

## Congratulations / Félicitations



**Dr. Pamela S. Ohashi, University of Toronto**  
**The 2014 CSI – Hardy Cinader Award Recipient**  
**Presentation: “From Y Y Z and beyond”**

*Director, Immune Therapy Program, Ontario Cancer Institute*  
*Co-Director, Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research*  
*Senior Scientist, Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
*University Health Network*  
*Professor, Departments of Medical Biophysics and Immunology*  
*University of Toronto*  
*Canada Research Chair in Autoimmunity and Tumour Immunity*

Dr. Ohashi, received her Ph.D from the University of Toronto with Dr. Tak Mak, and completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Zurich with the Nobel Laureate Dr. Zinkernagel and Dr. Hans Hengartner. Since 1992 she has established a research program at the Ontario Cancer Institute focusing on understanding basic mechanisms of T cell tolerance versus activation. She is the Co-Director of the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research and the Director of the Cancer Immune Therapy Program at the Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Dr. Ohashi is also a Senior Scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute and Full Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics and Department of Immunology at the University of Toronto.

Throughout her career, Dr. Ohashi has made numerous seminal contributions to the field of T cell tolerance and breaking tolerance. She was the first to demonstrate that self-reactive peripheral T cells can remain in a naïve state in the T cell repertoire; a concept that has become widely known as T cell “ignorance”. She was also amongst the first to show conclusively that thymocyte selection is based on an affinity/avidity model. Dr. Ohashi has extended her work on T cell tolerance to evaluate tumor immunity where she has demonstrated that ignorant T cells could be activated against tumors. More recently, she has shown that altering the molecular programming of dendritic cells can alter the steady state and promote T cell activation in the absence of conventional dendritic cell maturation signals. This is a novel way to break T cell tolerance in vivo and provides important insights into potential mechanisms of autoimmunity.

In her role as the Director of the Immune Therapy Program at the Ontario Cancer Institute, she is building a world class comprehensive program. This includes a translational program as well as designing and running clinical trials using novel immune therapeutic approaches to treating cancer patients. Dr. Ohashi is also a co-founder of the Canadian Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium, which has hosted six successful meetings in the last several years and bridged the Canadian Immunotherapy efforts with world wide initiatives.

Dr. Ohashi has received a number of prestigious awards and honours including a Canada Research Chair, the Canadian Society of Immunology Investigator Award, the American Association of Immunologists-Pharmingen Investigator Award, NCICs William E Rawls Award and most recently the CSI Cinader Award. She has also been elected as a member of the Royal Society of Canada.