

I am very honoured to receive the CAPHO Wild Card Learning Grant this year.

CAPHO is an incredible organization that supports oncology pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in countless ways, and the Wild Card Learning Grant is an excellent example of that commitment. Having seen this grant advertised in previous years, I was excited to apply when this year's opportunity became available, as it encouraged me to seek further growth and learning within my practice area.

I have worked as a clinical pharmacist in hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and cellular therapy for several years. As one of the more senior oncology pharmacists at my institution, I often serve as a resource for colleagues and contribute to patient care decisions in this highly specialized field. To provide meaningful guidance and ensure optimal patient care, it is essential that I remain current with evolving evidence, emerging therapies, and best practices.

Thanks to the support of the CAPHO Wild Card Learning Grant, I attended the ASTCT 2026 Fundamentals of HCT Training Course, held virtually in April 2026. This intensive program provided an excellent opportunity to reinforce foundational knowledge while exploring recent advances in hematopoietic cell transplantation and cellular therapy.

The course content was highly relevant to pharmacy practice. Many sessions were led by pharmacists, offering practical perspectives that could be directly applied to clinical care. Topics included principles of conditioning in HCT, transplant considerations in special populations, and the prevention and management of transplant- and immunotherapy-related complications such as infections and graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Given the complexity of patients undergoing HCT and cellular therapies, these updates were particularly valuable.

The course also highlighted emerging therapies and future directions in transplantation and cellular therapy. Learning about these innovations has helped me prepare for treatments that may become available in Canada in the coming years and consider how they may fit into future clinical practice.

Since completing the course, I have shared key learnings and updates with my colleagues and identified several opportunities for practice improvement within our program. The knowledge gained has enhanced my ability to support both patients and healthcare team members, while helping ensure our practice remains aligned with evolving standards of care.

I am sincerely grateful to CAPHO for providing this opportunity and for its ongoing commitment to supporting oncology pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Investments in professional development such as the Wild Card Learning Grant strengthen our ability to deliver high-quality cancer care and ultimately benefit the patients we serve.