

# ANCO FAX News

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

Vol. 6, No. 5

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## 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 March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services* (CMS) recently announced that the 2007 *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative* (PQRI) webpage is now available. A PowerPoint presentation on the PQRI was recently posted at [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI) under the Educational Resources tab. PQRI establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate

**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.

in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set (at least three of a possible sixty-six in 80% of applicable cases) of quality measures on claims for dates of service from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 II codes. For more information on PQRI, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/01\\_Overview.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage).

**CMS is re-evaluating its approach to Medicare Part B reimbursement for single-source drugs and biologics to ensure that separate payment is made for such products as required by law.** The review will focus on the way CMS applies an Average Sales Price-based reimbursement formula for single source versus multiple source products. As part of the effort, CMS will consider possible changes to the way it assigns reimbursement codes and is planning to use its "internal processes for modifying the code set" to allow for quicker implementation of any changes deemed necessary in 2007. CMS said it will post additional information along with a preliminary list of drugs and biologics potentially affected in the coming months. The CMS review may also have relevance for reimbursement of intravenous immune globulin.

**MedPAC's Assess Alternatives to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) was recently presented to Congress.** MedPAC did not give an outright recommendation on a path for Congress to pursue, but rather had two basic options going forward. First, Congress could repeal SGR and not replace it with a new expenditure target system, which would also require providers to provide more quality care at lower costs. The other option would replace SGR with an expenditure target system. The system could be based on segments of physicians, such as by geographic region, or type of service provided. The costs for these plans are unknown at this time; however, the *Congressional Budget Office* said that a repeal of the SGR, to be replaced by the *Medical Economic Index* with a 2 percent increase for physicians each year, would cost more than \$250 billion

over 10 years.

**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](http://www.anco-online.org) and [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma), including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2007* PowerPoint presentation.
- The January 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](mailto: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.]*

**Join the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) at one of several upcoming stakeholder meetings to advise them on how to invest \$18M for the *Special Research Initiatives* focusing on environmental links to breast cancer and the unequal burden of the disease.** Meetings are scheduled for Ukiah on March 26<sup>th</sup>, Fresno on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and San Francisco on April 11<sup>th</sup>; telephone/web conferences are scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>. Advocates, researchers, healthcare providers, and anyone interested in these issues are invited to attend. For more information and to register, visit [www.cabreastcancer.org/sri](http://www.cabreastcancer.org/sri) or call (888) 313-2277.

**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:

- March 15<sup>th</sup>; San Mateo
- April 14-15<sup>th</sup>; Monterey

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*. Visit [www.calphys.org/html/cc270.asp](http://www.calphys.org/html/cc270.asp) or call/e-mail Jewel Thompson at (916) 551-2061/ [jthompson@cmanet.org](mailto:jthompson@cmanet.org) for more information.

**CMA's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual California Health Care Leadership Academy** takes place April 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Monterey. Learn what you need to know now about the latest trends affecting medical practice. There will also be practice management workshops for physicians and office staff. For more information and to register, visit [www.cmanet.org/leadership](http://www.cmanet.org/leadership).

### ***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).** For complete information, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand). 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. NPI's are being implemented as follows:

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

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2007) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_mar07.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar07.pdf). Among the subjects discussed most relevant to hematology/oncology are:

- Average Sales Price (ASP)
- Correct Coding Initiative (CCI)
- Claim Determinations and Decisions
- Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule
- Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Laboratory National Coverage Determination
- Local Coverage Determinations (California)
- Locum Tenens
- National Provider Identifier
- Physician Fee Schedule
- Physician Voluntary Reporting Program
- Revised Health Insurance Claim Form CMS-1500

Visit [www.medicarenhic.com/whats\\_new/whats\\_new.shtml](http://www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.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](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html); under *California News*).

**DHS/MediCal will not be implementing all NPI system changes on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Initially, DHS/MediCal is taking a preliminary step toward NPI compliance, and plans to announce a "dual-use" period in the March *Bulletins*, during which both identifiers (NPI and the DHS/MediCal provider number) would be required. Further information regarding the NPI implementation and identifier dual use period will be included in future *DHS/MediCal Updates*. The deadline for the NPI registration has been extended to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Providers can continue to register through the online registration tool (NPIC) at [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov), submit a hardcopy registration, or perform Bulk Registration using the Bulk Registration Tool (BRT) until May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This information resides in the "Register, Update or Inquire About NPIs" page on the NPI webpage on the DHS/MediCal website. Also, **beginning April 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup>, DHS/MediCal will accept both versions of the professional claim form, (either the HCFA 1500 or the CMS-1500) and both versions of the institutional claim form (either the UB 92 or UB 04).** During this period, providers are encouraged to migrate their business processes away from the *HCFA 1500 and UB 92*, depleting

their form stock, in preparation for exclusive use of the *CMS-1500 and UB 04*. Providers may choose to fully transition to the new *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms at any time during this two-month window before the use of the *CMS-1500 and UB 92* is mandatory. Beginning June 25<sup>th</sup>, DHS/MediCal will only accept the *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms. Separate billing instructions apply, as DHS/MediCal is announcing an NPI dual-use period that will begin during the claim form transition period. (For more information on the NPI implementation date, refer to the DHS/MediCal website as well as future *DHS/MediCal Updates*.) Providers billing on the new *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms must continue to use their DHS/MediCal provider number until instructed otherwise. Beginning May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the NPI, if available, should be reported along with the DHS/MediCal provider number, but is not necessary for proper adjudication.

**DHS/MediCal NPI training sessions will assist providers in obtaining and registering their NPI.** DHS/MediCal is offering an NPI training session on March 13<sup>th</sup> in Fresno. Visit [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp) for complete details.

**An NPI webpage ([files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp](http://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.

## EDUCATION

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

### ***ANCO 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!***

ANCO's 2007 *Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!* will take place on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, at the *Hyatt Vineyard Creek* in Santa Rosa. Watch for the meeting announcement, housing information, and registration form by the end of March.

### ***ASCO's Best of ASCO 2007***

ASCO's *Best of ASCO 2007* will take place on July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in San Francisco. *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/meetings](http://www.asco.org/meetings). Watch for an ANCO legislative/regulatory update with Joseph Bailes, M.D., at *Best of ASCO* on the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup>!

### ***Additional Education Meetings***

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

March 14-18<sup>th</sup>

*12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines and Quality Cancer Care*  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
Hollywood, FL

March 15<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Cervical Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

March 21<sup>st</sup>

*The Role of Targeted Therapy in the Treatment of Breast Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

March 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

*33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Meeting: Navigating Rough Waters—How to Stay the Course*  
Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Baltimore

April 12-13<sup>th</sup>

*Achieving Efficient Practice Operations*  
Medical Group Management Association  
New Orleans

April 12-14<sup>th</sup>

*31<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium*  
American Society of Breast Disease  
San Francisco

April 14-18<sup>th</sup>

*98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

American Association for Cancer Research  
Los Angeles

April 15-16<sup>th</sup>

*Implementing Best Practices of Successful Medical Groups*

Medical Group Management Association  
New Orleans

April 15-17<sup>th</sup>

*2007 Conference*

Medical Group Management  
Association/Administrators in  
Oncology/Hematology  
Austin

April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, & June 19<sup>th</sup>

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer*

*CancerCare*

Telephone Education Workshop

April 18<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer*

*CancerCare*

Telephone Education Workshop

April 24-28<sup>th</sup>

*ONS Congress*

Oncology Nursing Society  
Las Vegas

May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

*Annual Conference*

Association of Oncology Social Work  
Portland, OR

May 5-8<sup>th</sup>

*Spring Conference*

California Hospice Foundation  
Reno

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>

*Chemotherapy Related Anemia: Taking a Step Forward*

*CancerCare*

Telephone Education Workshop

June 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

*2007 Annual Meeting*

American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Chicago

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

## MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

### *ANCO On-Line*

ANCO's independent website at [www.anco-online.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Among the additional news topics covered at [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO e-News and Cancer Policy Today
- ASH Practice Updates
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) (or subscribe to [www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml](http://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 also benefit from group purchasing activities and value added services 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)*, and *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA). Contact your local ION/OS (Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or [douglas.storer@iononline.com](mailto:douglas.storer@iononline.com); or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or [paul.sullivan@iononline.com](mailto:paul.sullivan@iononline.com)) or McKesson/NOA (Scot Wagner at (866)

466-2462 or [swagner@noainc.com](mailto:swagner@noainc.com); or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or [patrick.walsh@mckesson.com](mailto:patrick.walsh@mckesson.com)) representatives for more information.

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

- **Onmark**, OTN's preferred group purchasing organization. Contact Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or [monique.weston@onmarkservices.com](mailto:monique.weston@onmarkservices.com) for more information.

- **IntrinsiQ's IntelliDose Discount Program** makes *IntelliDose*, a clinical oncology software solution, available to ANCO members at a significant discount. In addition, ancillary products/services, and maintenance fees will also be discounted for ANCO member practices. Contact Kris Beinder at *IntrinsiQ* directly at (800) 565-2279, x151 or [kbeinder@intrinsiq.com](mailto:kbeinder@intrinsiq.com) for more information about *IntrinsiQ Research* and *IntelliDose* or visit [www.intrinsiq.com](http://www.intrinsiq.com).

*McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* has extended its reimbursement call-in series. The next *Oncology Update 2007* call-in program will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12PM. Visit [www.noainc.com](http://www.noainc.com) for more information.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconference will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please call José Luis González, ANCO Executive Director, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

**Individual Member News**

*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):

**ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY  
OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS**

**Alan B. Glassberg, M.D.**

126 Poplar Drive  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
*Telephone: (415) 835-9392*  
*FAX: (415) 837-0503*  
*alan@baycitycapital.com*

**Ted Heckman, M.D.**

5629 Canyon View Drive, Suite B  
Paradise, CA 95969  
*Contact(s): Lori Dresler, R.N.*  
*Lori Goodliffe, R.N.*  
*Ethel M. Lohman*  
*Telephone: (530) 876-3141*  
*FAX: (530) 876-3149*  
*heckmata@sbcglobal.net*

**David John Tate, M.D.**

Redwood Regional Oncology Center  
110 Lynch Creek Way, Suite A  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
*Contact(s): Susan Sisemore, R.N.*  
*Telephone: (707) 763-0600*  
*FAX: (707) 765-1757*  
*dtate@rrmginc.com*

**Jeffrey Lee Wolf, M.D.**

University of California, San Francisco  
Box #0324  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0324  
*Telephone: (415) 353-2421*  
*FAX: (415) 353-2467*  
*wolfj@medicine.ucsf.edu*

**ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY  
OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER  
CONTACTS**

**Lori Dresler, R.N.****Lori Goodliffe, R.N.**

5629 Canyon View Drive, Suite B  
Paradise, CA 95969  
*Telephone: (530) 876-3141*  
*FAX: (530) 876-3149*

**Ethel M. Lohman**

5629 Canyon View Drive, Suite A  
Paradise, CA 95969  
*Telephone: (530) 876-3144*  
*FAX: (530) 876-3139*  
*lohmanem@ah.org*

**DRUG REIMBURSEMENT  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Genentech BioOncology**

*Avastin Patient Assistance Program  
Single Point of Contact (SPOC)*

(888) 249-4918;  
FAX (888) 249-4919;

6:00AM-5:00PM Pacific Time

The *Avastin Patient Assistance Program* is designed to limit the overall annual cost of Avastin for eligible patients receiving treatment for FDA-approved indications. Participation in the *Program* provides a voluntary opportunity for physicians and eligible patients who reach an annual charge of 10,000mg to receive free Avastin from *Genentech* for the remainder of the 12-month period. The *Program* is open to all patients receiving Avastin (regardless of insurance coverage) with a household adjusted gross income of up to \$100,000. Patients must be receiving Avastin for an FDA-approved indication.

*Single Point of Contact (SPOC)*

(888) 249-4918;

*Herceptin, Rituxan, Tarceva*

SPOC provides one-stop access to a broad array of reimbursement information, and support and services for patients so that they can focus on treatment. In addition to providing information about co-pay assistance through independent public charities, SPOC can also help with

common reimbursement challenges, insurance appeals and coverage denials, and referrals to the *Genentech Access to Care Foundation*.

### MGI Pharma

#### *MGI Pharma Access Program (MAP)*

(877) MGI-MAP0 (644-6270);

FAX (888) 644-7236;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

*Aloxi, Dacogen, Gliadel, Hexalen, Salogen*

The MAP program provides patient assistance and reimbursement support for Aloxi, Dacogen, Hexalen and Gliadel as well as reimbursement support for Salagen. A customer service representative will assist with MGI product information, indigent programs, reimbursement questions, prior authorizations, referral to co-pay assistance programs, insurance verification, billing/coding questions, appeal assistance, referral to disease-state assistance programs and letters of medical necessity.

### *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](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date)

Stanford's *9<sup>th</sup> Annual Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* (formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*) will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* on March 16-18<sup>th</sup>. Tumor boards on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic

cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; ethics, supportive, and palliative care; and, dilemmas in patient management will be presented by faculty from *Stanford University, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. Registration and case submission materials can be downloaded from [cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2007/ammc.html](http://cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2007/ammc.html) or obtained from Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or [schafer@stanford.edu](mailto:schafer@stanford.edu).

UCSF's *2nd International Symposium on Cancer and the Lymphovascular System* takes place at the *Hilton Hotel* in San Francisco on May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/)

[CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07002](http://CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07002) for more information.

UCSF's *Pain Management and End-of-Life Care* takes place at the *Sir Francis Drake Hotel* in San Francisco on June 7-8<sup>th</sup>. Visit

[www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/)

[CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM07P14](http://CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM07P14) for more information.

UCD's *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Advances in Oncology* takes place at the *Hyatt Regency* in Sacramento on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### *Corporate Member News*

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to grow and expand its services for 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 • APP/Abraxis Oncology  
AstraZeneca  
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics  
Enzon Pharmaceuticals  
Genentech BioOncology  
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health  
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

**Abraxis Oncology** informs ANCO that that the **United States Pharmacopeia-Drug Information (USP-DI)/Thomson Micromedex** recently published (1/24/07) an update to its monograph on **Abraxane** accepting metastatic breast cancer, first-line treatment as monotherapy as an accepted indication.

**Berlex Laboratories** informs ANCO that that the **United States Pharmacopeia-Drug Information (USP-DI)/Thomson Micromedex** recently published (2/8/07) an update to its monograph on **Campath** accepting B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia, first-line monotherapy for progressive disease as an accepted indication.

**Pharmion** is sponsoring two educational lectures and dinners, as follows:

- *Treatment Options in Myelodysplastic Syndromes* with Peter Greenberg, M.D., Stanford University (March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30PM, Tanglewood, San José)
- *Epigenetics and Its Role in MDS and Other Cancers* with Allen Yang, M.D., University of Southern California (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30PM, Ca'Bianca Ristorante Italiano, Santa Rosa)

Please RSVP by calling (866) 381-4923, x1712.

**Pharmion** also invites members to participate in **AVIDA, the Vidaza Patient Registry**. AVIDA is a prospective, observational, multi-center study including 300 to 500 patients who receive treatment with Vidaza. Participating practices will be provided a modest honorarium to compensate for administrative and data collection efforts. Patients enrolled in this study should be planning to begin Vidaza treatment at the time of registry enrollment

and be able and willing to participate in the study for two years. For more information, visit the AVIDA Registry website at [www.avidaregistry.com](http://www.avidaregistry.com) or contact *Pharmion Medical Affairs* at (866) 461-8432 or [avidaregstiry@pharmion.com](mailto:avidaregstiry@pharmion.com).

### Patient News

ASCO, in association with *People Living With Cancer (PLWC)*, has prepared and published several *Guides to Cancer*. These *Guides* provide information for patients on breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Communications and Patient Information Department* at (703) 519-2927 or [contactus@plwc.org](mailto:contactus@plwc.org).

*CaringBridge* is a nonprofit organization providing the most widely used free online service connecting patients to friends and families during their challenging times. For additional information for you and your patients, visit [www.caringbridge.com](http://www.caringbridge.com).

The *HealthWell Foundation*, a non-profit, charitable organization, provides financial assistance to eligible patients to cover certain out-of-pocket health care costs, including coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles; health insurance premiums; and, the Medicare "donut hole" coverage gap. The *HealthWell Foundation* offers assistance in several disease areas, including the following that may be of interest to hematology/oncology providers and case managers:

- Chemotherapy induced anemia
- Chemotherapy induced neutropenia
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes

Applications are available online at [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org) or by calling (800) 675-8416.

The *Patient Access Network Foundation (PANF)* is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment. The PAF *Co-Pay Relief Program (CPR)* currently provides financial assistance to eligible patients who are being treated for brain, breast, colon,

kidney, lung, pancreatic, and/or prostate cancers, lymphoma, macular degeneration, sarcoma, autoimmune disorders, and secondary issues as a result of chemotherapy treatment. Patients must financially and medically qualify to access co-payment assistance. Patients and physicians can contact the PAF CPR at (866) 512-3861 to initiate a request for assistance or request additional information, or visit [www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org) or [www.patientadvocate.org](http://www.patientadvocate.org).

**The Patient Advocate Foundation's (PAF) Colorectal CareLine (CCL)**, a national toll free telephone hotline designed to offer assistance to all colorectal cancer patients and healthcare providers seeking educational resources, direct assistance with access to care issues, and/or financial aid for select patient needs, including lodging, transportation, childcare and other expenses associated with out-of-town treatment. The hotline can be accessed at (866) 657-8634 or patients may visit [www.colorectalcareline.org](http://www.colorectalcareline.org).

**PhRMA has printed a directory of patient assistance programs offered by its member companies that provide free or reduced price medicine to people in need.** Download this directory at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf).

### *Publications, Services, & Surveys*

**The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recently announced an important update to its *Cancer- and Treatment-Related Anemia Guidelines*.** A significant issue the panel addressed was the results of a trial by *AMGEN* studying the use of darbepoetin alfa in patients with cancer-related anemia. In this large, multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled study, darbepoetin failed to reduce red blood cell transfusions in patients with active cancer who have anemia but are not on chemotherapy or radiation therapy. The study also showed higher mortality in patients receiving darbepoetin. As a result, the NCCN panel added a statement to the *Adverse Effects of Erythropoietic Therapy* section of the guidelines. It states that, until new research evidence changes current benefit/risk estimates, physicians should be advised not to administer

erythropoietin to patients similar to those in the *AMGEN* trial. For more information, visit [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org).

**The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) is a practice-based quality improvement program developed by ASCO volunteers.** QOPI includes a set of quality measures, a specified chart selection methodology, a secure system for data entry, automated data analysis and reporting, and a network of resources for improvement. Twice a year, staff at participating practices conduct a retrospective review of patient charts. Following every data collection period, the QOPI system generates a report for each practice. QOPI data can be used to satisfy the new practice performance improvement requirement for *ABIM Maintenance of Certification*. Register for QOPI at [www.asco.org/QOPI](http://www.asco.org/QOPI).

**Caring4cancer.com is a portal with all the specific coding and billing information a busy oncology practice manager needs.** It includes cancer-specific Medicare regulations, forms, coding education pieces, and a subscription to a free newsletter from Bobbi Buell. Visit [www.caring4cancer.com](http://www.caring4cancer.com) and select *Practice Management*.

### *Membership Dues for 2007*

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of February 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</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 did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

**A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!**