

To the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO),

I wanted to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2025 ISOPP CAPHO Symposium in Victoria, BC, as a Travel Grant recipient. It was an incredible experience to learn and grow alongside over 550 attendees from more than 30 countries, and I'm deeply grateful for the support that made it possible.

The conference left me feeling inspired, energized, and more connected to the broader oncology pharmacy community. The sessions were not only rich with clinical pearls but also emphasized the human side of cancer care. One moment that stuck with me was Elder Butch Dick's canoe analogy, reminding us that our patients are not navigating their journey alone, and neither are we as providers. That message, alongside a presentation on equity, diversity, and inclusion that moved many of us to tears, and a session led by two remarkable pharmacists from Anchorage, Alaska, who shared how they've prioritized cultural responsiveness in their approach to Indigenous health care, will stay with me for a long time.

Several themes from the conference have already begun to influence my daily practice. The updates on bispecific T-cell engagers used in multiple myeloma, such as teclistamab and talquetamab, were particularly helpful. Learning about how CRS and ICANS can present, and receiving practical tools like booklets outlining toxicity management in practice, will help me take a more proactive and patient-centred approach.

I also appreciated the breadth of concurrent sessions available, ranging from clinical to technical to innovative topics. With a rotation coming up at the Hematology, Oncology, and Transplant Unit at the Alberta Children's Hospital, I was able to attend three back-to-back pediatric sessions that were especially timely. I learned about preventing late treatment-related toxicities, explored therapeutic drug monitoring for asparaginase in leukemia, and was introduced to the relationship between pharmacogenomics and health disparities in pediatric populations.

The session on CMV management also stood out. I valued the in-depth discussion around both prophylaxis and treatment strategies, including data on letermovir and newer agents like maribavir for resistant infections. It provided me with a solid framework to support our bone marrow transplant teams with evidence-based recommendations.

Conversations around sustainability also left a lasting impression. Whether it's reducing drug wastage from vials and inhalers or reevaluating our use of PPE, it's clear that we have an opportunity and a responsibility to challenge the status quo. Even small changes in our current processes can contribute to a more sustainable future.

All in all, receiving the Travel Grant made a meaningful difference, allowing me to fully immerse myself in the conference without the financial stress of travelling out-of-province. Connections made with peers and mentors from across Canada and beyond were just as impactful as the presentations themselves.

This experience reaffirmed how valuable our role is as oncology pharmacists and reminded me of how much we can learn from each other. I left feeling more confident in my knowledge, more curious about the future of our field, and more committed than ever to improving care for patients.

Thank you again, CAPHO, for this incredible opportunity. I'm truly grateful for your support and proud to be part of this community.

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