

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
execdir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 11, No. 2

January 27th, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association* news. While membership mailings and e-mail or FAX broadcasts 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 10th. 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.

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

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.]

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.]

House Democrats and Republicans returned to Congress with renewed hope for the smooth passage of a measure that would extend a payroll tax cut and delay reductions to physician Medicare reimbursement for at least one year before the current two-month measure expires at the end of February (according to the *New York Times*). While both parties have agreed to

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.

concessions to facilitate the passage of the extension, disagreement over how to fund the extension (reductions in *Federal* health reform law funding versus using savings from the end of the Iraq war) and for how long (one or two years versus a permanent fix) continue. A January 24 vote instructed negotiators drafting the Medicare payment extension bill to report on a compromise by February 17.

CMS extended the 2012 Annual Participation Enrollment Program period until February 14th. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8PXFUT1503?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email for more information.

There are several new HCPCS codes for 2012. Among the list of new drug codes for 2012 (to be used for dates of service on or after January 1st) are:

- J1557, immune globulin (Gammaplex)
- J8561, everolimus (oral, .25mg)
- J9043, cabazitaxel (1mg)
- J9179, eribulin mesylate (.1mg)
- J9228, ipilimumab (1mg)

Visit www.cms.gov/hcpcsreleasecodesets/anhcpcs/list.asp for a complete list of 2012 HCPCS codes.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an interim final rule requiring drug companies that are the sole manufacturers of certain critical medicines to report a potential shortage to Federal officials. Visit www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/12/20111215a.html for more information. If your practice is experiencing a shortage of a particular therapy, the *American Society of Health-System Pharmacists* (ASHP) has prepared guidance for purchasing drugs in short supply at www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/DrugShortages/Purchasing-Drug-Products-in-Short-Supply.aspx and guidelines on managing drug product shortages at www.ashp.org/s_ashp/docs/files/BP07/Procure_Gdl_Shortages.pdf. A patient update from the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) is available at www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm258152.htm. An ASH update on the drug shortage situation is provided at

www.hematology.org/News/2011/6943.aspx. Specifically, **ASH has learned that the leucovorin shortage continues and Teva Pharmaceuticals and the FDA are initiating a temporary importation of the product.** Physicians are able to contact *Teva* to obtain the imported product (see www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/UCM259864.pdf) and if there are any issues encountered obtaining the product from *Teva*, contact the FDA's *Drug Shortage Program* at drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov. In addition, a shortage of daunorubicin (from *Bedford* and *Teva*) is reportedly impacting clinical trials and patient care (read more at www.hematology.org/News/2011/7389.aspx).

Unfortunately, price gouging is a by-product of drug shortages. Price gouging falls under the authority of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and it has investigated and filed suit against pharmaceutical firms for price gouging in the past. New complaints can be filed at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/. The ASHP is also encouraging its members to report price gouging to the *State Attorney General's* office (oag.ca.gov/).

CMS's webpage with information and resources related to the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 and CMS Version 5010 is www.cms.gov/ICD10/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage. A series of webinars on 5010 preparedness is being offered at www.getready5010.org. All HIPAA covered entities that submit transactions electronically were required to upgrade from Version 4010/4010A to Version 5010 transaction standards by January 1st, 2012. However, **CMS will not initiate enforcement action until March 31st, 2012 with respect to any HIPAA covered entity that is not in compliance with the Version 5010 standards.** Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8NQG887668?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email for more information. **Palmetto/J1MAC's Medicare Fee-For-Service Companion Guide includes information related to 5010-based transactions being submitted to Palmetto/J1MAC.** Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8E4NZK8877?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs for more information.

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting System (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 .5% of Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* charges for 2012. CMS has posted 2012 PQRS educational products at www.cms.gov/PQRS/. ASH provides user-friendly information on PQRS at www.hematology.org/Practice/PQRI/2941.aspx. Specifically, **ASH has a new web-based tool to help hematologists obtain the incentive payment.** For more information, visit hematology.pqriwizard.com/default.aspx for more information.

CMS's Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive includes updated eRx educational products. Starting in 2012 (and based on eRx activities in 2011), physicians not using e-prescribing will be penalized (i.e., receiving 99% or one percent less of their Medicare Part B *Physician Fee Schedule* amount that would otherwise apply to such claimed services). **You should be e-prescribing now if you want to avoid additional penalties in the future.** The **United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** has announced its intention to delay the start of Stage 2 meaningful use for the **Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs** for a period of one year for those first attesting to meaningful use in 2011. CMS intends to propose such a delay in the Stage 2 meaningful use *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*, which is scheduled to be published in February 2012. Attestation of Stage 2 criteria will not need to be provided until 2013. For more information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8PDJQH5345?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email.

California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) began accepting enrollments for the **DHCS/MediCal EHR Incentive Program** on December 15th. Accessing these incentives will require a two-part enrollment. Physicians must first register with CMS at ehrincentives.cms.gov. Visit medi-cal.ehr.ca.gov for more information

and to enroll in DHCS/MediCal Program.

The **California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization (CalHIPSO)**; www.calhipso.org) provides education and training, EHR selection and implementation, and other technical services. The **California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF)** has published a series of papers entitled *Electronic Health Record Deployment Techniques*. The papers discuss Workflow Analysis, Training Strategies, Clinical Documentation, and Chart Abstraction. Visit www.chcf.org/publications/2010/03/ehr-deployment-techniques for more information. **CMA has launched a new resource called the ROI Calculator to help physicians estimate savings and return on investment if they make the switch from traditional paper medical records to electronic health record (EHR) technology.** In addition, CMA's model EHR contract provides members with an example of a physician-friendly vendor agreement that can be used in negotiating vendor contracts. CMA has also published an *Electronic Health Records Desk Reference* (www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail?item=ehr-desk-reference). For the latest information on health information technology (HIT), visit www.cmanet.org/hit/.

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 2012* (slide presentation, ICD-9 updates, and webcast recording), including information on the 2012 Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, a review of the SGR, highlights of the 2012 Medicare *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, details on Medicare incentive programs (PQRS, eRx, EHR), and oncology-related coding updates.

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. ANCO's advocacy reporting is supported by a grant from *Pfizer Oncology*.]

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

- The *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid* reports that although the economy continues to struggle, the number of US residents receiving health insurance through Medicaid remained stable in 2011. The *Commission* found that the *Federal* health reform law's requirement that states maintain eligibility levels until a nationwide Medicaid expansion takes place in 2014 "was central in preserving coverage during 2011." According to the *Commission*, 11 states took steps to expand coverage. However, some states are adopting strategies to reduce public health insurance costs (e.g., in several states physician reimbursements are being pared back).

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.

A United States District Court has ruled that California cannot cut DHCS/MediCal reimbursements given to hospitals for providing skilled nursing care and to pharmacy and managed care services. CMA has filed similar litigation with regard to physician services. It is ANCO's understanding that, in light of the *Court's* decision, DHCS/MediCal has placed a hold on recoupments of the 10% reimbursement reductions retroactive to June 1st, 2011 until the legal issues are settled. The latest information from DHCS/MediCal on this matter is available

at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_20196.asp.

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 (CES) has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers.** CMA's CES advocates have received numerous requests for assistance from hematologists/oncologists from ANCO and been successful in facilitating the payment of hundreds of thousands of dollars from insurance plans. For membership, please call (916) 551-2042; for reimbursement assistance, please call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

CMA Practice Resources (CPR) is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's Center for Economic Services that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. Please visit www.cmanet.org/cpr to subscribe.

CMA's contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations—A Focus on Payer Contracting* helps physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payer agreements. It is available free to CMA members at the members-only website. Nonmembers can purchase the tool kit for \$100 in the CMA bookstore (call (800) 882-1262). This tool kit and several other CMA tool kits (i.e., *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your*

Cash Flow, Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement) aim at empowering physician practices vis-à-vis their relationships with private payers.

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.]

The **Palmetto/J1MAC Medicare Part B Revised Fee Schedule for Northern California** is now available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/lS/J1B-8NFNJ58008?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email.

Palmetto/J1MAC has revised several Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs):

- *Bladder Tumor Markers* (L31302; www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8QNP9Z6737?opendocument);
- *Brachytherapy: Non-Intracoronary* (L28243; www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8QFMKS7471?opendocument);
- *Radiation Oncology: External Beam/Teletherapy* (L28297; www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8QFMKS7471?opendocument).

Palmetto/J1MAC has published a 2012 Coding Update that includes 2012 additions, deletions, and changes for HCPCS, CDT, and CPT codes and modifiers. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/lS/J1B-8PSKSL5844?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email for more information.

The 2011 version of the *Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage* (ABN; Form CMS-R-131) must be used beginning January 1st. ABNs issued after January 1st, which are prepared using previous versions, will be considered invalid. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/lS/J1B-8MSJV37116?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_

[campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/lS/J1B-8PSKSL5844?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email).

CMS has delayed the requirement that physicians revalidate their Medicare enrollment to 2015. Physicians who have already received revalidation notifications from Palmetto/J1MAC should fill out the form and return it per the instructions. Do not do anything until you receive a letter instructing you to revalidate. Physicians who are making changes (e.g., moving, closing practice) should continue to submit their changes as usual.

For the past two years Palmetto/J1MAC has received payment error rates from the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) contractor that have been almost twice the national rate. Many of these errors are attributed to insufficient and illegible documentation, and lack of or illegible signatures. Palmetto/J1MAC is now taking steps to correct these errors by reviewing claims to identify potential areas for provider education. Palmetto/J1MAC will notify physicians by mail that a small sample of their claims will be selected for medical review. The notice will also provide recommended resources on documentation and coding. Physicians who are notified will receive a request for medical records in the form of an *Additional Document Request* (ADR) for each claim selected, along with an example of the information that should be returned. Failure to respond to these requests will result in non-payment of the claim. Palmetto/J1MAC may also call or make unannounced site visits to physician offices to schedule an appointment for an educational meeting. Failure to participate in this education will result in 100% pre- and post-payment audit of claims. CMA is discussing the nature of these audits with Palmetto/J1MAC and the disruption and burden they will be to physician offices. Take CMA's survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Medicare_Audits.

Join Palmetto/J1MAC in a joint effort to reduce the national claims payment error rate by participating in the E/M Education Series. Attendees will not only learn about E/M coding principles, documentation and signature guidelines, coding tools and resources, but also how to apply E/M guidelines to actual scenarios. Go to www.palmettogba.com/j1b > Learning &

Education > Event Calendar for more information. The *Series* continues on February 8th (E/M Time-based Codes ACT) and February 15th (E/M FAQs ACT). The presentation for the January 18th webinar entitled E/M: Introducing the Guidelines is now available online at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8PQRKR5560?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email.

Palmetto/J1MAC is pleased to host webinars entitled *Welcome to Medicare (New Biller)*. Part I takes place on February 2nd (with Parts 2 and 3 taking place on February 7th and 9th, respectively). Go to www.palmettogba.com/j1b > Learning & Education > Event Calendar for more information.

Palmetto/J1MAC's February *Medicare Advisory* is available at www.palmettogba.com > Publications > Medicare Advisory. Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- **Bundling of Payments for Services Provided to Outpatients Who Later Are Admitted as Inpatients: 3-Day Payment Window Policy and the Impact on Wholly Owned or Wholly Operated Physician Offices**
- **Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits**
- **Autologous Cellular Immunotherapy Treatment of Metastatic Prostate Cancer**

DHCS/MediCal has published an updated coverage policy for denosumab (Prolia, XGeva) in the *Medi-Cal Update: General Medicine* (January 2012, Bulletin 451; files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/gm201201.asp#a4). The updated coverage policy covers the use of denosumab to increase bone mass in men at high risk for fracture receiving androgen deprivation therapy for nonmetastatic prostate cancer and to increase bone mass in women at high risk for fracture receiving adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer.

***Anthem Blue Cross* has been ordered to pay doctors for outstanding services dating back to 2007 after the insurer failed to remediate violations revealed by a state audit.** If claims are

found to have been wrongly charged, they would need to be repaid with interest under the order. Visit healthhelp.ca.gov/library/reports/news/order011212.pdf to view the order.

Did you know that 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. The independent dispute resolution process is described at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_imr.aspx. Practices can review past DMHC enforcement actions at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_arbitration.aspx; or, past independent medical review findings at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_imrdec.aspx. (Read a history of California's independent medical review process at www.chcf.org/publications/2012/01/independent-medical-review-history.)

EDUCATION

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

ANCO's Oncology Reimbursement 2012

ANCO hosted its annual *Oncology Reimbursement* programs in Sacramento, San José, and Fresno on January 3rd-5th. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *onPoint Oncology*, provided a complete update of changes for Medicare reimbursement, including an update on what's going on right now, the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, PQRS and eRx, meaningful use and HIT, the 2012 *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, new payment models, and coding updates. In addition, meeting supporters discussed their reimbursement/patient assistance program resources. Buell's presentation is available at www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2012.html. Reimbursement and patient assistance resources are available at www.anco-online.org/assistance.html.

ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2011

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* took place on January 11th 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 2011's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*. The presentations are available at www.anco-online.org/sabcs2012.html.

ASCO's Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

ASCO's 2012 *Genitourinary Cancers Symposium: An Evidence-based Multidisciplinary Approach* takes place at the *San Francisco Marriott Marquis* on February 2nd-4th, 2012. Visit gucasymposium.org for more information.

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 February 3rd-4th. This exceptional educational

opportunity will feature leading hematology experts who will present unbiased analysis from the 53rd *ASH Annual Meeting* abstracts and sessions, evolving therapies, and the latest treatment options and their clinical applications. The program for the meeting along with additional details can be viewed at www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/. ASH is accredited by the *Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education* to provide continuing medical education (CME) for physicians and has designated this educational activity for a maximum of 11 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. ANCO members receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting. Contact ANCO at execdir@anco-online.org for the registration code or e-mail ASH directly at customerservice@hematology.org.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

February 8th

The Latest Developments Reported at the 34th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 9th

Update on the Treatment of Liver Cancer
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 14th

Update from the 2011 ASH Annual Meeting
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 18th-21st

32nd Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology & Oncology

Scripps Cancer Center
San Diego

February 29th

Medical Update on Pancreatic Cancer
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 3rd

11th Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference

Cancer Prevention Institute of California
San Francisco
(www.cpic.org/site/c.skI0L6MKJpE/b.5730241/k.C7F8/Events.htm)

March 6th
Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

March 8th
The Importance of Taking Your Pills on Schedule: Understanding Adherence
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

March 12-14th
38th Annual National Meeting: Knowledge is Power
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Baltimore
(www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/meetings-AM2012.asp)

March 14th
Progress in the Treatment of Metastatic Melanoma
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

March 16th
Advances in the Treatment of Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

March 28th
Medical Update on Myelofibrosis
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets 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 14th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive*

Director, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Individual Member News

Andrew H. Ko, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, and Chong-Xian Pan, M.D., Ph.D., *University of California, Davis*, have been recognized by the *National Cancer Institute* with a 2011 *Leadership Award*. This *Award* recognizes exceptional clinical investigators and their contributions to the advancement of clinical research through collaborative team science.

An updated *Directory of Members* is available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. The online edition is regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org 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 *Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EastBay Partners in Cancer Care, Pacific 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*

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

Stanford's 13th Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach returns on Friday and Saturday, March 9-10th, 2012. This meeting will take place at the *Li Ka-Shing Center for Learning & Knowledge* on the campus of *Stanford University*. Branimir (Brandy) Sikić, M.D., and A. Dimitri Colevas, M.D., will co-direct this meeting, presented by the *Stanford Cancer Center*. Tumor Board cases and panels on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, head and neck, and thoracic cancers; cutaneous and hematologic malignancies; and, lymphoma will be presented. For more information, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/events2011asmcc.html.

UCSF's *Radiation Oncology Update: Combined Therapies, Combined Images, Combined Vision* takes place at *The St. Regis Hotel* in San Francisco on March 16-18th, 2012. For more information, please visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO12001.

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

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- <https://ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicsearch.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:

*Agendia • Alexion Pharmaceuticals
Allos Therapeutics • AMGEN
The Apothecary Shop • Astellas Oncology
AstraZeneca • Baxter BioScience
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology
Clariant Diagnostic Services • Dendreon • Eisai
Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health
Genzyme Oncology • GlaxoSmithKline Oncology
Innovatix • Janssen Biotech
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology
McKesson Specialty Health • Merck • Millennium
Myriad Genetics • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
Sanofi Oncology • Seattle Genetics
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Innovatix* and *Onyx Pharmaceuticals* as new Corporate Members for 2012. Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for **updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**.

Janssen Biotech's latest update on the **Doxil shortage** has been posted at www.doxil.com/doxil-supply-shortage.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO and MOASC jointly publish a weekly e-publication entitled *California Oncology Weekly*. The *Weekly* is e-mailed and FAXed to all current ANCO recipients of the *ANCO FAX News* and digests national, California, ANCO, MOASC, and industry news. Please send an e-mail to execdir@anco-online.org if you are not receiving the *Weekly* via e-mail or FAX.

The January issue of the *Journal of Oncology Practice* is now available and features articles on

the ASCO/ONS chemotherapy administration safety standards. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

The January/February issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles entitled *Future Trends in Cancer Care Deliver—2011 to 2021*, *A Pharmacist-Managed Oral Chemotherapy Program*, *Patient Portals: The Gateway to Patient-Centered Care and Meaningful Use*, and *Cancer Survivorship Programs* at www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/accc/oncologyissues_20120102/.

ACCC's 2012 Reimbursement and Patient Assistance Programs: A Guide for Community Cancer Centers helps community cancer centers meet the ongoing challenge of ensuring access to care for all patients with cancer. Expanded and updated, the *Guide* features a quick reference guide by drug name with links directly to the drug manufacturers, a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs, a patient assistance program flow chart, directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms, and an in-depth look at the value of financial counselors. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/publications/publications-PAP.asp to access this resource.

The Community Oncology Alliance's (COA) Administrators' Network (CAN) website is available at can.communityoncology.org/#. Bobbi Buell is the CAN *Web Mistress*. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter.

The February issue of the *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* focuses on NCCN guidelines for lung cancer screening and senior adult oncology. Visit www.jnccn.org/content/current for more information. NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for bladder cancer, bone cancer, colon and rectal cancers, distress management, Hodgkin lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndromes, and testicular cancer. NCCN's on-line and live educational activities are listed at www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/default.asp.

ANCO members have access to the *MOASC Drug Grid 2012* at www.moasc.org > For Members > Drug Grid. The *Drug Grid* is a

comprehensive guide to oncology billing, coding, and coverage decisions by Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, and the DMERC. For each drug (accessible by either its generic or brand name), the HCPCS J-code, DHCS X-code, FDA-labeled and *Compendia* listed off-label (both USP-DI and AHFS) indications, and Palmetto/J1MAC, MediCal, and DMERC coverages are provided. A username and password are required to use the *Drug Grid* and may be obtained from the ANCO office. A .pdf version of the *Drug Grid* is also available for download. ANCO acknowledges the permission of MOASC for allowing distribution of this information to ANCO members.

Individual Membership Dues for 2012

Membership renewal notices for 2012 were mailed to all members in late November. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2012 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members*. Accompanying the membership renewal notices was the 2011 *Annual Report* (visit www.anco-online.org/AR2011.pdf). 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!