

# ANCO FAX News

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The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association* and membership news. While membership mailings and e-mail/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*. Find the *ANCO FAX News* online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html).

#### In this issue:

- USP800 implementation delayed
- Medicare response to California wildfires
- *Hematologic Malignancies Updates*
- Silverado 2018 Registration & Housing

#### 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 November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto: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

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.

## ADVOCACY

[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 *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 meets regularly with these and other 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, COA, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

Close to 100 ASCO volunteers from across the country (including ANCO *President Daniel Mirda, M.D.*) went to *Capitol Hill* on September 27-28 for the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ASCO Advocacy Summit*. They asked *Members of Congress* to stop a proposal from CMS that would apply MIPS adjustments—a range of bonuses and penalties for providers—to Part B drug cost, ensure patient access to necessary cancer treatment by supporting the Cancer Drug Parity Act, and pass a FY2018 funding bill that increases funds for the *National Institutes of Health* by \$2B.

ASCO recently joined nearly two dozen advocacy groups in sending a letter to *House Energy and Commerce Committee* leadership strongly opposing “right-to-try” (RTT) legislation currently under consideration. The letter urges the *Committee* to instead work on policies that would safely increase access to promising investigational therapies for patients. Read the letter at [www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/Patient-Orgs-Oppose-RTT.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/Patient-Orgs-Oppose-RTT.pdf).

CMS has released its proposed CY2018 *Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)* and *Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)* rules. Read the proposed rule at [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/20/2017-14883/medicare-program-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-payment](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/20/2017-14883/medicare-program-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-payment); read the fact sheet at [www.cms.gov/Newsroom/](http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/)

[MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2017-Fact-Sheet-items/2017-07-13.html](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/20/2017-14883/medicare-program-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-payment). Major changes include a reduction in payments to hospitals participating in 340B under OPPS. Overall, physician payment rates will increase by .31% in CY2018 compared to CY2017, including an estimated 1% increase for radiation oncology. Read Bobbi Buell’s summary of the proposed rule at [www.anco-online.org/BBMPFS2018Analysis.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/BBMPFS2018Analysis.pdf). Read ASCO’s comments on the proposed rules at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/cms-urged-ensure-fair-adequate-medicare-reimbursement-oncologists](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/cms-urged-ensure-fair-adequate-medicare-reimbursement-oncologists); read ASH’s comments on the proposed rules at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx/](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx/); read ACCC’s comments on the proposed OPPS and PFS rules at [www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/ACCC-CY-2018-OPPS-Proposed-Rule-Comment-Letter.pdf?\\_zs=bhddd1&\\_zl=5oSB4](http://www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/ACCC-CY-2018-OPPS-Proposed-Rule-Comment-Letter.pdf?_zs=bhddd1&_zl=5oSB4) and [www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/ACCC-CY-2018-PFS-Proposed-Rule-Comment-Letter.pdf?\\_zs=bhddd1&\\_zl=6oSB4](http://www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/ACCC-CY-2018-PFS-Proposed-Rule-Comment-Letter.pdf?_zs=bhddd1&_zl=6oSB4), respectively.

ASCO recently joined nearly 120 state and national medical organizations in sending a letter led by the *American Medical Association* to committee leadership urging lawmakers to enact legislation that will ensure CMS has the flexibility to continue a transitional approach to the implementation of the QPP for three more years as necessary program elements are put in place. For more information, visit [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/medical-groups-urge-flexibility-quality-payment-program](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/medical-groups-urge-flexibility-quality-payment-program).

The *Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP)*, established by the *Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA)*, began on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This year is a transition year meaning you can “pick your pace” when implementing QPP in your practice. CMS has posted new resources to the QPP website to help clinicians successfully participate in the first year of the QPP. The new resources focus on support for small practices and

alternative payment models (APMs). Visit [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov) for more information. In addition, CMS is now accepting hardship exceptions from the QPP for the 2017 reporting year based on insufficient internet connectivity, extreme and uncontrollable circumstances, and lack of control over the availability of certified EHR technology. Learn more at [qpp.cms.gov/about/hardship-exception](http://qpp.cms.gov/about/hardship-exception).

**CMS has issued a proposed rule that would make changes in the second year of the QPP. The proposed rule “aims to simplify the program, especially for small, independent, and rural practices.”** Read the CMS fact sheet at [qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP\\_Proposed\\_Rule\\_for\\_QPP\\_Year\\_2.pdf](http://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Proposed_Rule_for_QPP_Year_2.pdf); and, read Bobbi Buell’s analysis at [www.anco-online.org/BBMIPS2018.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/BBMIPS2018.pdf). ASCO submitted comments to CMS on the proposed rule arguing that its data show that the median financial penalty for oncology practices under the proposal would range from 14-23%, well beyond the CMS-envisioned 4% penalty. ASCO urged CMS to refrain from implementing such a policy at any point in time. In addition, ASCO urged CMS to implement multiple oncology-focused APMs, including its own PCOP model. Read ASCO’s comments at [www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/QPP-2018-Proposed-Rule-Comments.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/QPP-2018-Proposed-Rule-Comments.pdf); read ASH’s comments at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx); read ACCC’s comments at [www.accc-cancer.org/ACCCbuzz/accc-comments-to-cms-on-quality-payment-program-proposed-rule/?utm\\_source=ACCCConnect&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ACCCConnect091317&\\_zs=bhddd1&\\_zl=8oSB4](http://www.accc-cancer.org/ACCCbuzz/accc-comments-to-cms-on-quality-payment-program-proposed-rule/?utm_source=ACCCConnect&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ACCCConnect091317&_zs=bhddd1&_zl=8oSB4).

**CMS invites representatives from organizations of all sizes to assess current and future functionality of the *Quality Payment Program* website ([qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov)) as well as make recommendations for improvements.** If interested, then e-mail [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov) to participate in a one-on-one feedback session.

**Unsure of your MIPS participation status? Clinicians can now use an interactive tool on the *CMS Quality Payment Program* website to determine if they should participate in MIPS.**

Visit [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov) > Check Now, enter your NPI and information will then be provided on whether or not you should participate in MIPS in 2017 and where to find resources.

**CMS is encouraging physicians to sign up for the new CMS QPP listserv to stay up-to-date on new resources, upcoming milestones and deadlines, and CMS webinars on the QPP.** To subscribe to the QPP listserv, go to [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov) and select “Subscribe to Email Updates” at the bottom of the page.

**ASCO is pleased to announce that its *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) *Qualified Clinical Data Registry* (QCDR) is now available for CMS MIPS reporting effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.** By using the QOPI QCDR for MIPS reporting, practices will be able to report in 2017 and 2018 to avoid cuts to Medicare reimbursements in 2019 and 2020. Express your interest in participating in the QOPI QCDR by e-mailing [qopi@asoc.org](mailto:qopi@asoc.org). Once registration is officially open, practices will be contacted regarding the necessary steps to begin their on-boarding process. For more information, please visit [www.instituteforquality.org/qopi/about/quality-reporting](http://www.instituteforquality.org/qopi/about/quality-reporting).

**ASCO’s series of webinars to guide oncology practices to successful quality reporting** are available at [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra) > MACRA Webinar Series. **ASCO has developed a MACRA decision tree tool to help oncology practices find precise information on their QPP participation status** at [www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/billing-coding-reporting/macra-quality-payment-program/macra-practice-tools/determine-status](http://www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/billing-coding-reporting/macra-quality-payment-program/macra-practice-tools/determine-status). For more information and access to ASCO’s revamped QPP/MACRA toolkit, educational materials, and resources, go to [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra). ASH’s updated MACRA webpage is at [www.hematology.org/](http://www.hematology.org/)

Clinicians/7427.aspx. **ASH members can now sign up to report data for the Medicare MIPS through *Healthmonix's* MIPSPRO, a 2017 Qualified MIPS Registry.** Learn more at [healthmonix.com/mips-pro/](http://healthmonix.com/mips-pro/).

**ASH will host a webinar on *MIPS and Reporting for MIPS* on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.** The webinar will provide a specialized MIPS reporting plan for hematologists. If you are interested in attending this webinar, then please e-mail Leslie Brady at [lbrady@hematology.org](mailto:lbrady@hematology.org).

**The *American Medical Association* (AMA) has produced a new short video entitled *One Patient, One Measure, No Penalty: How to avoid a Medicare payment penalty with basic reporting.*** The video and other AMA resources are available at [www.ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting](http://www.ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting). **CMA's Center for Economic Services (CES) has published an update to its MACRA preparation checklist entitled *MACRA: What Should I Do Now to Prepare?*** available at [www.cmanet.org/macra](http://www.cmanet.org/macra). **Physicians in practices with 15 or fewer can receive free assistance to prepare and participate in the QPP through the *California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization* (CalHIPSO).** Contact CalHIPSO at [www.hsag.com/calhipso](http://www.hsag.com/calhipso).

**USP has announced that it will postpone the official date of General Chapter 800 (i.e., USP800) to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.** USP800 was originally scheduled to become office on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. USP now plans to align the official date of USP800 with the release of the final version of USP797. However, some state and national enforcement agencies and other entities may require adherence to USP800 before its official implementation date.

### ***CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues***

**Governor Brown has signed the following legislation into law:**

- AB265 that would limit the use of co-pay/discounts.

- AB658 that suspends the state's clinical laboratory license renewal fees for two years (2018-2019).
- AB1386 that provides patients with information relating to the breast cancer susceptibility gene (BRCA) mutations in order to inform treatment decisions and increase genetic counseling and screening rates.
- SB17, California's prescription drug transparency law, that requires pharmaceutical companies to give payers notice of major price increases on medications.

To learn more details, go to [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov) and enter the bill number.

**The *California Medical Association* (CMA) is receiving reports from physician offices that *Anthem Blue Cross* is not paying the "interim payment" as required under the recently effective law (AB72) limiting out-of-network billing for covered, non-emergent services performed at an in-network facility.** If your practice has received an incorrect payment from *Anthem* or any other payor related to the new law, CMA wants to hear from you at (888) 401-5911 or via e-mail at [economicservices@cmanet.org](mailto:economicservices@cmanet.org). For more information about AB72, visit [www.cmanet.org/ab-72](http://www.cmanet.org/ab-72) including a new guide to help physicians challenge interim payments under the new AB72 out-of-network billing and payment law. Listen to CMA's on-demand webcast on the new law at [www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=assembly-bill-72-how-to-challenge-the-iterim](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=assembly-bill-72-how-to-challenge-the-iterim).

***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](http://www.cmanet.org/cpr) to subscribe. The October 2017 edition includes:

- Blue Shield to update fee schedule effective December 1
- United Healthcare delays consultation services payment policy change
- CMS unveils new Medicare Beneficiary Identification cards
- Physicians have until December 1 to dispute 2016 PQRS and QRUR findings
- Anthem Blue Cross to implement restrictive outpatient advanced radiology policy
- UnitedHealthcare to issue latest cycle of Peer Comparison Reports
- The Coding Corner: Provider queries and addendum in the medical record

### ***Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers***

*Noridian Administrative Services* is the **Jurisdiction E (JE) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)**. Jurisdiction E includes California. Regularly review postings at the *Noridian/JEMAC* website at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb). Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews *Announcements*—Extension of Medicare IVIG Demonstration through December 31, 2020; New Medicare Card Web Updates; 2018 Medicare EHR Incentive Program Payment Adjustment Fact Sheet for Hospitals; Qualifying APM Participant Look-Up Tool; Hospice Quality Reporting Program: New and Updated Resources; SNF Quality Reporting Program: Quick Reference Guide; MIPS Virtual Group Election Period Ends December 1; Quality

Payment Program: New Resources; SNF Quality Reporting Program Confidential Feedback Reports for Claims-Based Measures

*Claims, Pricers, and Codes*—October 2017 OPPS Pricer File *Publications*—Medicare Basics: Parts A and B Appeals Overview Video-New; Reading a Professional Remittance Advice Booklet-Reminder; Reading an Institutional Remittance Advice Booklet-Reminder; PQRS Call: Audio Recording and Transcript-New; Medicare FFS Response to the 2017 California Wildfires MLN Matters Article-New

- HCPCS Drug/Biological Code Changes October 2017 Update CR10234
- Noridian Medicare Portal Print Suppression Policy-Standard Paper Remittance
- Radiopharmaceutical Fee Schedule 2017 Updates for A9604 and A9552
- New Waived Tests-Revised CR10198
- Positron Emission Tomography Scans Coverage-R11
- Coding and Billing Date of Service on Professional Claims Guidance-Rescinded SE17023
- NCCI PTP Edits, Version 24.0, Effective January 1, 2018 Quarterly Update CR10306
- Additional Information Required for Coverage and Pricing for Category III CPT Codes
- October Webinars-Register Now
- Chemotherapy Administration-R9
- MolDX: BCR-ABL; PreDX; OncoCEE; myPap; Mitochondrial Nuclear Gene Tests--Billing and Coding Guidelines

- ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files-January 2018 CR10320
- Laboratory NCD Edit Software Changes for January 2018 CR10309
- MolDX: Know error Billing and Coding Guidelines Update

### Forthcoming *Noridian/JEMAC*

meetings/webinars/workshops include:

- Basic E and M Avoiding Common Errors (October 24)
- Noridian Medicare Portal Registration and Functionality (October 26)

Visit [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events) for more information and to register.

CMS has published a MLN Matters article entitled *Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Response to the 2017 California Wildfires at* <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE17035.pdf>.

The *Anthem Blue Cross Network eUpdate* (October 2017) is now available online at [www11.anthem.com/ca/provider/f5/s3/t3/pw\\_g320754.pdf](http://www11.anthem.com/ca/provider/f5/s3/t3/pw_g320754.pdf) and features articles about specialty pharmacy updates, AIM genetic testing program, electronic member ID cards, and how to expedite your urgent grievance.

*UnitedHealthcare's Network Bulletin* (October 2017) is now available online at [www.unitedhealthcareonline.com](http://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com) > Tools & Resources > News & Network Bulletin and features articles on delay in implementation of the revision to the consultation services reimbursement policy, updating demographic information, pharmacy update—notice of changes to prior authorization requirements, outpatient injectable chemotherapy prior authorization program, changes in advance notification and prior authorization

requirements, notification/prior authorization requirement for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy, and enhancing the patient experience.

## EDUCATION

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

### **ANCO's 2017 Hematologic Malignancies Updates**

ANCO is organizing a series of *Hematologic Malignancies Updates* in 2017. The third and final *Update* takes place on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the *San Francisco Hyatt Regency* with Mehrdad Abedi, M.D., *University of California, Davis*, Sandy W. Wong, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, and Leena T. Rahmat, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*. The latest research on novel treatment modalities for hematologic malignancies, myeloma, and amyloidosis, along with case studies for these diagnoses will be presented. These updates are supported by *Janssen Oncology*, *Merck*, *Pfizer Oncology*, and *Pharmacyclics*. Download the meeting announcement at [www.anco-online.org/4Q2017HemeMaligUpdate.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/4Q2017HemeMaligUpdate.pdf).

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach**

The *18<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* returns to the *Silverado Resort and Spa* in Napa on March 16-18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is sponsored by the *Association of Northern California Oncologists*, *Stanford Cancer Institute*, *UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*. Go to [www.multicancers.org](http://www.multicancers.org) for more information including registration and housing.

#### **Additional Education Meetings**

October 27-28<sup>th</sup>  
*Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium*

ASCO  
San Diego  
([www.pallonc.org](http://www.pallonc.org))

November 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Update on the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

November 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Advances in the Treatment of HER2 Positive Breast Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

November 11<sup>th</sup>  
*Best of WCLC 2017-San Francisco*  
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer  
San Francisco  
([www.eventbrite.com/e/best-of-the-18th-wclc-san-francisco-tickets-37865231928](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/best-of-the-18th-wclc-san-francisco-tickets-37865231928))

November 11<sup>th</sup>  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Integrating Immune Therapies & Targeted Therapies into Standards of Care for Solid and Hematologic Malignancies*  
Global Resource for Advancing Cancer Education  
San Francisco

November 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Update on Mantle Cell Lymphoma*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

November 15<sup>th</sup>  
*Mind Body Techniques to Cope with the Stresses of Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

December 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Update on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

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

## ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are also eligible for several tangible benefits.]

### **Annual Election**

Four seats on the ANCO *Board of Directors* are up for election in 2017. ANCO seeks nominations for candidates for these seats. This year's election will be conducted via mail ballot in December. Candidates with the top four vote totals will serve for three years (i.e., from 2018-2020, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via e-mail/FAX to the ANCO office at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org)/(415) 472-3961.

### **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* teleconferences/meetings are open to individual physician members. The next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* meeting is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. 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**

#### **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 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*, *EPIC Care*, *Marin Cancer Care*, *Pacific*

Cancer Care, and Palo Alto Medical Foundation 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 Cancer Center*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

The *Stanford Cancer Center's MDS Center* is co-sponsoring a the MDS Foundation's Educational Patient-Caregiver Forum on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Forum takes place at 875 Blake Wilbur Drive, Room 2103, Stanford, CA 94305 from 9:30AM through 2PM.

### **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:

- AbbVie • Agendia • Alexion Pharmaceuticals*
- AMGEN • ARIAD Pharmaceuticals*
- Astellas Oncology • AstraZeneca*
- Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals*
- bioTheranostics*
- Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals*
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology*
- Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions*
- Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo*
- Eisai • EMD Serono • Exelixis*
- Foundation Medicine • Genentech BioOncology*
- Genomic Health • Gilead Sciences*
- Guardant Health • Helsinn Oncology*
- Heron Therapeutics • Incyte*
- Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals*

- Kite Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology • Merck nanoString • Novartis Oncology*
- Oncology Supply/ION • Pfizer Oncology*
- Pfizer US Biosimilars • Pharmacyclics*
- Puma Biotechnology • Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals*
- Sanofi Genzyme • Seattle Genetics*
- Taiho Oncology • Takeda Oncology • Tesaro*
- TEVA Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Agendia, bioTheranostics, EMD Serono, Kite Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer US Biosimilars, and Puma Biotechnology* as new Corporate Members for 2017. *Dendreon, Genoptix Medical Laboratory, GenPath Oncology, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, Medivation, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, and Prometheus Laboratories* did not renew their memberships for 2017. Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**. ANCO encourages all member practices to use this resource and enroll all patients at the start of treatment in all available and appropriate patient assistance programs.

*AMGEN* has sent a safety notice to ASH as part of the Blinicyto REMS to be shared with members about the serious risks of Blinicyto including cytokine release syndrome, neurological toxicities, as well as preparation and administration errors. Got to [www.blinicytoREMS.com](http://www.blinicytoREMS.com) for details.

*AstraZeneca* informs ANCO that CMS has assigned a unique HCPCS code (C9492, 10mg) to Imfinzi effective for dates of service on or after October 1.

*AstraZeneca* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Tagrisso for the first-line treatment of patients with metastatic epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutation-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

*Janssen Oncology*, in cooperation with ANCO and MOASC, is offering members a webcast entitled *MACRA and the Quality Payment Program-What*



*Does This Mean for Oncology?* with Thomas Marsland, M.D., *St. Joseph Health System*, on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM. Register at [www.medforcereg.net/SOMP11973](http://www.medforcereg.net/SOMP11973) or your Janssen representative (Caren Sykes, 661-332-2577; [csykes@its.jnj.com](mailto:csykes@its.jnj.com)) by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The webcast announcement is at [www.anco-online.org/MACRAWebcast.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/MACRAWebcast.pdf).

**Kite Pharmaceuticals** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Yescarta, the first chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR T) therapy for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL), high-grade lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma (transformed follicular lymphoma, or TFL).

**Lilly Oncology** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Verzenio in combination with fulvestrant for the treatment of women with hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer with disease progression following endocrine therapy and as mono therapy for the treatment of adult patients with with HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer with disease progression following endocrine therapy and prior chemotherapy in the metastatic setting.

**Seattle Genetics** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has granted breakthrough designation for Adcentris in combination with chemotherapy for the frontline treatment of patients with advanced classical Hodgkin lymphoma.

**Takeda Oncology** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved a new dosage for Alunbrig to treat patients with anaplastic lymphoma kinase-positive (ALK+) metastatic non-small cell lung cancer who have

progressed on or are intolerant to crizotinib. Patients can now opt to ingest a 180mg tablet, as opposed to taking multiple 30mg tablets.

### **Clinical Trial News**

**ASCO and Friends of Cancer Research are calling for the use of more inclusive eligibility criteria for cancer clinical trials.** Their joint research statement was published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* ([ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2017.73.7916](http://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2017.73.7916)).

**Stanford Cancer Center brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:**

- Phase II Trial of Atezolizumab in BCG-Unresponsive Non-muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer [ECOG-ACRIN-S1605; NCT02844816]. Principal Investigator: Eila Skinner, MD; Contact: Charlene Fernandez, (650) 723-0503, [charlene.fernandez@stanford.edu](mailto:charlene.fernandez@stanford.edu).
- Phase II study of Epacadostat (INCB024360) with Pembrolizumab (MK3475) in Metastatic or Unresectable Gastroesophageal Junction and Gastric Adenocarcinoma Requiring Paired Biopsies [GI0015; NCT03196232]. Principal Investigator: Pamela Kunz, MD; Contact: Julia Krupa, (650) 736-0697, [jkrupa@stanford.edu](mailto:jkrupa@stanford.edu).
- A Phase I Trial of AZD9291 and Necitumumab in EGFR-Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer After Progression on a Previous EGFR Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor [LYMNHL0138; NCT02496663]. Principal Investigator: Sukhmani Padda, MD; Contact: Angela Mah, (650) 498-5198, [angela.mah@stanford.edu](mailto:angela.mah@stanford.edu).
- A Phase 1/2A Open-Label, Multi-Dose, Multi-Center Escalation and Exploratory Study of Cerdulatinib (PRT062070) in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (SLL) OR B-Cell or T-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) [LYMNHL0138; NCT01994382]. Principal Investigator: Youn Kim, MD; Contact: Zachary Hopkins, (650) 421-6370, [zehop@stanford.edu](mailto:zehop@stanford.edu).
- An Open-Label, Randomized, Phase II Dose-Finding Study of Pacritinib in Patients with Thrombocytopenia and Primary Myelofibrosis, Post-Polycythemia Vera Myelofibrosis, or Post-Essential Thrombocythemia Myelofibrosis

previously Treated with Ruxolitinib [HEMMPD0030; NCT03165734]. Principal Investigator: Jason Gotlib, MD; Contact: Justin Abuel, (650) 723-1367, jabuel@stanford.edu.

- A Phase 3 Study of Active Surveillance for Low Risk and a Randomized Trial of Carboplatin vs. Cisplatin for Standard Risk Pediatric and Adult Patients with Germ Cell Tumors [AGE RANGE: See web page for various age requirements; COGAGCT1531; NCT03067181]. Principal Investigator: Shri Spunt, MD; Contact: Ruhi Nath, (650) 723-6990, rnath@stanford.edu.

- Apheresis for Pediatric B cell Malignancies [AGE RANGE: Less than or equal to 30 years of age; PEDSHEM0007]. Principal Investigator: Kara Davis, MD; Contact: Christin New, (650) 497-8815, newc@stanford.edu.

Further information is available at [cancer.stanford.edu/trials/](http://cancer.stanford.edu/trials/).

### **Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys**

ASCO's CancerLinQ Discovery, a new platform that will allow the oncology community to translate big data from CancerLinQ's pool of aggregated, de-identified patient data into real world insights is now accepting research proposals. For more information, visit [cancerlinq.org/research-database](http://cancerlinq.org/research-database).

ASCO's 2018 *Quality Training Program*, a comprehensive program designed to train oncology health care providers to investigate and implement data-driven quality improvement and manage clinical and non-clinical processes and outcomes, will take place in two locations—Miami and Alexandria. To learn more about and apply to participate in the *Program*, visit [www.asco.org/training-education/professional-development/quality-training-program](http://www.asco.org/training-education/professional-development/quality-training-program).

The October 2017 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP) is available online and features a Special Series that highlights end-of-life care in relation to clinical ethics in oncology, and other articles, editorials, and op-eds on this topic. Visit [jop.ascopubs.org](http://jop.ascopubs.org) for more information.

The *American Board of Medical Specialties* and its 24 member organizations are collaborating to re-

evaluate how physicians are certified for continued practice. The initiative, called *Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future* will bring together multiple stakeholders to create a "system of continuing Board certification that is meaningful, relevant and of value." In the meantime, download ASCO's MOC App ([university.asco.org/mocapp?](http://university.asco.org/mocapp?)).

**Registration is now open for the QOPI Fall Round that ends on November 7.** For more information, visit [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/2017-qopi-fall-round-closes-november-07](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/2017-qopi-fall-round-closes-november-07).

NCCN has published and/or updated their *Chemotherapy Order Templates, Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology, Drugs & Biologics Compendium, Evidence Blocks, Guidelines for Patients, Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria, and/or Radiation Therapy Compendium* for adolescent and young adult cancers (V2.2018), basal cell skin cancer (V1.2018), bladder cancer (V5.2017), central nervous system cancers (V1.2017), dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (V1.2018), esophageal and esophagogastric cancer (V4.2017), gastric cancer (V5.2017); genetic/familial high-risk assessment: breast and ovarian (V1.2018), genetic/familial high-risk assessment: colorectal (V3.2017), hepatobiliary cancers (V4.2017), kidney cancer (V1.2018), melanoma (V1.2018), Merkel cell carcinoma (V1.2018), myeloid growth factors (V2.2017), myeloma (V2.2018), non-small cell lung cancer (V9.2017), squamous cell skin cancer (V2.2018). Go to [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org) for more information.

NCCN has announced the release of the newly-completed *NCCN Radiation Therapy Compendium* that includes information designed to support clinical decision-making around the use of radiation therapy in patients with cancer. Learn more at [www.nccn.org/professionals/radiation/default.aspx](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/radiation/default.aspx).