BACKGROUND

- The membership of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPhO) has expressed their desire for availability of introductory level oncology pharmacy education. In response, a subcommittee of the CAPhO Education – Pharmacist Committee developed Oncology Fundamentals Day (OFD).
- OFD was a one day pan-Canadian online conference encompassing ten presentations from 10 different speakers. Each presentation covered a general topic in cancer care (Table 1).
- Registration to OFD included online attendance to the live presentations as well as access to an online message board to connect with the presenters for questions, the presentation recordings, slide deck handouts, and ten quick reference documents; one for each topic.
- Registration was open to all health care providers. However, the target audience were those pharmacy practitioners originally perceived to have the most potential benefit from introductory level oncology education: general pharmacy practitioners and new oncology practitioners. A nation-wide communication strategy was established to invite pharmacy practitioners outside of the CAPhO membership.

### Table 1. Oncology Fundamentals Day Program: Oct 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1: Fundamentals of Hematologic Cancers, 9:30am-11:50am EST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
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<td>Chronic Leukemias</td>
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<td>Multiple Myeloma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2: Fundamentals of Solid Tumors 12:30pm-1:50pm EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer</td>
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<td>Colorectal Cancer</td>
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<td>Lung Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 3: Chemotherapy Toxicity Management 1:20pm-1:40pm EST</td>
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<td>Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting</td>
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<td>Other Gastro-Intestinal Toxicities</td>
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<td>Fibrile Neutropenia</td>
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<td>Skin, Nail, Hair Toxicities</td>
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OBJECTIVES:

**Primary objective:**
- To describe the impact of OFD on attendee oncology knowledge and confidence level

**Secondary objectives:**
- To describe the practice characteristics of attendees
- To explore attendee perspectives regarding program format, content, and opportunities for improvement

METHODS:

- A series of questions were developed by the OFD planning committee and then designed into an online survey using Survey Monkey®
  - Multiple choice questions were designed to gather data regarding registrant profession, practice type, oncology experience and amount of oncology patient care services within their practice.
  - To assess change in knowledge and confidence, participants were asked to rate themselves on a four point scale based on their own self-reflection.
  - Questions using a four point agree scale and open ended text boxes were developed to collect feedback on the program format and content.
  - No personal identifiers were collected to ensure anonymity.
- Four weeks after the event, all 263 registrants of OFD were invited by a third party to complete the survey. The survey remained open for two weeks and two reminder emails were sent. OFD attendees were made aware that the survey was voluntary and anonymous.
- This study plan was approved by the University of Alberta REB and was administered with the support of the CAPhO Research Committee.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

- Sixty-three (24%) of OFD registrants completed the survey. Including live and/or recorded options, 45 (75%) respondents attended all presentations, 12 (19%) some of the presentations, and 4 (6%) did not attend any presentations. These four respondents were oncology pharmacists and were excluded from data analysis.
- The OFD target audience included pharmacy practitioners that were new to oncology (defined as less than 2 years in oncology practice) or pharmacy practitioners with a general practice (defined as a practice where cancer patients are less than 50% of their practice) or health care providers working in a non-cancer or non-patient care focused practice. Thirty-four respondents (58%) identified themselves as oncology pharmacy practitioners, leaving 25 respondents (42%) to be considered within our target audience.
- Of the fifty nine responses analyzed, self assessed moderate to substantial improvement in knowledge was reported in 46 respondents (78%) for oncology diseases, 37 respondents (63%) for oncology pharmacotherapy, and 41 respondents (69%) for chemotherapy-related toxicity and management topics (Figure 1).
- In subgroup analysis, new oncology pharmacists had the most consistent ratings of moderate to substantial improvement, followed by pharmacy technicians, and general pharmacists (Figure 2).
- Forty-six respondents (78%) replied their confidence in providing care to oncology patients had improved with 100% of new oncology practitioners indicating moderate to substantial improvement (Figure 3).
- Using the agree scale, all respondents (100%) indicated they liked the online format, 93% found the presentation length and complexity appropriate, and 95% agreed they would recommend OFD to a colleague. Results were similar between responses from all participants and those from the target audience alone (Figure 4).
- Seventy-one percent (71%) stated they liked the all in one day format (Figure 4). However, upon review of the comments in text boxes, 41% found the event too long indicating it should either be shorter or held over 2 or more days (Figure 5). This is an important consideration if OFD is offered again.
- Other comments suggested exploring a similar style virtual conference targeted for advanced oncology practitioners or targeted for oncology pharmacy technicians.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Participation in OFD provided education that facilitated an improvement in oncology knowledge and confidence in providing care to cancer patients.
- Feedback supports offering OFD as an online educational event with similar complexity again in the future.
- Consideration should be given to shortening the program or offering the same length program over 2 days.
- The majority of respondents were oncology pharmacists which suggests that additional strategies should be explored to better recruit participants with a non-oncology background (target audience).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Sea to Sky Meeting Management
- OFD Speakers and Attendees: additional information regarding OFD can be found at www.capho.org/oncology-fundamentals-day
- CAPhO Executive
- CAPhO Education – Pharmacist Committee
- CAPhO Research Committee

INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tara Leslie BSp, BCOP
Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alberta & Clinical Pharmacist, Alberta Health Services, Calgary AB
tleslie1@ualberta.ca