunction with American Society of Hematology's (ASH) annual meeting, the Winter Symposium will offer expert perspectives and practical insights on current advancements in a variety of cancer treatments, as well as foster collaboration and provide a forum for interaction and collaboration between hematologists and oncologists.



# Meeting Agenda

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## FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

<b>6:00 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Doors and Registration Open, Networking, Dinner Buffet Ready</b>
<b>6:30 – 6:45 pm</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Liang Deng, MD, PhD – <i>CAHON President, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i> Delong Liu, MD, PhD – <i>Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Hematology &amp; Oncology, New York Medical College</i>
<b>6:45 – 7:15 pm</b>	<b>Next Generation T-Cell Therapies for Cancer</b> Patrick Hwu, MD – <i>President and CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center</i>
<b>7:15 – 7:45 pm</b>	<b>Innovations in Cancer Immunotherapy: Overcoming Resistance through Combination Strategies</b> Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, FAACR, FASCO – <i>Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Medicine</i>
<b>7:45 – 8:15 pm</b>	<b>Reprogramming the Tumor Microenvironment for Pancreatic Cancer Immunotherapy: Challenges and Opportunities</b> Lei Zheng, MD, PhD – <i>Executive Director of Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
<b>8:15 – 8:45 pm</b>	<b>Androgen-Mediated CD8+ T Cell Exhaustion: Unveiling Sex Bias in Cancer Immunotherapy</b> Zihai Li, MD, PhD – <i>Klotz Memorial Chair in Cancer Research, Professor and Founding Director of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology at The Ohio State University</i>
<b>8:45 – 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Jing-Zhou Hou, MD, PhD – <i>CAHON Board Chair, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</i>

## Joint Accreditation Statement

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In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Amedco LLC and Chinese American Hematologist and Oncologist Network CAHON. Amedco LLC is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Amedco Joint Accreditation #4008163.

Professions in scope for this activity are listed below.



## Physicians

Amedco LLC designates this live activity for a maximum of **2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Meeting Organizers

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Liang Deng, MD, PhD – *CAHON President, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*  
Jing-Zhou Hou, MD, PhD – *CAHON Board Chair, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*  
Delong Liu, MD, PhD – *Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Hematology & Oncology, New York Medical College*  
Cynthia Ma, MD, PhD – *Washington University*  
Bo Wang, MD – *Willamette Valley Cancer Institute*  
Yucai Wang, MD, PhD – *Mayo Clinic*

*\*Not an official event of the 2025 ASCO® Annual Meeting. Not sponsored, endorsed, or accredited by ASCO®, Association for Clinical Oncology, or Conquer Cancer® the ASCO Foundation*

## Speakers

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**Patrick Hwu, MD** – Patrick Hwu, MD, is the president and CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center, one of the nation's leading cancer hospitals and the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center based in Florida.

As an internationally recognized tumor immunologist, Dr. Hwu has led pioneering research and clinical efforts to better understand the interactions between tumors and the immune system. He helped launch the field of gene modified T cells, publishing research on the first chimeric antigen receptor directed against cancer. His work focuses on vaccines, adoptive T-cell therapies and immune resistance. An internationally recognized physician scientist, Hwu has a proven track record leading collaborative teams to make breakthroughs in science while improving cancer outcomes for cancer patients.

Prior to joining Moffitt, Dr. Hwu was the head of the Division of Cancer Medicine at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he held various leadership roles for 17 years. In 2003, he was recruited as the first chairman of the Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology. He was also the associate director of the Center for Cancer Immunology Research (2004) and chair of the Department of Sarcoma Medical Oncology (2012).

Dr. Hwu earned his medical degree from The Medical College of Pennsylvania. He served as a house officer in Internal Medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and completed a fellowship in oncology at the National Cancer Institute, where he worked as a principal investigator leading tumor immunology studies.



**Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, FAACR, FASCO** – is the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, Chief, Cancer Services, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine, and Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell College. Dr. Wolchok is

a clinician-scientist exploring innovative immunotherapeutic strategies in laboratory models, and a principal investigator in numerous pivotal clinical trials. Dr. Wolchok helped establish immunotherapy as a standard approach to cancer treatment and was instrumental in the clinical development leading to the approval of ipilimumab and the combination of nivolumab and ipilimumab for advanced melanoma. He supervises an NIH R01-funded basic science laboratory which is focused on investigating novel immunotherapeutic agents in pre-clinical laboratory models. The focus of his translational research laboratory is to investigate innovative means to modulate the immune response to cancer as well as to better understand the mechanistic basis for sensitivity and resistance to currently available immunotherapies. Dr. Wolchok received his BA degree from Princeton University, and his MS, PhD and MD degrees from New York University. Dr. Wolchok has received numerous honors for his work including: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award, the Giants of Cancer Care in Melanoma Award, the Berson Alumni Achievement Award in Clinical and Translational Science and the Zelmanovich Young Alumni Achievement Award from NYU Grossman School of Medicine, the Alfred Taubman Prize for Excellence in Translational Medical Research (Univ of Michigan) and has been designated a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO), as well as board of directors. He has been awarded the the Distinguished Alumni Award at MSK, the AACR-Joseph H. Burchenal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research, the ESMO Award for Immuno-Oncology and the David Karnofsky Award from ASCO. Dr. Wolchok has served on the Board of Directors of ASCO and the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) and was the Treasurer of SITC. He is an elected member of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) board of directors, elected to the AACR academy of fellows (FAACR), fellow of the academy of Immuno-Oncology (FAIO), the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), Association of American Physicians (AAP) and is Chair of the Melanoma Committee for the ECOG-ACRIN NCI cooperative group. Most recently he has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). He is a full member of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and center director for the Parker Institute of Cancer Immunotherapy.



## Speakers

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**Lei Zheng, MD, PhD** – Dr. Zheng is the executive director of Mays Cancer Center, home to UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the vice president for oncology and a professor of medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He also

holds the Mays Family Foundation Distinguished University Presidential Chair of Oncology. He specializes in the treatment of pancreatic and gastrointestinal cancers.

Dr. Zheng is widely recognized as a global leader in pancreatic cancer care, attracting patients from around the world for his expertise. Dr. Zheng's groundbreaking research focuses on the tumor microenvironment in pancreatic cancer and the development of mouse models to advance preclinical studies of combination immunotherapies. He previously was co-director of the Pancreatic Cancer Precision Medicine Center of Excellence Program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Zheng earned his undergraduate degree in pre-medicine from Peking University and completed his medical degree at Peking Union Medical College. He went on to earn a doctoral degree in molecular medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. After completing his residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, he pursued a fellowship in medical oncology at Johns Hopkins. His postdoctoral research fellowships included molecular medicine at UT Health San Antonio and biochemistry and molecular biology at Rockefeller University.

Dr. Zheng is an NIH-funded researcher, who currently leads several significant projects, including two R01 grants as principal investigator, one P50 grant as project leader, and numerous collaborative research initiatives. His research interests include pancreatic cancer biology, translational immunology, cancer immunotherapy and the tumor microenvironment.

Dr. Zheng was the former director of the Multidisciplinary Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Research Laboratory and the NCI T32 Training Program on Surgical Oncology Research at Johns Hopkins. His leadership roles include chairing the China Advisory Group for the International Affairs Committee of the American Association for Cancer Research and editor-in-chief of the *Annals of Pancreatic Cancer*. Among his many accolades, Dr. Zheng received the prestigious Hirshberg Award for pancreatic cancer research at the 45th Anniversary Meeting of the American Pancreas Association in 2014.

In addition to his research and clinical work, Dr. Zheng has authored numerous publications, including several book chapters, and served as editor of the book *Pancreatic Cancer*. He is an active member of professional organizations such as the Chinese American Hematologist Oncologist Network (CAHON), the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA), and the American Pancreas Association (APA).



**Zihai Li, MD, PhD** – Dr. Li is a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James and the founding director of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology (PIIO), which is dedicated to transforming the OSUCCC – James into a leader in basic and

clinical immunology research, including prevention and survivorship. He also holds the Klotz Chair in Cancer Research.

With primary interests in the mechanisms of immune regulation in cancer, his research team has made seminal contributions to understanding the immunological properties of heat shock proteins in cancer immunotherapy and immune tolerance. They provided the first genetic evidence linking the heat shock response to antigen cross-presentation and adaptive immunity; pioneered the use of autologous, tumor-derived HSP70-peptide complex for the immunotherapy of leukemia; and discovered that gp96, a paralog in the endoplasmic reticulum, is the master molecular chaperone for Toll-like receptors (TLRs).

Dr. Li is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of gp96 biology due to a number of contributions such as the discovery of its ATPase activity, peptide-binding properties and client-binding domain. His current research interests focus on developing better immunotherapeutics against cancer by reprogramming the tolerogenic tumor microenvironment, including regulatory T-cells, thrombocytes and unfolded protein response. His work is supported by the National Institutes of Health, including a program project grant from the National Cancer Institute and four RO1s for which I am principal investigator.

He is also widely published in scientific journals on the topics of immune tolerance, cancer immunology and chaperone biology, and serve as an elected member of such professional organizations as the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the Association of American Physicians (AAP).



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