

After 12 years of navigating the worlds of inpatient and primary care pharmacy, I decided it was time for a change. In 2017, I accepted a position in outpatient ambulatory oncology. A few years earlier, a flood had claimed my undergraduate oncology pharmacy notes, so I stepped into this complex new specialty armed with little more than curiosity – and some cute shoes! (Not that my undergrad notes could compare to the depth of oncology education pharmacy learners receive today – thanks in no small part to Tara Leslie, newly minted CAPHO Fellow (congratulations Tara!) – and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.)

Not long into this new chapter, I found CAPHO and will be forever grateful. Becoming a member felt like finding my people: a vibrant, supportive community of pharmacy professionals all driven by a shared mission to enhance care for patients living with cancer. It was like being handed a compass just when I needed it most.

When I think of CAPHO, I think of community. It has played a key role in building and nurturing that sense of connection – offering a platform to share knowledge, resources, and experiences that are vital for navigating the complexities of oncology pharmacy. And the best part? I get to bring all of that back to another community – the small city where I practice and call home: Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Attending the CAPHO Conference in person was a rewarding experience that reinforced the value of being part of such an exceptional organization. This year's event was made even more special by its joint hosting with ISOPP, set against the beautiful backdrop of Victoria, British Columbia. While it's impossible to summarize all the (oyster) pearls of learning that I collected at the conference, I chose to highlight my experience attending the Oral Chemotherapy Monitoring workshop – a session that stood out among the many learning opportunities. The workshop focused on the management of oral anti-cancer therapy, which provided valuable insights into the evolving role of oral anti-cancer agents in oncology practice. The session highlighted the growing use of these therapies due to their convenience and patient preference, while also addressing the unique challenges they present. Key topics included strategies to support patient adherence, monitor for adverse effects, and manage drug interactions. The importance of thorough patient education and consistent follow-up was emphasized, as was the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in ensuring safe and effective therapy.

The workshop also provided practical tools for assessing adherence and identifying barriers to access, including financial, logistical, and psychosocial factors. Case-based discussions offered real-world examples that reinforced the application of these strategies in clinical practice. Visit drugapp.ca to check out a practical and resource-rich toolkit, designed to help pharmacists implement evidenced-based, sustainable clinical oncology pharmacy programs. Overall, the workshop enhanced my understanding of oral chemotherapy management and reinforced the critical role pharmacy professionals play in supporting patients throughout their treatment journey.

I am thankful to have been the Travel Grant recipient for ISOPP CAPHO 2025. The collaboration and shared commitment to patient care within CAPHO have been a continual source of inspiration and professional development for me. Thank you so much!

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