

BIOLOGICS AND BIOSIMILARS & BIOPHARMA & BIOTHERAPEUTICS

October 24-25, 2018 | Boston, USA

Biosimilars 101 for oncology/hematology team members in Colorado

Rovshan M Ismailov and Zaytuna D Khasanova
Aging and Trauma (CMDAT) Research Foundation, USA

No data exists regarding oncology/hematology team member's knowledge and views of biosimilars in Colorado. Consistent with previously published research, these health professionals may have the poor understanding of many issues related to biosimilars. Our goal was to increase the oncology/hematology team member's knowledge of biosimilars as well as to test such knowledge via an online and anonymous survey. We also aimed to examine oncology/hematology team members' overall interest in the subject, as well as their motivation to learn more about biosimilars in the future. In Phase I of the project, we developed enduring materials which covered many topics related to biosimilars such as definition, regulation, interchangeability and the potential of biosimilars to enable optimal combination therapy for cancer. The oncology/hematology team members in Colorado were then asked to complete the survey. A total of 62 team members responded to our survey. More than 90% of survey respondents identified the correct answer regarding definition, regulation, interchangeability, safety, cost issues, biosimilars in the field of oncology and older patients with cancer and biosimilars. Overall, there were significantly more study participants who were interested in the subject of biosimilars, motivated to learn more about it, as well as interested to share information about biosimilars with colleagues and patients. Our study results demonstrate that the oncology/hematology team members participating in our study have become familiar with many important issues related to biosimilars. Many survey respondents were strongly motivated to participate in future training focused on biosimilars which should open up new educational projects in the area.

Biography

Rovshan M Ismailov who is a director at the CMDAT Foundation and a scientist at the Colorado Neurological Institute. He is a medical doctor, epidemiologist and public health practitioner who graduated with PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh and Master's in Public Health from Boston University. He has been conducting studies focused on various biological properties of erythropoietin in relation to prevalent health disorders such as heart failure, Alzheimer's disease and stroke. He published more than 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts which appeared in such prestigious peer-reviewed journals as "Annals of Neurology", "American Heart Journal" and "Alzheimer Disease and Associated Disorders".

dr.ismailov@cmdat.org

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