Rapid advancement in immuno/adaptive cell therapies such as immune checkpoint inhibitors and chimeric antigen receptor T Cells (CAR-T) have transformed the way that cancer patients are being managed.

T cell anti-tumor response: A physiologic function of the immune system is to recognize and destroy cancer cells. T cell-mediated killing of tumor cells is the primary mechanism by which the immune system controls the development and progression of malignant tumors. Early clinical evidence suggests that CAR-T cells targeting the B cell-specific antigen (e.g., CD19 or CD22) have the potential to induce sustained remissions in patients with refractory B cell malignancies.

Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS) 2018 Symposium, to be held in Toronto, May 22-25, will dedicate an entire morning session on May 24 to an Immuno-Oncology summit focusing on advances in these rapidly developing technologies and impact on Canadian cancer care. Dr. Pamela Ohashi, head of Immuno-Oncology at University Health Network, will be leading international and Canadian renowned scientists to present on this significant topic with a panel discussion focusing on how these technologies can be effectively implemented in Canada. In addition to the novel science, the panel discussion will also focus on the importance of early regulatory readiness and health technology assessment to ensure success in Canada.

The IO session, chaired by Dr. Ohashi, will focus discussions on the most recent advances in CAR-T cell by Dr. Michel Sadelain from Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dr. Brad Nelson from BC Cancer Agency, and Dr. Naoto Hirano from Princess Margaret Hospital. Dr. Lillian Siu, also from Princess Margaret Hospital, will be providing an update on recent advances in checkpoint inhibitors.

CSPS is seeking sponsorship, support and scientific input from companies involved in the development of IO therapies.

Another session of related interest, chaired by Dr. Ming Tsao of Princess Margaret Hospital, to be held on May 24 afternoon, will focus on translational medicine and biomarkers which will include, among others, checkpoint biomarkers, companion diagnostics and other advances to assist with targeted therapies.

The CSPS annual symposium attracts in the neighborhood of 2-300 attendees. The IO session together with the translational medicine program would undoubtedly attract many clinical professionals interested in the topic.

Generous sponsorship would include prominent display of company logos, meeting and discussion with speakers and attendees, and additional registrations. In addition, exhibit booths for display are also available through a different registration.

For more information visit www.cspscanada.org