

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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INTRODUCTION

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

The *ANCO FAX News* is sent to member practices (via FAX) and Corporate Member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on June 1st. Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; ExecDir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

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

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

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

of Hematology (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

The *Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007* (HR1293/S1338) seeks a two-year moratorium on the substantial Medicare reductions to in-office imaging included in the *Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005* (DRA) by delaying the DRA imaging cuts for two years while the *Government Accountability Office* (GAO) conducts a study on the effects of the cuts

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
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.

on Medicare beneficiaries. The *Access to Medical Imaging Coalition* (ACCC, ASCO, American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, DMS Imaging, US Oncology) recently released a report from *The Moran Company* analyzing the impact of the DRA imaging cuts and concluding that the DRA imaging reductions would cause total reimbursement for imaging services in physician offices and imaging centers to fall 18-19% below total reimbursement for similar services provided in hospital outpatient departments.

The *Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2007* (HR1078) addresses the need for a comprehensive summary of a patient's treatment history to help physicians and patients in their transition from treatment to survivorship and to provide physicians with the resources needed to treat patients with quality cancer care. It would establish a new Medicare service for comprehensive cancer planning through the continuum of care. ASCO is developing disease-specific templates for treatment care summaries and survivor care plans. A template for colon cancer is available on ASCO's website at www.asco.org (Quality Care & Guidelines > Quality Measurement & Improvement > Chemotherapy Treatment Summary). Please contact your *Representatives* and urge them to support HR1078.

CMS's proposed national coverage policy for erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) for non-renal applications would preempt current local (i.e., NHIC/Medicare) coverage policies. A number of CMS's proposals have no scientific basis and are in direct conflict with both published scientific evidence and expert opinion delivered during the FDA's *Oncology Drug Advisory Committee* (ODAC) meeting. In ASCO's view, CMS has moved prematurely to propose, among other provisions, the following:

- Use of ESAs in conjunction with anemia of myelodysplasia and anemia of myeloid cancers would be non-covered;
- Maximum covered treatment duration would be 12 weeks/year; and
- Hemoglobin/hematocrit levels immediately prior to initiation of dosing for the month should be <9g/dl/27% in

patients without known cardiovascular disease and <10g/dl/30% in patients with documented symptomatic ischemic disease that cannot be treated with blood transfusion.

Although CMS cites national practice guidelines, they do so selectively, ignoring language that is not supportive of their proposed policy. ASCO is deeply concerned that this proposal would set a dangerous precedent in which evidence-based standards of high quality care are ignored in setting national policy. Physicians should note that *THE NOTICE PUBLISHED BY CMS IS A PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT CURRENT POLICY. THE USE OF ESAs SHOULD NOT BE GUIDED BY CMS'S PROPOSALS.* ASCO will meet with CMS to discuss its concerns, will provide formal comment to CMS, and will take other actions appropriate to ensure that Medicare coverage policy regarding ESAs is evidence-based. You can view the complete CMS proposal and submit your comments at www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=203.

CMS's proposed revised clinical trial coverage policy is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=186. Among the proposed changes is a reversal of its earlier decision to cover trials that the FDA has found to be exempt from investigational new drug (IND) review. ACCC shares CMS's interest in developing better evidence for use by patients, physicians, and policymakers, and strongly supports efforts to increase the coverage of trials that may help in the treatment of cancer and other diseases. In addition, ACCC:

- Supports the decision to have all research studies subject to the clinical trial policy posted on a central website.
- Supports the proposal that sponsors consider the potential benefits to Medicare populations and other subpopulations in designing a research study. However, ACCC stresses that this requirement should be applied in a manner that reflects the broad range of research studies that may be covered by the policy and should not limit any Medicare beneficiary from participation in a research study.

- Urges CMS to continue to work closely with the FDA to resolve the many remaining questions regarding IND-exempt trials. ACCC disagrees with the decision by CMS to no longer automatically cover IND-exempt trials as “deemed” to meet the standards of the policy, since this type of research study has been critical to the development of innovative treatments, particularly in the area of oncology.

CMS’s Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) establishes 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 for dates of service from July 1st to December 31st, 2007, may earn a lump sum bonus payment in early 2008, subject to a cap, of 1.5% of total allowed charges for covered Medicare physician fee schedule services. You do not need to enroll to participate in the program. You must report the appropriate quality measure data on claims using G-codes and/or CPT codes. For complete information on PQRI, including FAQs, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. In addition, **another CMS national provider conference call on the PQRI will take place on May 24th at 1:30PM EST** to provide detailed information about how to select and implement PQRI measures in clinical practice and facilitate successful reporting. Materials for the call will be posted at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI (Educational Resources) for download prior to the call. To register for the call, visit www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/052407. A replay option will be available shortly following the end of the call. This replay will be accessible from May 24th through May 31st at (800) 642-1687/passcode 8896727. Finally, **CMS has designated G8300 as a test code for PQRI reporting prior to July 1st**. This code can be used to test readiness as follows:

1. Add the G8300 test code as a line item on any claims for services.
2. Randomly enter “\$0.00 or “\$0.01” as the line item charge for the test code.
3. Check your Remittance Advice (RA) for these claims to assure the test code has

been passed through and processed by the carrier or MAC. You should see Claim Adjustment Reason Code message 96, “Non-covered charge(s).” Also, you will see Remittance Advice Remark Code message N365, “This procedure code is not payable. It is for reporting/information purposes only.” The RA will serve as your feedback for the test. CMS will not issue any other feedback.

4. The RA will indicate that the test code was denied.

Though eligible professionals are free to test until July 1st, CMS will be conducting some back end testing in June, so to the extent possible, CMS asks that eligible professionals submit some claims with the PQRI test codes as described above prior to May 30th.

CMS’s Doctor’s Office Quality Information Technology University (DOQ-IT U) supports health information technology (HIT) in physicians’ offices. DOQ-IT U is an interactive, Web-based tool designed to provide solo and small-to-medium sized physician practices with the education for successful HIT adoption. For more information, visit the DOQ-IT U website at elearning.qualitynet.org.

ASCO’s Electronic Health Records (EHR) Roundtable recommendations are now available. The report outlines the core functional and clinical elements that ASCO recommends for inclusion in an oncology EHR, including the integration of ASCO-developed treatment plans and summaries. ASCO is holding an *EHR Lab* at the 2007 *Annual Meeting* to allow doctors and other meeting attendees to test EHR systems provided by 12 vendors and give feedback on ways to improve EHR software for oncology. The *EHR Lab* will take place Friday, June 1st (1-6PM) and Saturday and Sunday, June 2nd and 3rd (9AM-5PM) at *McCormick Place Convention Center* (Room N226). For more information on the *EHR Roundtable* or *EHR Lab*, visit www.asco.org/ehr.

ANCO and ASCO continue 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 and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2007* PowerPoint presentation.
- The April 2007 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file*.

Members may also call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs.

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) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation*. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

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

- ANCO opposes AB374 that would legalize physician-assisted suicide. The bill passed out of the *Assembly Judiciary Committee* but has stalled in the *Appropriations Committee*. The author has until June 1st to collect enough aye votes and pass the bill out of *Committee* or the bill dies.

CMA and county medical societies are cohosting a series of seminars to help physician practices assess payor contracts and prepare for contract negotiations. *Taking Charge* seminars are scheduled as follows:

- June 7-8th, Napa/Solano
- June 13th, Butte/Glen
- June 14th, North Valley (Chico)

Attendees will learn how to evaluate current and proposed payor contracts; target payors for contract termination, negotiation, or renegotiation; monitor payor compliance with contract terms; and, determine a payor's value to their practice. Participants will also receive a copy of CMA's payor contracting guide entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations*. Call/e-mail Jewel Thompson at (916) 551-2061/jthompson@cmanet.org for more information.

CMA has also published a new toolkit to train physician office personnel in proper billing and collections procedures. The toolkit, *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow*, is designed to help members become more successful in their practices by teaching physicians and their office staff how to gain greater control of the practice's bottom line, increase revenue while decreasing days in A/R, identify common pitfalls of the billing and collections process, monitor payor compliance with contract terms, develop skills to effectively and efficiently manage collections, and foster positive working relationships. To order, visit www.calphys.org/html/cc386.asp or call (800) 882-1262. This new toolkit joins two previous toolkits, *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships* and *Preparing for Negotiations and Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*.

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payors

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO communicates regularly with *National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC)* that administers Medicare in California and the *Department of Health Services (DHS)* that administers MediCal in California.]

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a *National Provider Identifier (NPI)*. Physicians who are covered by HIPAA will need these standard unique identifiers to submit HIPAA-compliant claims; physicians who are not covered by HIPAA do not have to obtain NPIs, but may do so if they wish. NPIs will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. For complete information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand. To apply for an NPI online, visit nppes.cms.hhs.gov or call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at (800) 465-3203. NPI's are being implemented as follows:

- Through May 22nd, systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and/or an NPI.
- Beginning May 23rd, systems will only accept an NPI.

NHIC/Medicare urges all physicians and providers to obtain their NPI and begin using it. If you wish to test your EDI transmissions with the NPI, please contact the EDI Department at (213) 593-6950 or (530) 634-7024 and they will be happy to work with you.

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2007) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar07.pdf.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/updates.shtml to learn the latest information (updated weekly) from NHIC/Medicare. Updates are also posted on ANCO's WebLog (at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html; under *California News*).

An NPI webpage (files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp) has been created on the DHS/MediCal website that serves as a centralized area for all NPI information. This webpage includes access to the online NPI registration tool and NPI updates are posted as information becomes available. There is also a section for FAQs. However, DHS/MediCal will not be implementing all NPI system changes on May 23rd. Initially, DHS/MediCal is taking a preliminary step toward NPI compliance when both identifiers (NPI and the DHS/MediCal provider number) will be required. The deadline for the NPI registration has been extended to May 23rd and providers can continue to register through the online registration tool (NPIC), submit a hardcopy registration, or perform Bulk Registration using the Bulk Registration Tool (BRT) until May 23rd. This information resides in the "Register, Update or Inquire About NPIs" page on the NPI webpage on the DHS/MediCal website.

DHS/Medical informs ANCO that several changes will impact how *Treatment Authorization Requests* (TARs) are processed. Please visit www.medi-cal.ca.gov (What's New > Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) Changes) to review the details of the changes that took effect on May 1st.

EDUCATION

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

ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception

ANCO members are invited to attend the ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception at the ASCO 2007 *Annual Meeting* in Chicago. The reception will take place on Sunday, June 3rd, at 5:30PM at the *Prairie Center, Hyatt Regency*. Send your RSVP to stateaffiliates@asco.org.

ANCO 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!

ANCO's 2007 *Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!* will take place on Friday, June 29th-Saturday, June 30th, at the *Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa* in Santa Rosa. This meeting will provide participants with the tools and information to take on the management, technological, and clinical challenges facing oncology practice in the years to come. A meeting announcement (including agenda/faculty, housing information, and registration form) is available at www.anco-online.org/annmtg2007.html. Copies were mailed on April 6th; reminders will be posted to the ListServ and FAXed early next week. The deadline for discounted housing is Friday, May 25th.

Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice

ASCO's *Best of ASCO 2007* will take place on July 20th-21st at the *San Francisco Marriott*. *Best of ASCO* features premier abstracts from the ASCO *Annual Meeting* and offers CME opportunities for attendees. ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2007* will not be organized in lieu of *Best of ASCO 2007* which we encourage all members to attend. For additional information, visit www.asco.org/boa2007. *Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice* with Joseph Bailes, M.D., will take place at *Best of ASCO* on the evening of July 19th! Plan on arriving early for *Best of ASCO* and attending the ANCO event. Watch for the meeting announcement before the end of May.

ASCO's 2007 Breast Cancer Symposium: Integrating Emerging Science into Clinical Practice

Registration and housing reservations are now open for ASCO's 2007 Breast Cancer Symposium at the San Francisco Marriott, September 7-8th. This groundbreaking event will include presentations about the latest multidisciplinary research and will also feature topical education sessions. The *Symposium* will provide attendees an opportunity to engage in clinically relevant, in-depth discussions of the science most likely to have a lasting effect on the treatment of breast cancer. Co-sponsored by the *American Society of Breast Disease*, *American Society of Breast Surgeons*, *ASCO*, *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*, and *Society of Surgical Oncology*, the *Symposium* will present oncologists with the most relevant and timely information they need to provide high-quality care to patients with breast cancer, as well as to increase the amount of "cross talk" among practitioners and scientists in the field. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information and to register.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 23rd, June 20th
Chemotherapy Related Anemia: Taking a Step Forward
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

May 25th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 1st-5th
2007 Annual Meeting
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Chicago

June 9th
Living Now: A Survivor's Conference on Life after Transplant
National Marrow Donor Program
San Francisco

June 19th
The 5th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 21st
Breast Cancer Update from the ASCO 2007 Annual Meeting
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 24th-26th
8th Annual Patient Congress
Patient Advocate Foundation
Washington, D.C.

June 26th
Medical Update on Head and Neck Cancer from the ASCO Annual Meeting
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 28th
Living with Colorectal Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 29th
Living with Advanced Prostate Cancer: Update from the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

September 7-9th
From Research to Action: Breaking New Ground
California Breast Cancer Research Program
Los Angeles

September 27th
Role of Culture in Medical Decisions: Provider and Patient Perspectives
Northern California Cancer Center
South San Francisco

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

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

ANCO On-Line

ANCO's independent website at www.anco-online.org features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO MMA resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ, and WebLog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations; and, updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO On-Line ListServ & WebLog

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. These postings are digested in the ANCO *Online WebLog* at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (see below). It is also a way for ANCO members to communicate amongst themselves. To post an item to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send e-mail to anco@anco-online.org. (*Please note:* Only subscribers to the ANCO *Online ListServ* may post items and the ANCO *Executive Director* will review all postings for appropriate content. In addition, to communicate directly and privately with the ANCO *Executive Director*, send e-mail to execdir@anco-online.org.) All ANCO physician members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use the ANCO *Online ListServ* to receive ANCO information electronically and to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to

hematology/oncology practice. To subscribe, send your e-mail address to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org.

The WebLog (ANCO News On-Line) posts and archives important news for hematology/oncology practices on an almost daily basis. ANCO urges its members to bookmark www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (or subscribe to www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

Benefits

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. The *Board* constantly identifies, reviews, and approves of additional membership benefits. In addition to the benefits derived from its advocacy, educational, and information dissemination activities, ANCO members may also benefit from several tangible benefits from a number of vendors, including:

- *California Oncology Consortium (COC) Group Purchasing Organization (GPO)*. The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network (ION)/Oncology Supply (OS)*, *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA), and OTN/Onmark. Contact your local ION/OS (Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com), McKesson/NOA (Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com), or OTN/Onmark (Jennifer Semanik at (415) 497-2750 or Tony Policani at (509) 995-0280 or anthony.policoni@otnnet.com; or Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com) for more information.

- **IntrinsiQ's IntelliDose Discount Program** makes *IntelliDose*, a clinical oncology software solution. Contact Kris Beinder at *IntrinsiQ* directly at (800) 565-2279, x151 or kbeinder@intrinsiq.com for more information about *IntrinsiQ Research* and *IntelliDose* or visit www.intrinsiq.com.

- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)**, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com for more information.

ANCO and *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* have agreed to make **OncoEMR**, an oncology-specific Web-based electronic medical record, available to ANCO members at a **significant discount**. An OncoEMR Web Demonstration will take place on June 13th at 1PM. To RSVP, please send e-mail with your name and your practice's name to clay.cummings@mckesson.com and type ANCO Demo in the subject line. For more information about OncoEMR, please contact your McKesson/NOA representative.

Onmark presents *Updates in the Treatment of HER2+ Advanced or Metastatic Breast Cancer* with Stefan Glück, M.D., Ph.D. on May 24th. In this webcast, Dr. Glück will discuss recent clinical trial results for lapatinib and give an overview of this novel agent. Visit elabs6.com/content/24791/AprilPulse/GSK%20Webcast_final.pdf for more information.

A replay of the *Introduction to OPS* webcast is available at www.opspharmacist.com/ancowebcast.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on May 17th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Public and private advocacy issues.
- Clinical and professional education programs.
- ANCO membership initiatives.

- *Board* changes.
- ANCO's infrastructure.

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

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors meeting** will take place on July 19th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

Robert S. Miller, M.D. (Sacramento) has resigned from the ANCO *Board of Directors*. **Antoine Sayegh**, M.D. (Sacramento) will serve the balance of Dr. Miller's term on the *Board* (through 2007).

Two ANCO members, **Eric Collisson**, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, and **Bruno Medeiros**, M.D., *Stanford University*, have received **ASCO Young Investigator Awards** presented to physicians in their final year of a Fellowship program or in their first year post-Fellowship based on the outstanding quality of the recipients' clinical oncology research proposals as well as their experience.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2006 was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June 2006. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2007.

The following **update(s) to the Directory** should be inserted in the appropriate location(s):

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Institutional Member News

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/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

Stanford's annual dinner party at the ASCO Annual Meeting for Stanford alumni, faculty, and fellows takes place at *The Grill on the Alley Restaurant, Westin Hotel Michigan*, on Monday evening, June 4th. Please RSVP by May 21st to Leslie Quiroz or Christina Kasson at FAX (650) 725-1420.

UCSF's **Pain Management and End-of-Life Care** takes place at the *Sir Francis Drake Hotel* in San Francisco on June 7-8th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM07P14 for more information.

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:

*AMGEN • Abraxis Oncology • AstraZeneca
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health*

*Genzyme Oncology • GlaxoSmithKline
 International Oncology Network
 Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
 Lilly Oncology • Matrix Oncology
 McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
 MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
 Millennium • Novartis Oncology
 Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
 Oncology Supply • Onmark
 Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
 Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
 Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
 Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Genzyme Oncology* as new Corporate Member in 2007.

AMGEN is hosting a series of reimbursement webconferences on the AMGEN Oncology Assistance Programs starting May 21st. Contact your local AMGEN representative for details.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology informs ANCO that Erbitux is now available in a 200mg vial at a per mg price equivalent to the 100mg formulation. This price is unchanged from its original launch price.

Clinical Trial News

ASCO's Clinical Trials Workshop takes place October 26-28th at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, Colorado. Register by Thursday, August 23rd to take advantage of reduced registration fees. Clinical trials are crucial for developing better methods of preventing, detecting, and treating cancer. ASCO's *Clinical Trials Workshop* helps oncologists, nurses, and other members of the research team evaluate, integrate, and conduct clinical trials in the community practice setting. This CME-certified workshop provides practical tools not currently offered in fellowship training programs or most continuing education materials. The program focuses on four themes:

- Role of the oncology team
- Clinical trials procedures
- Selection of trials
- Communicating with patients about clinical trials

Attendance is limited to enhance audience

participation. For more information, visit www.asco.org/ctw.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ASCO has developed updated guideline recommendations on the use of bisphosphonates, medications that help strengthen the bone, in people with multiple myeloma. The new guideline will be published in the June 10th issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. The key recommendations in the guideline address:

- Therapy duration, dosage and monitoring.
- Osteonecrosis of the jaw.
- Previous recommendations for solitary plasmacytoma, indolent myeloma, smoldering myeloma, monoclonal gammopathy and biochemical markers.

Membership Dues for 2007

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed on May 2nd. Return your 2007 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2007*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 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.