

Symposium Summary and Practice Impact- ISOPP CAPHO Symposium 2025

Attending the ISOPP CAPHO Symposium 2025 provided valuable clinical and practical insights that will directly enhance my oncology pharmacy practice. The sessions covered a wide range of key topics, including community-based cancer care, immunotherapy, culturally responsive practice, health equity, artificial intelligence, and precision medicine.

A major focus was the integration of immunotherapies and bispecific antibodies into oncology care. Presentations emphasized the pharmacist's expanding role in delivering safe, effective care in both community and home settings. The "Cancer Care Closer to Home" session reinforced the value of decentralized care models in improving access and outcomes.

I gained several practical tools that I plan to implement in my practice, including strategies to optimize the administration of pre-medications, and the use of frailty assessments and personalized care plans when managing older or unfit patients to support safe and effective treatment decisions. Updated approaches to cytomegalovirus (CMV) management were also discussed, offering improved strategies for high-risk, immunocompromised populations.

A compelling session on artificial intelligence in oncology explored both the potential and risks of integrating AI into cancer care. The importance of continuous monitoring and risk mitigation was emphasized to ensure AI tools enhance, rather than compromise, patient care. In addition, the PREPARE study demonstrated the value of integrating pharmacogenomic testing into practice, reinforcing the future of precision medicine.

Cultural safety and equity were emphasized through impactful sessions on Indigenous health and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). A powerful example of racism in pharmacy care grounded the conversation, which led to practical strategies to recognize personal and systemic bias. These insights will help foster more inclusive, respectful patient interactions.

Panel discussions on the progressive shift of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians toward full-scope practice in oncology across Canada and internationally were especially motivating. The final sessions on innovative pharmacist-led cancer care models, along with recognition of the HOPE award winners, reignited my passion for advancing pharmacy practice. These models demonstrated how pharmacists can lead in education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cost-effective service delivery while alleviating the burden on other healthcare providers and improving patient care.

Overall, this international symposium offered a fantastic opportunity to learn from and connect with pharmacy professionals from around the world. It reinforced the evolving role of oncology pharmacists in delivering evidence-based, patient-centered, and culturally competent care. I'm excited to apply these insights in my daily practice to enhance patient outcomes and contribute to system-level improvements.