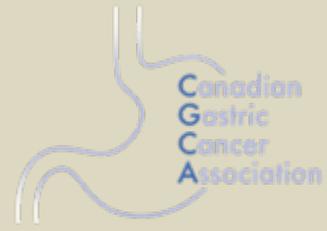




Canadian Society
of Surgical Oncology
(CSSO)



2026 Annual Spring Scientific Meeting

Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology &
Canadian Gastric Cancer Association

April 23 & 24, 2026

The University of Toronto Faculty Club
41 Willcocks Street, Toronto, Ontario

PROGRAM – Preliminary

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the CSSO Annual Spring Scientific Meeting, hosted by the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology with the Canadian Gastric Cancer Association.

The 2026 meeting will highlight the impact and role that immunotherapy has played in cancer treatments, with focused panel discussions on multidisciplinary approaches to complex cancer cases, new opportunities for targeted treatments for these complex cancers, and methods to determine how the sequence of treatments can affect cancer outcomes.

Day 1 focuses on gastric cancer, with international and national keynote speakers including Prof. Dr. Paulo Kassab - Chairman of Gastroesophageal Surgical Division, Full Professor of Surgery. Santa Casa of São Paulo Hospital and Medical School as well as several Canadian leaders in Medical & Surgical Oncology to speak to the most up to date information on the multidisciplinary management of gastric and GE junction cancers. Sessions will include topics such as immunotherapy, targeting HER-2 and Claudin-18, resistance to neo-adjuvant therapies, and genomics in the management of gastric cancers.

Day 2 highlights include keynote speaker, Tari A. King, MD, FACS, FSSO, FASCO, Chief, Division of Breast Surgery, Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, speakers from the *Society for Immunotherapy for Cancer* (SITC) – Dr Mark B. Faries, MD, FACS, FSSO, Associate Director of Surgical Oncology Experimental Therapeutics, Cedars Sinai Department of Surgery at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as well as Dr. Simon Turcotte, MD, MSc, FRCSC, Surgical Oncologist, HPB, and Research Chair of the Roger Des Groseillers d'oncologie chirurgicale hépato-biliaire et pancréatique de l'Université de Montréal. There will also be a tumor board about colorectal cancer of the pelvic sidewall, and research abstract presentations on research across multiple cancer sites across Canada from leaders in Canadian Surgical Oncology.

We are happy that you are joining us, and we wish you a great meeting!



Carolyn Nessim
MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS



Natalie Coburn
MD, MPH, FRCSC, FACS

Accreditation (CME Credits):

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Association of General Surgeons. You may claim a maximum of 11.75 CME hours.

Overall Meeting Objectives:

By the end of this event, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the breadth of academic inquiry being undertaken by surgical trainees and faculty involved in cancer care.
2. Describe how we can achieve leadership throughout a career in surgical oncology.
3. Describe the impact and role that immunotherapy has played in cancer over the years.
4. Describe the multi-disciplinary approach to colorectal cancer involving the side wall and how determining the sequence of treatments can affect cancer outcomes.
5. Describe the multi-disciplinary approach to gastric cancer and GE junction cancers and how determining the sequence of treatments can affect cancer outcomes.

Registration:

REGISTRATION FEES	COST
THURSDAY	1 DAY RATE
Thursday – Active Members	\$200.00
Thursday - Residents & Fellows Members	\$100.00
Thursday - Med Students, Speakers, Sponsors* FREE	\$0.00
Thursday - Additional Sponsors (per day rate)	\$250.00
Thursday – Non-Members	\$250.00
FRIDAY	1 DAY RATE
Friday - Active Members	\$200.00
Friday - Residents & Fellow Members	\$100.00
Friday - Med Students, Speakers, Sponsors* FREE	\$0.00
Friday Additional Sponsors (per day rate)	\$250.00
Thursday – Non-Members	\$250.00
FULL CONFERENCE	2 DAY RATE
Both days - Active Members (less \$75 if attending both days)	\$350.00
Both days - Resident & Fellow Members (less \$50 if attending both days)	\$150.00
Both days - Med Students, Speakers, Sponsors* FREE	\$0.00
Both days - Additional Sponsors (less \$50 if attending both days)	\$400.00
Both days – Non-Members	\$450.00

Cocktails & Dinner:

There will be cocktails and dinner held each evening. Please plan to join us!

Refund Policy:

Please note that no refunds are being offered for the conference. Any questions or concerns about this policy can be directed to info@csso.surgery

Evaluation:

Please take the time to complete the conference evaluation, as this information is key to the planning process and gives speakers important feedback as well as allows for continued CME accreditation for this event. **Complete the evaluation.**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Paulo Kassab, Surgical Oncologist

Dr. Kassab clinical focuses are stomach cancer, esophageal cancer, intestinal cancer, digestive system surgery, and general surgery, having several specializations and advanced training in Brazil and abroad in areas such as: general surgery, laparoscopic and robotic gastrectomy, laparoscopic colorectal surgery, surgical nutrition, operative techniques, urgent surgical procedures, and endocrine surgery.

Since 2003, he has served as a member of the international scientific committees of the biennial gastric cancer congresses (Yokohama 2005, São Paulo 2007, Krakow 2009, Seoul 2011, Verona 2013, São Paulo 2015 and Beijing 2017). In 2007, he was the secretary general of the 7th World Congress of Gastric Cancer, and in 2015, at the 11th edition of the Congress, He contributed as scientific director and I participated as a member of all international scientific committees of the Pan American Gastric Cancer Congresses (Porto Alegre 2012, Punta Del Este 2014, Santiago 2016, and Buenos Aires 2018). He was scientific director and President of the Brazilian Association of Gastric Cancer and Master of the São Paulo Chapter of the Brazilian College of Surgeons. He serves as auditor and member of the Board of the World Association of Gastric Cancer. Further, he is a Full Professor, Habilitated Professor, and Head of the Gastroesophageal and Bariatric Surgery Discipline of the Department of Surgery at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the Santa Casa de Misericórdia de São Paulo. Since 2021, he has been Secretary General of the Brazilian College of Digestive Surgery (CBCD). He is a member of the editorial board and reviewer for journals such as Annals of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases.



Dr. Tari A. King, Breast Surgical Oncologist, Temple Lecturer

Tari A. King, MD, FACS, FSSO, FASCO, serves as chief surgical officer for the cancer service line at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and Emory Healthcare. She is also a professor and chief of the Division of Breast Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and co-director of Winship's Glenn Family Breast Center.

In these roles, Dr. King oversees surgical care for patients with cancer and leads clinical activities, research and training in cancer surgery across Emory. She drives initiatives to enhance cancer surgery programs, practices, strategic goals and patient experience, and serves as a clinical and administrative leader for cancer surgeons, ensuring consistent standards and continuous improvement in care.

An accomplished physician-scientist with over two decades of experience as a breast cancer surgeon, Dr. King has extensive expertise in patient care and research. Her clinical and research efforts have spanned from breast cancer prevention to the molecular genetics of tumor progression while always maintaining a focus on optimizing multidisciplinary treatment strategies to improve patient outcomes.

Dr. King is a fellow of American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology and American Society of Clinical Oncology. She serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium and as treasurer and Finance Committee chair for the Society of Surgical Oncology.

Prior to joining Emory, Dr. King served as the Anne E. Dyson Professor of Surgery in the Field of Women's Cancers at Harvard Medical School and chief of the Division of Breast Surgery and vice chair of multidisciplinary oncology in the Department of Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She was also chief of breast surgery at Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and director of the Breast Cancer Personalized Risk Assessment, Education and Prevention (B-PREP) Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)



KEYNOTE: Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner, Surgical Oncologist

Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD, MD, FACS, is a board-certified breast surgical oncologist and physician-scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She specializes in the surgical treatment of breast cancer, including mastectomies and lumpectomies, with a focus on providing compassionate, personalized care tailored to each patient's unique diagnosis. Dr. Downs-Canner is actively involved in both clinical and laboratory research aimed at improving breast cancer outcomes: Tumor Immunology: Her lab research explores how immune cells, particularly B cells, can be manipulated to enhance the body's ability to fight cancer and improve the efficacy of immunotherapies. Awards: She was awarded a Faculty Research Fellowship from the American College of Surgeons for her work on immunotherapy in triple-negative breast cancer.

Dr. Mark B. Faries, Surgical Oncologist

Dr. Mark Faries is a surgical oncologist focused on melanoma and high-risk cutaneous malignancies. He is Professor of Surgery and Co-Director of the Cutaneous Oncology Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and The Angeles Clinic and Research Institute in Los Angeles, California. He has served as an investigator on numerous clinical protocols of surgery and immunotherapy for melanoma, including mRNA vaccine trials.

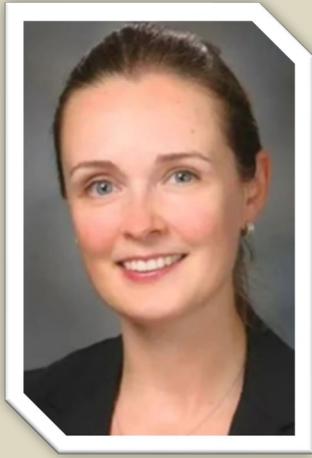


Dr. Simon Turcotte, Surgical Oncologist & HPB Surgeon

Dr. Simon Turcotte is a Canadian surgeon-scientist with extensive expertise in solid cancer immunology and T cell immunotherapy, spanning from bench to bedside. After completing his training in immunology and surgery at the Université de Montréal, he pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, focused on the immune recognition of metastatic gastrointestinal cancers. During this time, he established that T cells could recognize chemotherapy-refractory gastrointestinal cancers and demonstrated that tumor-infiltrating T lymphocytes (TIL) could be used for T cell immunotherapy in these malignancies. Dr. Turcotte also completed a fellowship in hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgical oncology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Dr. Turcotte currently serves as associate professor at the Université de Montréal, HPB surgical oncologist, scientist and early phase trialist at the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM). His laboratory specializes in the selection and *ex vivo* expansion of tumor-reactive TIL and in identifying novel immune checkpoints and biomarkers. He leads the Cell and Gene Therapy clinical research program at the CHUM Research Center and directs the CHUM Unit for Cell Production, enabling TIL manufacturing for early-phase clinical trials. Additionally, he oversees one of the largest HPB cancer biobanks and prospective database in Canada. Under his leadership, the CHUM is one of only two centers in Canada offering access to TIL therapy through clinical trials.



Dr. Elena Elimova, Medical Oncologist

Dr. Elimova is a Medical Oncologist and earned her Medical Degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Ottawa School of Medicine and a clinical fellowship in Medical Oncology at University of Toronto. Her studies then led to the completion of a GI Medical Oncology Fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Most recently she worked as an Instructor in GI Medical Oncology at MD Anderson.

Dr. Elimova's primary area of research is concentrated on the care of patients with gastroesophageal malignancies and the development of novel biomarkers which can predict response to therapy.

Thursday, April 23, 2025
GASTRIC CANCER STREAM
(hosted by CaGCA)

9:00–9:30	Registration
9:30–10:30	Breakfast Symposium Sponsored (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-10:50	Welcoming remarks & introductions Program Co-Chairs: Dr. Carolyn Nessim , Surgical Oncologist, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario Dr. Natalie Coburn , Surgical Oncologist & HPB surgeon, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center, Toronto, Ontario
10:50-11:20	Keynote Speaker: How to improve gastric cancer outcomes worldwide Dr. Paulo Kassab , Surgical Oncologist, Sao Paulo Cancer Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil <u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the challenges to access to surgery on a global level 2) Discuss strategies on how to improve disparities in care
11:20-11:50	Keynote Speaker: Biomarkers, drug availability in Canada and its challenges Dr. Elena Elimova , Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Ontario <u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on new publications regarding biomarkers 2) Discuss how drugs get approved in Canada and how patients can access them once a practice changing clinical trial is out 3) Discuss access to treatment and surgery on a national level
11:50-12:30	Lunch Sponsored Symposium (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)
12:30-1:00	The Patient Perspective – What outcomes are we trying to improve? Theresa Tiano and Katy Kosyachkova , My Gut Feeling representatives <u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discuss the consequences of gastric cancer surgery on the quality of life on gastric cancer survivors 2) Describe the role patient advocacy can play for cancer survivors
1:00-1:30	<p>Management of Stage IV Oligometastatic Gastric Cancer: Is there a role for surgery?</p> <p>Dr. Karineh Kazazian, Surgical Oncologist, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discuss the role of surgery in stage 4 oligometastatic gastric cancer in the era of immunotherapy 2) List the contra-indications to surgery in the setting of stage 4 oligometastatic gastric cancer
1:30-2:00	<p>The challenge of weight loss, anemia and poor bone health after gastrectomy</p> <p>Dr. Farhana Shariff, Surgical Oncologist, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the management of nutritional challenges post gastrectomy 2) Discuss the management of improving bone health post gastrectomy
2:00-2:20	Break
2:20-2:50	<p>Genomics in gastric cancer – are we prime time yet? The role of CT-DNA in the management of gastric cancer</p> <p>Dr. Trevor Pugh, Molecular Geneticist, OICR, Princess Margaret Genomics Center, Toronto, Ontario</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe what CT-DNA is and its clinical potential 2) Discuss the emerging role of CT-DNA and its clinical implications in treatment and surveillance
2:50-3:20	<p>Using Video-fluorescence Imaging with SPY technology in gastric cancer surgery</p> <p>Dr. Trevor Hamilton, Surgical Oncologist, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the role ICG video-fluorescence can play in evaluating the viability of an anastomosis 2) Discuss the technique of identifying sentinel nodes in gastric cancer using ICG video-fluorescence
3:20-3:40	Break

<p>3:40-4:10</p>	<p>Tips and tricks for an adequate D2 dissection whether it be open, laparoscopic or robotic</p> <p>Dr. Paulo Kassab, Surgical Oncologist, Sao Paulo Cancer Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of the session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enumerate all the locations of the nodal stations by number for gastric cancer in a D2 dissection 2) Describe the surgical technique of a D2 dissection
<p>4:10-5:00</p>	<p>Tumor board discussion of complex gastric cancer and GE junction cases</p> <p>Case Presenter: Surgical oncology or medical oncology fellow to present two complex cases to the panel</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Shaqil Kassam, Dr. Elena Elimova, Dr. Paulo Kassab, Dr. Carolyn Nessim, Dr. Rachel Goodwin</p>
<p>5:00-6:00</p>	<p>Research Working Group</p> <p>Discussion of future research projects for Canada - optional attendance (unaccredited activity – medical pharma is invited)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan Canadian Gastric Database - Dr. Dan Schiller. • Delphi Survey about Diagnostic Laparoscopy - Dr. Dan Skubleny • Other updates on gastric cancer research
<p>7:00–9:30</p>	<p>Cocktails & Dinner Reception</p> <p>Sponsored Symposium (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)</p>

Friday, April 24, 2025
SURGICAL ONCOLOGY STREAM
(hosted by CSSO)

7:30–8:00	Registration
8:00–9:00	Breakfast Symposium Sponsored (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)
9:00-9:10	Break
9:10 – 9:15	Welcoming remarks & introductions CSSO President: Dr. Carolyn Nessim , Surgical Oncologist, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario
9:15 – 9:55	Quick Shots Part 1 - Short Abstracts Moderators: Teodora Dumitra, MD PhD – McGill University, Montréal, QC <u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the breadth of research undertaken by surgical trainees in cancer surgery 2) Apply critical appraisal skills to assess the strength of conclusions made by the presenters TBD by selection committee (6 abstracts total) 3 mins presentation, 3 mins questions (6 mins each)
9:55 – 10:55	Long Abstracts Moderators: Alison Laws, MD MPH – University of Calgary, Calgary, AB Ramy Behman, MD PhD – UT MD Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston, TX <u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the breadth of research undertaken by surgical trainees in cancer surgery 2) Apply critical appraisal skills to assess the strength of conclusions made by the presenters TBD by selection committee (5 abstracts total) 8 mins presentation, 4 mins questions (12 mins each)
10:55 – 11:15	Break

<p>11:15 – 12:00</p>	<p>Quick Shots Part 2 - Short Abstracts</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>Amanda Roberts, MD – University of Toronto, Toronto, ON</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Describe the breadth of research undertaken by surgical trainees in cancer surgery 4) Apply critical appraisal skills to assess the strength of conclusions made by the presenters <p>TBD by selection committee (7 abstracts total) 3 mins presentation, 3 mins questions (6 mins each)</p>
<p>12:00 – 12:05</p>	<p>CSSO-BCC Career Development Research Award in Breast Surgical Oncology Dr. Ari Meguerditchian</p>
<p>12:05 – 1:00</p>	<p>Lunch Sponsored Symposium (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)</p>
<p>1:00 - 2:00</p>	<p>Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Sessions: Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy™</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of these sessions, the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summarize recent updates in cancer immunotherapy approaches used as the standard of care in neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and metastatic cancer settings. 2) Identify patients who are most likely to benefit from these cancer immunotherapies. 3) Review specific toxicities associated with these cancer immunotherapies and their management. 4) Recognize the specific role of surgical oncologists in TIL immunotherapy. <hr/> <p>1:00-1:20 Update on Neoadjuvant Immunotherapies</p> <p>Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</p> <p>1:20-1:25 Q&A with Dr. Downs-Canner (5 minutes)</p> <hr/> <p>1:25-1:45 Update on Adjuvant Cancer mRNA Vaccines</p> <p>Dr. Mark B. Faries, MD, The Angeles Clinic and Research Institute/ Cedars-Sinai</p> <p>1:45-1:50 Q&A with Dr. Faries (5 minutes)</p>

	<p>1:50-2:10 Update on TIL Therapy for Metastatic Melanoma and Other Cancers</p> <p>Dr. Simon Turcotte, MD, MSC, FRCSC, Université de Montréal</p> <p>2:10-2:15 Q&A with Dr. Turcotte (5 minutes)</p> <p>2:15-2:30 Case Study Panel</p>
2:00 - 2:15	Break
2:15 - 2:30	<p>CanSOR Information Session</p> <p>Dr. Valerie Francescutti, Surgical Oncologist, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario Dr, Megan Delisle, Oncologic Colon and Rectal Fellow, MD Anderson Cancer Center Dr. Victoria Ivankovic, PGY-3 Resident Physician, General Surgery, University of Ottawa</p> <p>Update on projects presented and survey to the group</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Describe the breadth of research undertaken by surgical trainees in cancer surgery 2) Discuss how to improve collaborative research in rare cancers across Canada
2:30 - 2:45	Tribute to Dr. Wally Temple
2:45 - 3:45	<p>TEMPLE LECTURE</p> <p>Unraveling the Lobular Phenotype - and other things I have learned</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tari King, MD, FACS Moderator: Dr. Carolyn Nessim</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discuss challenges in a career in surgical oncology and how to move forward 2) Describe strategies to build your team and take advantage of leadership opportunities 3) Describe the value of mentorship, allyship and sponsorship at various points in a career trajectory
3:45 - 4:00	Break
4:00 - 5:00	<p>Tumor Board – Complex colorectal (pelvic sidewall) cases for discussion</p> <p>Moderator:</p>

	<p>Dr. Jason Park, Surgical Oncologist, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Dr. Ashley Eom, Surgical Oncology Fellow, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario Dr. Dan Skubleny, Surgical Oncology Fellow, UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Dr. Sameer Apte, Surgical Oncologist, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa Ontario Dr. Ashley Drohan, Surgical Oncologist, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia Dr. Sharon Perera, Surgical Oncologist, Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Ontario Dr. Wei Liu, Radiation Oncologist, UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discuss the multidisciplinary approach to managing colorectal cancer with pelvic side wall involvement – order to treatment modalities 2) Describe the technical surgical approach to pelvic sidewall colorectal cancer 3) Identify the correct patients for surgical intervention that have pelvic sidewall involvement from colorectal cancer
5:00 – 5:20	<p>Update on 2024 CSSO Operating Grant</p> <p>“Identification of gaps and priorities in surgical NETs care - A CUTNETs group initiative”</p> <p>Dr. Lev Bubis, Surgical Oncologist & HPB Surgeon, Health Sciences Center Foundation, Winnipeg, Manitoba</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> By the end of this session the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify the gaps and priorities in Surgical NETs care 2) Discuss how to develop group initiatives for rare cancers.
5:20	<p>ADJOURN</p> <p>President – Dr. Carolyn Nessim, Surgical Oncologist, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario</p>
7:00 – 9:30	<p>Cocktails & CSSO Annual Member Dinner Sponsored Symposium (unaccredited activity – see details at the end of the program)</p>

SPONSORED UNACCREDITED ACTIVITIES

Thursday April 23, 2026

Breakfast Symposium – Sponsored by TBC

Target therapies in Gastric Cancer

Speaker, TBC

Lunch Symposium – Sponsored by Merck

How to choose? I am Her-2 positive, Claudin-18 positive and MSI high? Now what? Devising an Algorithm of care for most benefit and what factors come into play when choosing treatment in advanced Gastric Cancer (focus on Pathology for identifying markers)

Speaker, TBC

Cocktails & Dinner Reception – Sponsored by AstraZeneca

Emerging Immunotherapy & Targeted Therapies for GI malignancies

Cholangiocarcinoma: Dr. Arndt Vogel, Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto, Ontario

Colorectal Cancer: Dr. Rachel Goodwin, Medical Oncologist, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario

Gastric Cancer: Dr. Howie Lim, Medical Oncologist, UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia

Friday April 24, 2026

Lunch Symposium – Sponsored by SkylineDX

“Gene expression-based risk stratification of primary cutaneous melanoma: the Merlin test”

Dr. Alexander Meves, Surgical Oncologist

Dr. Alexander Meves, M.D., M.B.A., is a Professor of Dermatology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is a renowned physician-scientist specializing in cutaneous oncology and translational research. Dr. Meves focuses on the interaction between cells and their environment, specifically concerning skin cancer and aging. His areas of expertise include **Melanoma Risk Stratification**: He pioneered the development of the **CP-GEP/Merlin test**, a gene expression profiling assay used to predict the likelihood of sentinel lymph node metastasis in melanoma patients; **Wound Healing**: His laboratory investigates new methods to improve wound healing and inhibit excessive scarring; and **Skin Aging**: He contributes to research identifying molecular mechanisms of human skin aging and potential anti-aging interventions.



CSSO Annual Member Dinner – Sponsored by Daiichi Sankyo

Topic to be confirmed

Speaker, TBC