

# 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:

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- MedPAC drug reimbursement proposal
- New CMS, CMA, and ASCO QPP/MACRA resources
- ANCO's *Hematologic Malignancies Updates*
- ANCO event at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*

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 May 12<sup>th</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.

## LETTER TO ANCO MEMBERS FROM ANCO PRESIDENT Daniel P. Mirda, M.D.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on recent NCCN and ASCO *State Affiliate Council* meetings in April.

At NCCN, there were interesting presentations by Robert Carlson, CEO, to support NCCN and young investigator scholarships. There is finally some renewed interest in NCCN working with ASCO and ASH to establish some criteria for treatment options, such as pathways. It is important to know that all the work at NCCN on guidelines is voluntary and is not supported by the pharmaceutical industry, to prevent any bias or influence. There was a presentation on NCCN's new *Radiation Oncology Guidelines* since this came from a suggestion from their meetings with state societies in the past.

A presentation by the Indiana state oncology society president provided insight into the connections between *Vice President Pence*, Tom Price (*Secretary of Health and Human Services*) and Seema Verma (new head of CMS), and how this will shape the national Medicare/Medicaid program. The Indiana Medicaid Program is considered successful by both participants and administrators and is likely to be a model for the rest of the country given that Seema Verma was *Governor Pence's* chief architect of the Indiana Medicaid Program. Verma is very smart and very knowledgeable about Medicaid but not Medicare. Her deputy will likely be responsible for Medicare. In summary, we should expect some type of shared responsibility model (essentially a health saving account) to be proposed as a model Medicaid program for each state. Tom Price was a practicing orthopedic surgeon and wants physicians to propose changes to Medicare. He is willing to listen to physician-generated options to MACRA and there was substantial discussion about physician sponsored programs and that he is "physician friendly."

There were presentations by IBM's Watson Oncology, Flatiron EHR, and USO/McKesson. I will try to arrange a presentation by IBM's Watson Oncology for ANCO members at a future meeting. Flatiron's presentation was about their EHR and gathering data, ease of use, etc. Flatiron is a very user friendly system and may be up and coming. McKesson presented how they "layer" data gathering over the EPIC EHR to get metrics and quality measures (e.g., for MIPS). They also discussed their incorporation of "guidelines to pathways" in the EPIC EHR in cooperation with NCCN.

Lastly the *American Health Care Act's* (AHCA) failure was discussed by a representative from ADVI (a Washington lobbyist) and *Brooking's* Kavitha Patel. It was very informative to hear their discussion of the "past, present and future" of ACA/AHCA. *President Trump* is learning what it takes to govern, the hard way, and that healthcare is hard to fix. At the NCCN meeting in mid-April, the opinion of the presenters was that passage of the AHCA was done and over and that it was not likely to come back although it could. It is more likely that the current ACA will be continuously weakened and, essentially, killed by a "thousand cuts". This will occur through lack of enforcement, stripping away any mandates, defunding parts of it, etc.

Similarly, at ASCO's *State Affiliate Council*, it was again confirmed that the AHCA is unlikely to be passed or return, and is essentially dead. However, MACRA is the law and will be implemented over the next three years. In 2017, all physicians will need to participate in MIPS (the Merit-based Incentive Payment System) if they are not in an "alternative payment model" (APM; e.g., Oncology Care Model or OCM). MIPS is relatively easy to use in 2017, but will get progressively more complex and mandatory in 2018 and 2019. Medicare will base your future reimbursement and this is a zero-sum game in 2018 and 2019 in that some practices that perform well will receive a 4% bonus or more which also means there will be practices that lose 4% or more. The comparator is the entire national database of physicians—you are competing with everyone participating in Medicare across the nation. It is very important for every practice to understand and review your *Quality and Resource Use Reports* (QRURs) from CMS for accuracy, since this is the basis for comparing practices.

Therefore, start understanding how you will be measured immediately because it won't be easier later. MIPS quality measures are still being established but simple examples are now in use—avoiding hospitalization due to chemotherapy toxicity, use of resources (mainly imaging), avoiding ER visits, early hospice referrals (before the last 3 days of life), chemotherapy administration within the last month of life. Participation in ASCO's QOPI can facilitate your MIPS participation. And, ASCO is developing MIPS programs and resources for practicing oncologists. I am very concerned that we are not implementing any special efforts to get our oncologists ready for these requirements under MACRA. Oncologists need to be informed and preparing to participate. Watch for ANCO educational efforts in 2017.

## 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**

The *Medicare Payment Advisory Commission* (MedPAC) has recommended a competitive pricing program and other changes to reimbursement for Medicare Part B drugs that would fundamentally restructure reimbursement for Part B drugs. Their recommendations include—improving ASP data reporting; modifying the payment rate; limiting payment rate increases; and, instituting consolidated billing codes. ASCO has jointed more than 180 patient and provider advocacy groups in signing a letter to MedPAC urging the *Congressional* advisory group to reconsider their recommendations. Read ASCO's letter at [www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/4-2017-ASP-Coalition-Letter-MedPAC-Proposals.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/4-2017-ASP-Coalition-Letter-MedPAC-Proposals.pdf).

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 (APMSs). Visit [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov) for more information. 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). 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).

**ASCO is releasing a series of webinars to guide oncology practices to successful quality reporting:**

- May 15<sup>th</sup>—Quality Payment Program: Scoring the Quality Measures
- June 19<sup>th</sup>—Quality Payment Program: Scoring for Advancing Care Information and Improvement Activities
- July 10<sup>th</sup>—Quality Payment Program: Optimizing your MIPS Score

All webinars are schedule for 1PM PT. Register at [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra) > MACRA Webinar Series

**CMS has announced that it is now accepting hardship exceptions from the meaningful use requirements of the EHR incentive payment program for the 2016 reporting year.** Physicians who can show that demonstrating meaningful use would result in a significant hardship can apply for a one-year exception and avoid a negative payment adjustment in 2018. The deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to [www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/PaymentAdj\\_Hardship.html](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/PaymentAdj_Hardship.html) for more information and applications.

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

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.

ANCO/MOASC-sponsored legislation entitled the *Oncology Clinical Pathway Act of 2017* (AB1107) would require health plans that choose to develop oncology clinical pathways to meet specific standards regarding those pathways and to divulge specific information to in-network providers upon request. AB1107 passed out of the *Assembly Health Committee* on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Read the text of AB1107 at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB1107](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1107).

**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.

### **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*—New Quality Payment Program Resources Available; Revised CMS-588: Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Agreement; SNF QRP Quick Reference Guide Now Available; Beneficiary Notice Initiative: New Email Address for Questions; Clinicians: MIPS Participation Status Letter; Open Payments Program Year 2016 Review and Dispute Period Ends May 15; EHR Incentive Programs: Submit Comments on Proposed Changes by June 13; Quality Payment Program: New Videos for Small, Rural, and Underserved Practices; Updated Advance Beneficiary Notice
- Publications*—SNF Billing Reference Booklet-Revised; Open Payments Call: Audio Recording and Transcript-New; Diagnosis Coding: Using the ICD-10-CM Web-Based Training Course-Revised; PECOS FAQs Booklet-Reminder
- There is Still Time to Evaluate Our Services!
- Provider Enrollment Revalidation-Cycle 2-Revised SE1605
- ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revision to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files-July 2017 CR10016
- Contractor Status Codes (C-Status) Updates
- Hydration Services-R1
- NCCI Procedure to Procedure Edits, Version 23.2, Effective July 1, 2017-Quarterly Update CR10082

- Payment for Moderate Sedation Services CR10001
- Mandatory Payment Reduction of 2% Continues for the Medicare FFS Program-Sequestration

*Noridian/JEMAC's* Electronic Data Interchange Support Services (EDISS) invites you to subscribe to its e-mail distribution list to receive current information at [www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html](http://www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html).

### **Forthcoming *Noridian/JEMAC* meetings/workshops include:**

- Noridian Medicare Portal Registration and Functionality (May 2, May 17)
- Modifier 59 (May 4, May 10)
- Mammography, Pap Test, Pelvic Exam, and Cervical Cancer with HPV Tests (May 31)

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

**According to *Noridian/JEMAC*, their coverage edits for HCPCS code G0498 currently only covers the code when used with trabectedin and this is an error.** They are currently updating their coverage edits to include additional drugs (J codes) that could be infused via pump over an extended period-of-time. A new coverage article is being prepared and will be published by *Noridian/JEMAC* very soon. It will include several additional covered drugs, including J9000 (doxorubicin), J9181 (etoposide), J9190 (flourouracil), and J9371 (vincristine). Additional drugs will be added as necessary. ANCO has learned that a mass adjustment has been ordered. Until then, practices may appeal denials to be overturned.

***Anthem Blue Cross* has announced that effective May 15<sup>th</sup>, *Myriad Genetic Laboratories* will no longer be an in-network laboratory provider.** A complete list of in-network participating laboratories may be obtained online at [www.anthem.com/ca](http://www.anthem.com/ca) > Provider > Find a Doctor.

***UnitedHealthcare's* commercial reimbursement policies will begin requiring biosimilar biological products to include a modifier that identifies the manufacturer of the specific product** for dates of service on or after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Specifically, the modifier for Q5101 (filgrastim) Zarxio will be ZA (Novartis/Sandoz) and the modifier for

Q5102 (infliximab) Inflectra will be ZA (Pfizer/Hospira).

## 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 first *Update* will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the *Sacramento Hyatt Regency* with Mehrdad Abedi, M.D., *University of California, Davis*, Sandy Wong, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, and Julian Davis, M.D., *University of California, Davis*. 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 Biotech, Merck, Pfizer Oncology*, and *Pharmacoclytics*. Download the meeting announcement and registration form at [www.anco-online.org/2Q2017HemeMaligUpdate.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/2Q2017HemeMaligUpdate.pdf).

### **SAVE THE DATE ANCO Event at ASCO's Best of ASCO 2017**

ANCO's *ASCO Highlights* will not take place in 2017 in lieu of our encouragement of members to attend ASCO's *Best of ASCO* in San Francisco ([west-boa.asco.org](http://west-boa.asco.org); June 16-17<sup>th</sup>). However, ANCO will host an event on June 15<sup>th</sup> entitled *The State of Cancer Care* with Margaret Tempero, M.D., and Wes Kidder, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, at the *San Francisco Marriott Marquis*. Watch for a meeting announcement in early May.

### **Additional Education Meetings**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Immunotherapy Delivery: Workflow and Work Process Considerations*  
ACCC  
([www.accc-cancer.org/webinars](http://www.accc-cancer.org/webinars))

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Update on Advanced Ovarian Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Trends in Oncology and Treatment Planning: What You Need to Know (Part I of Life with Cancer: A Guide to Getting the Best Care)*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Challenging Issues in Breast Cancer Management*  
ACCC  
([www.accc-cancer.org/webinars](http://www.accc-cancer.org/webinars))

May 5<sup>th</sup>  
*Advances in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 6<sup>th</sup>  
*Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy*  
ACCC and Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer  
San Francisco

May 11<sup>th</sup>  
*Emerging Therapies in Hodgkin Lymphoma*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 12<sup>th</sup>  
*Emerging Treatments for Metastatic Melanoma (Part II of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 16<sup>th</sup>  
*Living with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 16<sup>th</sup>  
*Engaging Multidisciplinary Clinicians in Genomic Tumor Boards*  
ACCC  
([www.accc-cancer.org/webinars](http://www.accc-cancer.org/webinars))

May 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Understanding the Costs of Care and Your Health Care Coverage (Part II of Life with Cancer: A Guide to Getting the Best Care)*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 18<sup>th</sup>  
*Immuno-Oncology Management Best Practices 2.0*  
ACCC  
([www.accc-cancer.org/webinars](http://www.accc-cancer.org/webinars))

May 18<sup>th</sup>  
*Progress in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 19<sup>th</sup>

*The Role of Immunotherapy in the Treatment of Melanoma (Part III of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Preventing Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Advances in the Treatment of Lung Cancer (Part I of Living with Lung Cancer)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Cancer and the Workplace: Understanding Your Legal Protections (Part III of Life with Cancer: A Guide to Getting the Best Care)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

June 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

*2017 ASCO Annual Meeting*

ASCO  
Chicago  
([am.asco.org](http://am.asco.org))

June 7<sup>th</sup>

*Participating in Decisions about Your Care (Part IV of Life with Cancer: A Guide to Getting the Best Care)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

June 13<sup>th</sup>

*For Caregivers: Practical Tips to Cope with Your Loved One's Lung Cancer (Part II of Living with Lung Cancer)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

June 14<sup>th</sup>

*For Caregivers: Care Coordination for Your Loved One Living with Cancer and Other Health Problems (Part V of Life with Cancer: A Guide to Getting the Best Care)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

June 16-17<sup>th</sup>

*Best of ASCO*  
ASCO  
San Francisco

([boa.asco.org](http://boa.asco.org))

June 29-30<sup>th</sup>

*POLST: It Starts with A Conversation*

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California  
Long Beach

([coalitionccc.org/training-events/polst-education/](http://coalitionccc.org/training-events/polst-education/))

June 30<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

July 14-15<sup>th</sup>

*16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Congress on the Future of Breast Cancer West*

Physicians' Education Resource  
San Diego

(ANCO member discount code IBW17ANCO  
[www.gotoper.com/conferences/ibc/meetings/16th-annual-international-congress-on-the-future-of-breast-cancer](http://www.gotoper.com/conferences/ibc/meetings/16th-annual-international-congress-on-the-future-of-breast-cancer))

July 27-29<sup>th</sup>

*18<sup>th</sup> Annual International Lung Cancer Congress*

Physicians' Education Resource  
Huntington Beach

(ANCO member discount code ILC17ANCO  
[www.gotoper.com/conferences/ilc/meetings/18th-international-lung-cancer-congress](http://www.gotoper.com/conferences/ilc/meetings/18th-international-lung-cancer-congress))

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.]

### **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 April 29<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

A current *Directory of Members* is available online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://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*. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto: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 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, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 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 Cancer Center*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

### 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  
bioTheragnostics  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions  
Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo  
Dendreon • Eisai • EMD Serono • Exelixis  
Foundation Medicine  
Genoptix Medical Laboratory  
GenPath Oncology • Genentech BioOncology  
Genomic Health • Gilead Sciences  
Guardant Health • Helsinn Oncology  
Heron Therapeutics • Incyte  
Infinity Pharmaceuticals  
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals  
Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals  
Kite Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology •  
Merrimack Pharmaceuticals  
Medivation • Merck  
nanoString • Novartis Oncology  
Oncology Supply/ION • Pfizer Oncology  
Pfizer US Biosimilars • Pharmacyclis  
Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals • Sanofi Genzyme  
Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology  
Takeda Oncology • Tesaro • TEVA Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Agendia, bioTheragnostics, EMD Serono, Kite Pharmaceuticals, and Pfizer US Biosimilars* as new Corporate Members for 2017. Please visit [www.anco-online.org/](http://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* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has removed the *Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy* (REMS) requirements for epoetin alfa and darbepoetin alfa. Learn more at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/fda-removes-risk-evaluation-management-strategies-rems-esas](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/fda-removes-risk-evaluation-management-strategies-rems-esas).

*Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has expanded the indications for Stivarga to include the treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who have been previously treated with sorafenib.

*Celgene* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved updated labeling for Revlimid as maintenance

therapy for multiple myeloma patients after autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (auto-HSCT).

**Genentech BioOncology** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Tecentriq for the first-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma (mUC) who are not eligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy.

**Janssen Oncology** reminds ANCO that Yondelis may be reported using permanent J-code J9352 (.1mg) effective for dates of service on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**Merck** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Keytruda for the treatment of some adult and pediatric patients with classical Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL).

**Merck** is hosting a series of live webcasts entitled *New Insights in Refractory or Relapsed Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (cHL)* starting May 2<sup>nd</sup> with Robert Chen, M.D., *City of Hope*, and Justin Kline M.D., *University of Chicago Medicine*. Register online at [www.cHLwebcast.merck.com](http://www.cHLwebcast.merck.com).

### Clinical Trial News

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

- An Adaptive, Open-Lab, Randomized Phase 2 Study of Abemaciclib as a Monotherapy and in Combination with Other Standard of Care (Gemcitabine or Capecitabine) in Patients with Previously Untreated Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. Principal Investigator: George Fisher, MD; Contacts: Ben Priestley, (650) 723-2990, [bpriestl@stanford.edu](mailto:bpriestl@stanford.edu)
- A Phase 1b/2 Trial of Hu5F9-G4 in Combination with Cetuximab in Solid Tumor and Advanced Colorectal Cancer Patients. Principal Investigator: George Fisher, MD; Contacts: Lauren Foster, (650) 721-3541, [lfoster@stanford.edu](mailto:lfoster@stanford.edu)
- An Open-Label, Multicenter, Dose Escalation and Expansion Phase 1B Study to Evaluate the Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Therapeutic Activity of RO6958688 in Combination with Atezolizumab in Patients with Locally Advanced and/or Metastatic CEA-Positive Solid Tumors. Principal Investigator: George Fisher, MD; Contacts: Ben Priestley, (650) 723-2990, [bpriestl@stanford.edu](mailto:bpriestl@stanford.edu)
- A Phase II Study of RRx-001 in Platinum Refractory/Resistant Small Cell Lung Cancer,

EGFR TKI Resistant EGFR+ T790M Negative Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, High Grade Neuroendocrine Tumors and Resistant/Refractory Ovarian Cancer Prior to Readministration of Platinum Based Doublet Regimens (Quadruple Threat; NCT02489903). Principal Investigator: Sukhmani Kaur Padda, MD; Contacts: Jordan Preiss, (650) 723-1002, [jpreiss2@stanford.edu](mailto:jpreiss2@stanford.edu); Melanie San Pedro-Salcedo, (650) 724-1388, [msanpedro@stanford.edu](mailto:msanpedro@stanford.edu)

- A Screening Protocol to Determine Tumor Antigen Expression and HLA Sub-Type for Eligibility Determination for Clinical Trials Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Autologous T Cells Expressing Enhanced TCRs in Subjects with Solid and Hematological Malignancies (LUN0078; NCT02636855). Principal Investigator: Joel Neal, MD; Contact: Smriti Rai, (650) 723-0270, [smritir@stanford.edu](mailto:smritir@stanford.edu)
- A Phase I, Open-label, Dose Escalation Study of MGA271 in Pediatric Patients with B7-H3-Expressing Relapsed or Refractory Solid Tumors (AGE RANGE: Greater than or equal to 1 to 21 years at diagnosis of primary tumor (treatment up to the age of 30 years old)] (PEDSVAR0045; NCT02982941). Principal Investigator: Crystal Mackall, MD; Contact: Nancy Sweeters, (650) 721-4074, [nks2016@stanford.edu](mailto:nks2016@stanford.edu)
- A Single-Cohort, Phase II Study of Ruxolitinib in Combination with Corticosteroids for the Treatment of Steroid-Refractory Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease (BMT317; NCT02953678). Principal Investigator: Everett Meyer, MD; Contact: Ilia Tantsura, (650) 723-0501, [ilia.tantsura@stanford.edu](mailto:ilia.tantsura@stanford.edu)
- Pilot Randomized Clinical Study Comparing the Effectiveness of the Stanford Letter to the Traditional Advance Directive in Bone Marrow Transplant Recipients (BMT313; NCT03028961). Principal Investigator: Lori Muffly, MD; Contact: Juliana Craig, (650) 725-8130, [jkcraig@stanford.edu](mailto:jkcraig@stanford.edu)
- A Phase I Safety and Feasibility Study of Personalized Live, Attenuated, Double-Deleted *Listeria Monocytogenes* (pLADD) Immunotherapy in Adults with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Cancer of the Gastrointestinal Tract (GI0013). Principal Investigator: George Fisher, MD; Contact: Flordeliza Mendoza, (650) 724-2056, [flormend@stanford.edu](mailto:flormend@stanford.edu)
- International Randomized Study of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) versus Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT)/Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) for Residual or Recurrent Hepatocellular Carcinoma after Initial TACE (HEP0052; NCT02762266). Principal Investigator: Daniel Chang, MD; Contact: Rachel Freiberg, (650) 725-0438, [rachelf@stanford.edu](mailto:rachelf@stanford.edu)
- An Open Label, Randomized, Two Arm Phase III Study of Nivolumab in Combination with Ipilimumab versus Extreme Study Regimen (cetuximab + cisplatin/carboplatin + fluorouracil) as First Line Therapy in Recurrent or Metastatic Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck



(SCCHN; ENT0055; NCT02741570). Principal Investigator: A. Dimitrios Colevas, MD; Contact: Stefania Ursu Chirita, (650) 723-1423, [schirita@stanford.edu](mailto:schirita@stanford.edu)

- A Phase I/II, Open-Label Safety and Efficacy Evaluation of CRS-207 in Combination with Epacadostat in Adults with Platinum-Resistant Ovarian, Fallopian, or Peritoneal Cancer (GYNOVA0038; NCT02575807). Principal Investigator: Oliver Dorigo, MD; Contact: Aarti Kale, (650) 723-0622, [aartik@stanford.edu](mailto:aartik@stanford.edu)
- A Multi-center, Open Label, Randomized Phase II Study of AGS-16C3F vs Axitinib in Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma [RENAL0034; NCT02639182]. Principal Investigator: Sandy Srinivas, MD; Contact: Shermeen Poushnejad, (650) 724-7662, [shermeen@stanford.edu](mailto:shermeen@stanford.edu)
- Phase III Brief Behavioral Intervention for Insomnia During Chemotherapy [BRS0042; NCT02165839]. Principal Investigator: Oxana Palesh, MD; Contact: Bingjie Tong, [tbingjie@stanford.edu](mailto:tbingjie@stanford.edu)
- A Phase II Study of ABT-199 (GDC-199) in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia (LYMWAL0010; NCT02677324). Principal Investigator: Ranjana Advani, MD; Contact: Spira Choudhury, (650) 736-2563, [schoudhury@stanford.edu](mailto:schoudhury@stanford.edu)
- A Randomized Study of Topical Dilute Hypochlorite (Modified Dakin's Solution) Treatment for the Prevention of Radiation Dermatitis in Head and Neck Cancer [ENT0042; NCT02369835]. Principal Investigator: Wendy Hara, MD; Contact: Amanda Simmons, (650) 724-4606; [amandals@stanford.edu](mailto:amandals@stanford.edu)
- A Phase II, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multi-Center, Trial of the Effects of Intravenous GC4419 on the Incidence and Duration of Severe Oral Mucositis (OM) in Patients Receiving Post-Operative or Definitive Therapy with Single-Agent Cisplatin plus IMRT or Locally Advanced, Non-Metastatic Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oral Cavity or Oropharynx [ENT0054; NCT02508389]. Principal Investigator: Wendy Hara, MD; Contact: Yeon Seung Koo, (650) 721-4069; [ykoo@stanford.edu](mailto:ykoo@stanford.edu)
- A Phase 1b/2, Open-label, Multicenter, Dose-escalation and Expansion Trial of Intratumoral SD-101 in Combination with Pembrolizumab in Patients with Metastatic Melanoma or Recurrent or Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (for Melanoma only; METS0003; NCT02521870). Principal Investigator: Shivaani Kummar, MD; Contact: Marina Karmanova, (650) 721-4083; [mkarma@stanford.edu](mailto:mkarma@stanford.edu)
- A Phase II Basket Study of the Oral TRK Inhibitor LOXO-101 in Subjects with NTRK Fusion-Positive Tumors [NCT02122913]. Principal Investigator: Shivaani Kummar, MD, PhD; Contact: Rich Brotherton, (650) 723-3589; [rbrother@stanford.edu](mailto:rbrother@stanford.edu)

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

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

ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department* is dedicated to providing services, education, and resources to support oncology practices. It offers hands-on assistance in areas such as practice management, quality care assessment and improvement, and efficiency and business intelligence to meet the needs and demands of the current oncology landscape. Resources on the business of oncology, practice management (staffing, technology), practice transformation, and market analysis are available from the *Department*. For more information, visit [www.asco.org/asco-in-action/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations](http://www.asco.org/asco-in-action/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations).

**ASCO has issued a provisional clinical opinion (PCO) on the use of second-line hormonal therapy for men with castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) who have not yet received chemotherapy.** Read the PCO at [www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/genitourinary-cancer#/25251](http://www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/genitourinary-cancer#/25251).

**ASCO's PracticeNET is a collaborative network in which practices share and receive insights to enhance their business operations and quality of care.** PracticeNET is the first initiative of ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department*. This new initiative uses existing data from your practice management system to offer customizable reports that measure practice-wide and individual performance against a national database of other PracticeNET participants. Go to [www.asco.org/PracticeNET](http://www.asco.org/PracticeNET) for more information.

**The April 2017 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP)* is available online and features articles entitled *Realizing Our True North: Realizing Exceptional Cancer Quality in an Era of Exceptional Change*; *The State of Cancer Care in America, 2017: A Report by the American Society of Clinical Oncology*; *Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Summary*; and, *Redesigning Cancer Care Delivery: View from Patients and Caregivers*.** Visit [jop.ascopubs.org](http://jop.ascopubs.org) for more information.

**ASCO and Innovative Oncology Business Solutions (IOBS) have announced a new collaboration,**

**ASCO COME HOME**—an oncology medical home program designed to transition community oncology practices from volume-based to value-based care by structuring reimbursement around the full range of services needed by patients with cancer. ASCO COME HOME will also prepare oncology practices for full implementation of the Quality Payment Program under MACRA and will be available across the country starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. ASCO is now recruiting practices for the fee-based 2017 ASCO COME HOME program. For more information, please visit [www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/practice-support/asco-consulting-services/asco-come-home](http://www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/practice-support/asco-consulting-services/asco-come-home).

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Spring Round for ASCO's QOPI opened for reporting. The Spring Round will close on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Learn more at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/qopi-spring-round-reporting-opens-march-14-register-now](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/qopi-spring-round-reporting-opens-march-14-register-now).

In 2017, practices will also be able to use the QOPI platform to meet the MIPS reporting requirement of one measure through manual reporting. While one measure is the minimum requirement to avoid the 2019 penalty, ASCO encourages all practices to report on at least four measures to become fully acquainted with the system and ensure that the CMS requirements are met.

ACCC's enhanced set of *Financial Advocacy Network* resources are at [www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp). This "one-stop" destination for comprehensive financial advocacy information includes online training materials, practical financial advocacy tools, peer-to-peer networking, and more.

ACCC's 2017 *Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide* is an essential tool for cancer program staff to use in helping patients with issues related to the cost of treatment and in meeting reimbursement challenges. The *Guide* features a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. Visit [www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2017.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2017.pdf) to access this resource. In addition, ACCC has developed a tool for accessing patient assistance and reimbursement programs for use on a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. The *Financial Advocacy Network* (FAN)

app is available at [accc-fan-app.org](http://accc-fan-app.org). ASH also has a webpage (at [www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/](http://www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/)) that provides a consolidated list of resources for hematologists and patients trying to access high cost hematologic drugs. Finally, *assistPoint* is your website for complimentary one-stop cancer Patient Assistance. You can search by generic, brand name, manufacturer, or diagnosis for the enrollment forms you need; get enrollment form PDFs for cancer drugs; get NDC numbers for all of those drugs; find the HCPCS J-code for each drug; get coding and billing guidelines for many drugs; and, learn more about the drugs you give. Go to [www.assistpoint.com](http://www.assistpoint.com) to learn more.

NCCN has published and/or updated their *Chemotherapy Order Templates, Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology, Drugs & Biologics Compendium, Guidelines for Patients, Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria, and/or Radiation Therapy Compendium* for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (V2.2016); anal carcinoma (V2.2017); basal cell skin cancer (V1.2017); breast cancer (Stage IV; V2.2017); dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (V1.2017); gastric cancer (V1.2017); Hodgkin lymphoma (V1.2017); kidney cancer (Chinese translation; V1.2015); Merkel cell carcinoma (V1.2017); older adult oncology (V1.2017); ovarian cancer (V1.2017); squamous cell skin cancer (V1.2017); thymomas and thymic carcinomas (V1.2017); . Go to [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org) for more information. NCCN is pleased to offer pocket-sized versions of the NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* for a number of their guidelines at [www.nccn.org/redirects/nicelines.asp?Type=general](http://www.nccn.org/redirects/nicelines.asp?Type=general).

### **Individual Membership Dues for 2017**

Third notices of membership renewal for 2015 were mailed in early April. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2017 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members*. 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 June 30<sup>th</sup> will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you do not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.