

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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Vol. 10, No. 2

January 21st, 2011

INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings continue, the *ANCO FAX News* summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the *ANCO FAX News* or to contribute items.

The *ANCO FAX News* is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members. The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on February 4th. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

The *ANCO FAX News* has information for every member of your practice or organization. Pass it along!

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO is a member of the *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO).

ANCO and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

The *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) recently announced its proposal to withdraw bevacizumab's indication to treat women with metastatic breast cancer. The FDA made the announcement after it determined there was not enough evidence that the drug was safe and effective for the indication. *Genentech BioOncology* has submitted a request for a hearing

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge. The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

on this issue. **The FDA has made it known that a label change has not occurred at this time and bevacizumab for use in women with metastatic breast cancer is still an FDA-approved indication.** ANCO has confirmed that bevacizumab for use in women with metastatic breast cancer is still covered by Palmetto/J1MAC. Updated information is available at www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm193900.htm.

The new *Federal Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP)* can help your patients who have been locked out of the health coverage market because of a pre-existing medical condition. The PCIP does not base eligibility on income and enrollees receive comprehensive health coverage at the same price that healthy people pay. PCIP covers physician and hospital services and prescription drugs. For more information about the PCIP visit PCIP.gov.

Congress passed HR4994 delaying for one year scheduled cuts to physicians' Medicare payments, blocking a 25% payment cut that would have taken effect on January 1st. The bill extends 2010 Medicare reimbursement rates until 2012. On December 29th, CMS released the final conversion factor for 2011 and implementing instructions for the 12-month SGR "fix" enacted in the *Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010* (MMEA). The final conversion factor for 2011 of \$33.9764 is not the same as the 2010 conversion factor to maintain budget neutrality due to the re-basing of the *Medicare Economic Index*. However, revaluation of RVUs results in an approximate 1% increase in the reimbursement of medical oncology services and neither an increase/decrease in radiation oncology services.

The 2011 HCPCS codes took effect on January 1st. Some chemotherapy drug codes have been added; some have been eliminated; and, some have been changed. The following codes have been deleted from HCPCS: J9062, J9080, J9090, J9091, J9092, J9093, J9094, J9095, J9096, J9097, J9110, J9140, J9290, J9291, J9350, J9375, J9380. Many of these deleted codes represent multiple dosages for the same drug and you will notice that now there is generally only

one J-code for each drug. There are also several new codes for 2011: J9302, ofatumumab, 10mg; J9307, pralatrexate, 1mg; J9315, romidepsin, 1mg; J9351, topotecan, 0.1 mg (note new J-code dosage for this medication). Visit www.cms.gov/HCPSCReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage for more information.

CMS has introduced a webpage focused on providing information and resources related to the upcoming transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10. The webpage also includes information on CMS Version 5010, as well as a calendar of CMS-sponsored calls designed to help keep all affected parties up-to-date as the transition moves forward heading into 2012 (Version 5010) and 2013 (ICD-10). More information can be found at www.cms.gov/ICD10/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage. A series of webinars on 5010 preparedness is being offered at www.getready5010.org.

CMS's *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)* is now the *Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)*. PQRS provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment of 1% of Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* charges for 2011. This bonus decreases in 2012 through 2014 to .5% and becomes a -1.5% payment adjustment in 2015. CMS has posted updated PQRS information at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. ASCO's PQRS website (www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsectcurrchannel=1) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS's *Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program* webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive includes updated eRx educational products. E-prescribing will pay 1% of the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* charges in 2011. Starting in 2012 (and based on eRx activities in 2011), physicians not using e-prescribing will be penalized. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website

at www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29/Understanding+the+Government+Incentive+Programs/Incentive+Program+for+E-Prescribing.

CMS will host a *National Provider Call on PQRS and eRx* on Thursday, January 27th at 10:30AM. , 1:30-3:00 PM EST. Visit www.cms.gov/PQRI/ for registration information. In addition, a **CMS *Open Door Forum on PQRS and eRx*** is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25th at 10:30AM. To participate in the *Open Door Forum*, dial (800) 837-1935 and enter conference ID 34438298.

CMS and the *Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology* (ONC) announced the availability of registration for the Medicare and Medicaid electronic health record (EHR) incentive programs starting January 3rd. Visit www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20_RegistrationandAttestation.asp#TopOfPage. CMS's three fact sheets summarizing meaningful use of EHRs and the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs are available at the EHR incentives website (www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms). CMS has partnered with *Medscape* to create an EHR participant self assessment entitled *Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives: What Do You Know and Do You Know Enough?* at www.medscape.org. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's EHR website at www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29.

ANCO continues to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2011 PowerPoint* presentation.
- 2011 quarterly updates to the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file.

Members may also submit an inquiry to ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at

www.asco.org/billingcoding > member. You must enter your ASCO member ID to send your inquiry.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) Council on Legislation, House of Delegates, and specialty delegation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

Noteware Government Relations represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento. They report:

- *Governor* Brown released his FY2012 budget that includes major cuts to health care. The proposed budget cuts \$1.7B from DHCS/MediCal, including:
 1. Reducing DHCS/MediCal provider rates by 10% (\$720M).
 2. Controlling DHCS/MediCal utilization (\$217M) by limiting physician office visits and prescriptions.
 3. Imposing DHCS/MediCal copayments (\$557M) on beneficiaries.

The ***California Oncology Political Action Committee*** (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the *Capitol* on their journey to the *Governor's* desk. And, many of these bills threaten the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It's critical that **physicians have an advocate at work for them every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the *California Medical Association* (CMA).** While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. **Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payers and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you. The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* has a team of reimbursement specialists**

available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers. For membership, contact Ron Lopp at (916) 551-2042 or rlopp@cmanet.org; for reimbursement assistance, call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

CMA has led the way in analyzing *Federal health care reform* and what it will mean to physicians. One key element of reform involves establishing *Accountable Care Organizations* (ACOs) as a new model of care. Under the new law, groups of physicians who see Medicare patients and agree to work together—meeting certain government requirements to qualify as an ACO—would be eligible for bonuses if they meet cost benchmarks for caring for their patient population and other criteria. CMA has adopted ACO and medical foundation principles for physicians to follow. For detailed information, please visit www.cmanet.org/aco.

Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers

[Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers DHCS/MediCal in California.]

Palmetto/J1MAC has posted the **California Medicare Physician Fee Schedules for 2010** at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Publications-Fee%20Schedules?open&Cat=Medicare%20Physician%20Fee%20Schedules%20and%20Updates.

Palmetto/J1MAC has published a proposed LCD for **Molecular Profiling for Unknown Primary Cancers** (DL31628). For more information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CLTWT8785?opendocument. The LCD for **Intracoronary Brachytherapy** (L28274) was retired on January 1st. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CUMCS1367?opendocument for more information.

Palmetto/J1MAC's **2011 Coding Update** contains a wealth of information that will be helpful to physician offices. This publication

includes information on 2011 additions, deletions and changes for HCPCS, CDT, and CPT codes and modifiers, proper use of modifiers, and more. For more information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8C8LMQ2367?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs.

Effective January 3rd, Palmetto/J1MAC reminds Medicare fee-for-service physicians who are submitting claims to Medicare for payment, that all claims for services furnished on or after January 1st, 2010, must be filed with your Medicare contractor no later than one calendar year (12 months) from the date of service or Medicare will deny them. For more information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8C5UT62660?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs.

CMS has not turned on the automated edits that would deny claims for services that were ordered or referred by a physician or other eligible professional simply for lack of an approved file in PECOS. CMS is working diligently to resolve backlog and other systems issues and will provide ample advance notice to the provider and beneficiary communities before CMS begins any such automatic denials. CMS has announced a “placeholder” deadline of July 5th for the ordering/referring edits to be turned on. Physicians or other eligible professionals not currently enrolled in PECOS should take the initiative to enroll sooner rather than later. Visit www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/Instructionsforviewingpractitionerstatus.pdf to verify that you have an enrollment record in PECOS. If you are not yet in PECOS, the best way to submit your application is through internet-based PECOS. For more information, visit questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/10038/kw/pecos/session/L3NpZC9qeG1GdDliaw%3D%3D.

Palmetto/J1MAC's **January Medicare Advisory** is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf).

Did you know that the California has a quick, easy, and free way for physicians to get help with claims payment problems? The Department of Managed Health Care's (DMHC) Provider Complaint Unit (PCU) was created as an alternative way for physicians to resolve claims payment issues without having to go to court. An online Provider Complaint System evaluates claim reimbursement disputes such as timely submission and payment of claims, failure to pay according to contracts, coding disputes, and enforcement of the provider bill of rights. The PCU investigates and addresses individual claims problems and also systemic unfair payment or billing patterns among health plans. The DMHC is the State agency that regulates all California HMOs, and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPOs. If you are a physician and would like to report a problem regarding claims payment, please contact DMHC at (877) 525-1295 or visit www.healthhelp.ca.gov. DMHC is especially interested in current preauthorization/certification, claims processing, and payment problems facing the hematology/oncology community. Visit www.anco-online.org/Resources.pdf for specific instructions on how to report your issues to DMHC.

EDUCATION

[Editor's Note: ANCO organizes clinical and professional education meetings throughout the year and throughout Northern California.]

ANCO/MOASC's Business of Oncology 2010 and Beyond Webcast Series

ANCO and MOASC hosted a series of weekly webcasts in October/November 2010 focusing on the business of oncology. Speakers addressed patient financial counseling, treatment cost analysis and reimbursement, coding, revenue incentive programs, and payer provider partnerships. These webcasts were supported by *Abraxis BioScience* and *Cephalon Oncology*. Download the presentations and/or listen to the webcast recordings (through January 2011) at www.anco-online.org/BusinessofOncology.html.

ANCO's Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors

ANCO hosted a webcast on December 1st entitled *Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors* with David Gammon, B.S.Pharm. Gammon discussed all aspects of chemotherapy safety and how it impacts oncology practice. The webcast was supported by *Abraxis BioScience*. Download the presentation and/or listen to the webcast recordings (through January 2011) at www.anco-online.org/chemosafety.html.

ASCO's Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011

ASCO hosted a national audio teleconference entitled *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011* on December 21st. The call discussed Medicare's 2011 *Physician Fee Schedule*, the sustainable growth rate (SGR), highlights from Medicare's 2011 *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, details of the 2011 PQRS and e-prescribing programs, oncology-related coding updates, and ASCO's legislative activity. Download the presentation and/or listen to a recording of the teleconference at www.asco.org/janaudiocall.

ANCO's Oncology Reimbursement 2011

ANCO hosted its annual *Oncology Reimbursement* programs in Sacramento, San José, and Fresno on January 4-6th. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *onPoint Oncology*, provided a complete update of changes for Medicare reimbursement. Arthur Lurvey, M.D., *Contractor Medical Director, Palmetto/JIMAC*, provided an update from the perspective of northern California's Medicare contractor. Download the meeting materials at www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2011.html.

ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2010

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* took place on January 18th at the *Four Seasons Hotel* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford University*, *UC Davis*, and *UC San Francisco* presented and reviewed the clinically most relevant results presented at December's *San Antonio Breast*

Cancer Symposium. Download the presentations at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html.

MOASC's Medicare & Billing Update for 2011

Did you miss ANCO's *Oncology Reimbursement 2011* program with Roberta Buell, M.B.A.? If so, then plan on listening to her at MOASC's *Medicare & Billing Update for 2011* teleconference and webinar on January 26th at 12PM. Dial (866) 740-1260, access code 8077555, and login to cc.readytalk.com/r/cr77nshld320. Support for this program is provided by *Merck*.

ASH's Highlights of ASH

ANCO is pleased to partner with the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) to bring the only official *Highlights of ASH* to San Francisco on January 28-29th. This exceptional educational opportunity will feature leading hematology experts who will present unbiased analysis from the 52nd *ASH Annual Meeting* abstracts and sessions, evolving therapies, and the latest treatment options and their clinical applications. ASH is accredited by the *Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education* to provide continuing medical education for physicians and has designated this educational activity for a maximum of 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. ANCO members receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting. Contact ANCO at execdir@anco-online.org or ASH directly at cme@hematology.org for more information about this discounted registration rate. For more information about *Highlights of ASH*, visit www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/4310.aspx.

ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing is now open for both ASCO members and nonmembers for the 2011 *ASCO Annual Meeting*, June 3rd-7th at *McCormick Place* in Chicago. Reserve your room for best hotel selection and to register for your first choice of ticketed sessions at chicago2011.asco.org.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 22nd

Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients: Highlights from the ASH Meeting
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
San Francisco
(www.lls.org/sf/ash)

January 25th

Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer from the 33rd Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

January 27th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

February 3rd

Treatment Update on Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

February 9th

Cancer Treatments and the Risk of Blood Clots: What You Need to Know
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

February 10-12th

17th Annual NOCR Meeting
Imedex
Las Vegas

February 11th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer: What's New?
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

February 19th-22nd

31st Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology & Oncology
Scripps Cancer Center
San Diego

February 25-26th

6th Annual Community Oncology Conference

Community Oncology Alliance (and others)
Las Vegas

March 2nd

Updates on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 3rd

*Current Developments in the Treatment of
Colorectal Cancer*
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 5th

*10th Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo
Johnson Breast Cancer Conference*
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
San Francisco

March 9-11th

Comprehensive Cancer Programs and Services
ACI
Phoenix

March 9-13th

*16th Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines
& Quality Cancer Care*
NCCN
Hollywood, FL

March 23rd

*Advances in Treating Chemotherapy-Related Nausea
and Vomiting*
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

Please contact the ANCO office for more
information about these meetings.

- FY2010 Results & FY2011 Budget
- 2011 activities and *Board* schedule

Contact the ANCO office for additional
information on any of these items.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by
teleconference and occasionally in person to
discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and
professional education, and ways to better serve
the membership. *Board* meetings are open to
individual physician members. The **next regularly
scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors***
teleconference will take place on February 15th.
Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive
Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to
participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Payer Provider Partnerships

The ANCO *Board of Directors* has educated itself
and considered its role in **payer provider
partnerships**, learning about the available
compliance models used by vendors in the payer
provider partnership space, and exercised its due
diligence with respect to the various vendors in
this space. As a result, the *Board* has adopted a
payer provider partnership strategy and identified
Innovent Oncology and *Via Oncology* as preferred
vendors. For full details and additional
information please visit [www.anco-
online.org/P3.html](http://www.anco-online.org/P3.html).

Innovent Oncology's presentation (slides and
recording) entitled ***Realizing Pay for Performance:
Moving from Fee-for-Service to Value-Based
Reimbursement*** is now posted at [www.anco-
online.org/P3Innovent.html](http://www.anco-online.org/P3Innovent.html).

Via Oncology recommends that practices study
these two articles as you consider pathways:

- ***All Pathways Are Not Created Equal***,
Oncology Times (May 25, 2010;
[viaoncology.com/downloads/
va_times.pdf](http://viaoncology.com/downloads/va_times.pdf)). In this article, Peter G.
Ellis, M.D., *Deputy Director of Clinical
Services, UPMC Cancer Centers* and
Medical Director, Via Oncology, sets forth
12 important questions that oncology
groups should ask when evaluating
pathway solutions.
- ***Clinical Pathways Programs: Selecting
the Appropriate Pathways Program***,

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* met on January
18th to discuss and/or act upon the following
issues:

- Open forum with Diamond Level
Corporate Members
- Annual election results
- Conflict of interest policy
- Board attendance requirement
- Election of *Secretary* and *Treasurer*

Journal of Multidisciplinary Cancer Care (August 2010; viaoncology.com/downloads/Via_JMOCC_Aug2010.pdf). Dawn Holcombe, *President of DGH Consulting* and frequent contributor to oncology publications, discusses how oncology groups should review and select a pathways program.

Please contact Kathy Lokay, *President, Via Oncology*, at kathy.lokay@viaoncology.com or (877) 484-2435, to answer any questions about pathways at your practice.

Individual Member News

The ANCO Directory of Members is now available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download and print their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. The online edition will be regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

Group Member News

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO Board believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO.

ANCO initiated a **Multi Site Group Membership** in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks *California Cancer Care, EastBay Partners in Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Redwood Regional Oncology Center, and Valley Medical Oncology Consultants* for their multi site group memberships.

Institutional Member News

ANCO initiated an **Institutional Membership** in 2002. *Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology* of accredited, degree granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for

institutional membership. ANCO thanks the following Institutional Members for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

iPointOfCare (iPOC) is a web-based tool that helps oncologists find answers to point-of-care questions about non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and obtain CME credit—right from a computer or web-enabled mobile device.

Heather A. Wakelee, M.D., *Co-Leader of Stanford University's Lung Cancer Clinical Research Group*, is a member of the *IPOC Editorial Board* for non-small cell lung cancer, which chooses IPOC resources that are timely and relevant. Information about iPOC is available at cme.ipointofcare.org/nsclc-bnr2. IPOC directs physicians and other healthcare professionals to peer-reviewed information about lung cancer research and diagnosis; abstracts, meta-analyses, professional guidelines, and consensus statements; and, expert opinion about treatment and clinical trials. Professionals can bring up-to-date information to a computer, right at the point of care. A web-enabled version, *iPointOfCare Mobile*, puts answers as close as an iPhone, BlackBerry, or phone that uses the Android operating system. To earn CME credit, a user logs on to iPointOfCare.org and registers, then uses keywords to search for answers to point-of-care questions. A user receives 0.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits* for each search, and credit is automatically applied to the user's account during each search. *iPointOfCare.org* is sponsored by the *Discovery Institute of Medical Education* (DIME).

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme

UCSF's **10th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Updates** takes place in North Lake Tahoe on

January 28-29th. For more information, visit www.lungcancermeetings.com/ucsf_10/index.html.

Stanford's Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach returns on Friday and Saturday, March 25-26th. Formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*, this meeting will now take place at the *Li Ka-Shing Center for Learning & Knowledge* on the campus of *Stanford University*. Branimir (Brandy) Sikic, M.D., and A. Dimitri Colevas, M.D., will co-direct this meeting, presented by the *Stanford Cancer Center*. For more information, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/events2011asmmc.html.

UCSF's *Radiation Oncology Update: Perspectives on New Technologies, Clinical Findings, and Safety* takes place at *The St. Regis Hotel* in San Francisco on April 1st-3rd. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO11001 for more information.

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials** (also see below), please visit:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr
- clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

Abraxis BioScience • Agendia
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech
Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics
Eisai • Genentech BioOncology

Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium
Myriad Genetics • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals
Onmark,
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
Response Genetics • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services • Vidacare

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals* as a new Corporate Member in 2011.

Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for updated **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**.

Merck informs ANCO that *Palmetto/J1MAC* has updated the **Maximum Allowed Units (MAUs)** for **fosaprepitant dimeglumine (J1453)** from 115 to 150 in its claims processing systems and that the *Palmetto/J1MAC* website will be updated in the near future.

Onmark will host a webcast entitled *Learn About 2011 Reimbursement Changes on January 25th and 26th*. Visit www118.livemeeting.com/lrs/mckesson_ccc/Registration.aspx?PageName=v98tjnb11rvfj4pm for information.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)* is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO is now offering the *QOPI Certification Program* to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The *QOPI Certification* designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. For more information or to register, go to qopi.asco.org.

Oncology Practice (practice.ascoexchange.org), a social networking site where practice administrators can easily connect, collaborate, and exchange information about day-to-day

issues facing oncology practice, **has moved to ASCOConnection.org**. ASCOConnection merges Practice, EHR, and ASCO Connection Magazine into one site. The Practice section will be located under the “Forums” tab.

The January issue of ASCO’s *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles focusing on oral chemotherapies and symptom assessment. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

ACCC has updated *Part B Drug Information Guide*. This publication is available online at www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo, is designed as an easy-to-use listing of drug information and coverage, is a compilation of oncology drugs from the nationally recognized drug compendia, and provides a method of determining whether there is evidence on the appropriateness of use of an oncology drug for a specific oncology-related condition.

ACCC has launched a new resource to help community cancer centers meet the ongoing challenge of ensuring access to care for all patients with cancer. *Reimbursement and Patient Assistance Programs: A Guide for Community Cancer Centers* mailed with the January/February 2011 *Oncology Issues*. Available both in print and online, this guide brings together information on pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs and reimbursement resources. This digital edition allows users to link directly to program information and enrollment forms. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/publications/publications-PAP.asp to access this new resource.

The *Community Oncology Alliance’s* (COA) *Administrators’ Network* (CAN) website is available at communityoncology.info. Bobbi Buell is the CAN *Web Mistress*. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

The January issue of the *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* focuses on myelodysplastic syndromes epithelial ovarian cancer. Visit www.jnccn.org/content/current for more information. NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for malignant pleural mesothelioma and thymomas and thymic

carcinomas. **Need instant access to the NCCN Compendium and NCCN Guidelines updates as they happen? Subscribe to NCCN Flash Updates** to have changes delivered straight to your inbox. NCCN *Flash Updates* provide immediate notification of changes and updates to published NCCN *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* chapters and NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology*. Subscribers receive an e-mail as soon as updates or changes occur. Visit www.nccn.org/network/business_insights/flash_updates/default.asp to learn more about NCCN *Flash Updates*. **The NCCN Guidelines for Patients—consumer-friendly translations of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology outlining appropriate cancer treatment—for breast, lung, ovarian, and prostate cancers, and melanoma are now available at www.nccn.com/patient-guidelines.html. NCCN’s on-line and live educational activities are listed at www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/default.asp.**

Individual Membership Dues for 2011

Membership renewal notices for 2011 were mailed to all members on December 1st, 2010. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by July 1st will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO. And, ANCO seeks to enroll radiation oncologists as members**, so please send us contact information for the radiation oncologists within your practice and/or to whom you refer patients.

Remember, a larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!