

Caraliese Rebello - NZHPA Cancer Pharmacy Education Grant

Blood 2025 and the 36<sup>th</sup> Regional congress of the ISBT

### **26<sup>th</sup> October- 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

I had the privilege of attending Blood 2025, an international haematology conference held in Perth, supported by the NZHPA Cancer Pharmacy Education Grant. Working across haematology and stem cell transplantation, I found this conference to be a valuable opportunity to broaden my clinical knowledge, explore emerging therapies, and gain insight into international practice.

Over four days, the programme covered a diverse range of topics across malignant and non-malignant haematology, transplantation, and anticoagulation stewardship. In addition to the educational content, the conference offered excellent networking opportunities. I was able to connect with fellow haematology pharmacists from Australasia and beyond, and learn about professional societies and networks that support ongoing collaboration and development.

A particular highlight for me was the series of presentations on CAR-T cell therapy. With patients at our centre currently enrolled in the ENABLE-2 trial ([Study Details | NCT06486051 | A Study of WZTL-002 CAR T-cells for Adults With Relapsed Large B-cell Lymphoma | ClinicalTrials.gov](#)), I was keen to deepen my understanding of this area. The sessions explored the full CAR-T pathway - from cell engineering through to clinical application - as well as practical challenges such as toxicity management, access, and service delivery. Hearing perspectives from clinicians in Singapore and the United States provided valuable context around how different health systems are implementing these therapies.

I also found it particularly rewarding to see New Zealand-led and New Zealand-inclusive research featured. The session on graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) prophylaxis, discussing lessons from the CAST study, included transplant patients from Auckland ([Graft-versus-Host Disease Prophylaxis with Cyclophosphamide and Cyclosporin | New England Journal of Medicine](#)). Reviewing these results and their implications for future practice was directly relevant to my role and reinforced the impact of local research on global practice.

Another highly relevant session focused on predicting and managing the side effects of immunotherapies. This was especially useful in refreshing and expanding my knowledge of toxicity profiles and management strategies, which are important in my day-to-day clinical practice.

Additionally, several presentations highlighted the role of anticoagulation stewardship pharmacists in reducing medication-related harm. It was insightful to see how these roles are embedded within multidisciplinary teams internationally, and it prompted reflection on opportunities for similar models within our own practice. Sessions touching on laboratory haematology, including measurable residual disease (MRD) testing, also helped me better understand treatment pathways I encounter regularly.

Overall, attending Blood 2025 was an excellent professional development experience. I found it enhanced my understanding of current treatments and reinforced the importance of staying up-to-date with emerging therapies. I would highly recommend this conference to pharmacists working in this field, particularly as Blood 2026 will be held in Auckland this October, providing a valuable opportunity to engage locally with international expertise.