

# 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. 7, No. 23

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## 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 FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members.** The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on November 21<sup>st</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).

## 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.]

**CMS issued a final rule for the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS) for 2009.** The final rule establishes payment rates and policy changes that will go into effect for services furnished by physicians and non-physician practitioners to people with Medicare on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The final rule also includes

**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.

policies on other subjects including improvements to enrollment and billing rules. As required by the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008* (MIPPA), which became law on July 15<sup>th</sup>, payment rates for *Physician Fee Schedule* services will be increased by 1.1% in 2009, rather than being reduced by 5.4% as would have happened if CMS had applied the *Physician Fee Schedule* conversion factor projected in the proposed rule. MIPPA required that the budget-neutrality adjustment be applied to the conversion factor, resulting in a lower conversion factor. CMS removed the adjustment to the work RVUs, and, therefore, the agency maintains that the overall level of payments under the *Physician Fee Schedule* is not affected. However, initial analysis shows that the impact of work RVU changes, practice expenses changes, and MIPPA changes results in a total allowed charge decrease of 1% for hematology/oncology. Physicians and other eligible professionals who adopt and use qualified electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) systems to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies may earn an incentive payment of 2.0% of their total Medicare allowed charges during 2009. This incentive is in addition to a 2.0% incentive payment for 2009 for physicians who successfully report measures under the *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative* (PQRI). In the final rule, CMS also adopts improvements to the PQRI, which allows eligible professionals to report quality measures relating to their clinical practice.

**The CPT codes for hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic/prophylactic administration have been renumbered and moved from the 90XXX series and added to the 96XXX series.** The reassignment of code numbers reflects an effort to house all of the drug administration codes in one area of the *Medicine Section*. It is important to note that the chemotherapy administration codes will not change in 2009. ASCO has drafted a coding reference sheet that crosswalks the new 2009 hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic codes to the existing 2008 codes. It is available at [www.anco-online.org/hydration2009.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/hydration2009.pdf).

**CMS recently released a special edition MedLearn article on the Medicare clinical trials**

**policy** entitled *Clarification of Medicare Payment for Routine Costs in a Clinical Trial*. This article provides clarification regarding Medicare payment of routine costs associated with clinical trials. Visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0822.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0822.pdf) to read this article.

**ASCO has developed additional guidance for oncologists on the recent FDA label changes to erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs).** ASCO's guidance is available at [www.anco-online.org/ASCO\\_ESA\\_Doc\\_092508.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/ASCO_ESA_Doc_092508.pdf). The new ASCO resource is intended to provide oncologists with an overview of the August FDA label changes, explain the practical implications of these changes, and clarify how these changes relate to other guidance to physicians on the use of ESAs.

**CMS has released information regarding the newly recognized drug compendia and how information should be interpreted.** According to CMS, acceptable indications are those that:

- are favorably listed in one or more of the approved compendia, or
- the contractor determines from a review of the peer-reviewed literature that it is a medically accepted indication, unless CMS has determined that the use is not medically accepted, or any of the recognized compendia list the use as not medically accepted.

“Medically accepted indications” are those in which: 1) the indication is a Category 1 or 2A in the *National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs & Biologics Compendium*, or Class I, Class IIa, or Class IIb in the Thomson Micromedex *DrugDex*; or, 2) the narrative text in the *American Hospital Formulary Service's Drug Information (AHFS-DI)* or Elsevier Gold Standard's *Clinical Pharmacology* is supportive. A use is not medically accepted if 1) the indication is a Category 3 in the *NCCN Compendium* or a Class III in *DrugDex*; or, 2) the narrative text in *AHFS-DI* or *Clinical Pharmacology* is “not supportive.”

**CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)** provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-

reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment. There are several reporting options and incentive payments for physicians participating in the PQRI (see [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6104.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6104.pdf)). For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials (with the next teleconference scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>; register at [www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/536fdb5c-c817-4d51-b7f0-4472ed105a66](http://www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/536fdb5c-c817-4d51-b7f0-4472ed105a66)), qualified registries for data submission, quick reference charts, user guides, tool kits for successful reporting, updated submission methodologies, beneficiary letters, fact sheets, and FAQs, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri). The *American Medical Association* (AMA) has posted PQRI worksheets for the 2008 PQRI program on its website ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)). In addition, ASCO's PQRI website ([www.asco.org/pqri](http://www.asco.org/pqri)) includes relevant links and a table of oncology-related measures.

**The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) authorizes a new incentive program for eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers, or "e-Prescribers".** The incentive program, which will begin in January 2009, offers bonuses for e-Prescribers, including a 2% increase in Medicare payment in 2009 and 2010, a 1% increase in 2011 and 2012, and a 0.5% increase in 2013. After 2013, the bonus program will be phased out and penalties will be assessed for physicians who have not adopted e-Prescribing, including a 1% deduction of covered Medicare Part B charges in 2012, a 1.5% deduction in 2013, and a 2% deduction in 2014 and beyond. Physicians may face challenges with this new program:

- Pharmacies are not obligated to accept the e-prescription.
- The estimated cost of adopting e-Prescribing is \$3,000 per doctor.
- The DEA requires an intricate system of checks and cross-checks under e-Prescribing, both human and programmed, which could require one workflow for controlled substances and another for non-controlled substances.

- Practices with an existing EMR may find that their vendor products do not have a certified e-Prescribing module.

CMS will post updates to e-prescribing quality measures, such as specifications or reporting instructions at [www.cms.hhs.gov/EPrescribing/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/EPrescribing/). For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-Prescribing Web site at [www.asco.org/eprescribing](http://www.asco.org/eprescribing).

**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:

- The October 2008 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file.

### **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.]*

**Thousands of California physicians continue to face problems getting paid for the care they provide to Medicare patients.** The transition to NPI numbers earlier this year, followed by the switch in September from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/J1MAC has created a bureaucratic nightmare of red tape and rejected claims for doctors, delaying Medicare payments for months for some doctors. To help assess the full extent of the situation, CMA is asking physicians to complete a brief questionnaire about their Medicare payment problems at [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BQrN5GYKE2zffE6tcd9tTQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BQrN5GYKE2zffE6tcd9tTQ_3d_3d). The data CMA gathers will assist them in their efforts to work with CMS and Palmetto/J1MAC to resolve these problems. **CMA has compiled a list of common problems and fixes and posted it online at [www.cmanet.org/palmetto](http://www.cmanet.org/palmetto).** Physicians who are still experiencing payment problems are encouraged to review this list to see if their issues are addressed. If after doing so you still have questions or problems, please contact CMA's *Reimbursement Help Line* at (888) 401-5911 for assistance. **CMA continues to work with**

**Palmetto/J1MAC and CMS on a global fix of the situation and has secured commitments from many Congressional offices to intervene in the situation. And, CMA is working with the media to publicize these problems and to put pressure on CMS to make many of the global changes to fix this crisis and to avoid all of the others that are, unfortunately, becoming commonplace in matters related to payment for Medicare services.** CMA Vice President of Communication Ned Wigglesworth has asked that you share your horror stories with him (via e-mail to [nwigglesworth@cmanet.org](mailto:nwigglesworth@cmanet.org)) so that he can relay them to his media contacts.

### **Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payors**

*[Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers DHCS/MediCal in California.]*

**Palmetto/J1MAC will distribute a CD-ROM with the 2009 Medicare participation enrollment form in November.** However, updated fee schedule information will only be available on its website. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~2009%20Medicare%20Participation%20Enrollment%20Fee%20Schedule%20Information?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~2009%20Medicare%20Participation%20Enrollment%20Fee%20Schedule%20Information?opendocument) for more information.

**Medicare payments for thousands of Northern California physicians are at risk due to NPI/PTAN matching problems.** Affected are physicians who work for or contract with groups in Northern California and need to submit an updated 855R form to reassign their Medicare payments to their group(s). Some physicians who have already submitted the proper paperwork are still not being paid, largely because of a backlog of reenrollment forms from Northern California physicians. If your Medicare payments have been denied or delayed, first check the CMA's list of top NPI-related error codes (available at [www.calphys.org/html/cc714.asp](http://www.calphys.org/html/cc714.asp), including instructions on how to correct the errors.) If your payment problems are not related to these common billing errors, and you believe you are among those physicians affected by the group

reassignment issue, please call CMA's *Reimbursement Help Line*, (888) 401-5911. CMA may be able to help expedite the enrollment process and get your payments back on track. **Palmetto/J1MAC will request your legacy identifier information when a one-to-one match is not found for your NPI and your PTAN (or Medicare legacy number).** When a one-to-one match for your NPI/PTAN combination cannot be determined, development letters are generated. These letters require specific information to be completed and returned to Palmetto/J1MAC in order for your claims to continue processing. For information on the Palmetto/J1MAC process, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~NPI~NPI%20Development%20Letters:%20Rendering%20and%20Billing%20PTANs%20Needed?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~NPI~NPI%20Development%20Letters:%20Rendering%20and%20Billing%20PTANs%20Needed?opendocument).

**To assist providers in obtaining the status of their enrollment applications, Palmetto/J1MAC has announced a new provider self-service tool.** The *Provider Enrollment Application Status Lookup Tool* will be located at [www.Palmettogba.com/J1B/Enroll](http://www.Palmettogba.com/J1B/Enroll) (Resources/Provider Enrollment).

**Palmetto/J1MAC and CMS will consider, in limited circumstances, an advance payment for Part B providers who are experiencing financial hardship due to claims that are unable to be processed within established time limits.** This applies to claims that have been submitted, but payment has not been made due to a system malfunction. This does not apply to claims that have not paid due to claims submission errors. For details, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/8525740200570223852574B4004E7114](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/8525740200570223852574B4004E7114).

**Palmetto/J1MAC processes "reopenings" (claim corrections) and redetermination requests (first level appeals) including requests related to claims that were processed by the previous contractors.** Visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~Appeals~Claim](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~Appeals~Claim)

%20Corrections%20and%20Appeals:%20Tips  
%20for%20Faster%20Service?opendocument for tips for faster service. Include a copy of your original remittance notice and any other written communication from the previous contractor, such as an automated development request (letter), with all written requests for reopenings and redeterminations.

**The ICD-9-CM coding guidelines have been updated and are now available** on the *National Center of Health Statistics Website* ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/ftpserv/ftp/cd9/ftp/cd9.htm#guidelines](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/ftpserv/ftp/cd9/ftp/cd9.htm#guidelines)). Changes to ICD-9-CM went into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. ASCO has compiled a list of oncology-related changes at [www.asco.org/ASCO/Downloads/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/MMA%20Regulations%20and%20Resources/2009%20Oncology%20ICD-9-CM%20Code%20Updates.pdf](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/Downloads/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/MMA%20Regulations%20and%20Resources/2009%20Oncology%20ICD-9-CM%20Code%20Updates.pdf).

**The *ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Fact Sheet*, which provides general information about the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS)* including benefits of adopting the new coding system, structural differences between ICD-9 CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS, and implementation planning recommendations, is now available in downloadable format from the *CMS Medicare Learning Network* at [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2008.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2008.pdf). CMS will host a series of national provider calls that will provide an overview of ICD-10 and how it differs from ICD-9-CM. The presentations will include the major impacts providers should consider when planning to update any systems with ICD-10 codes. For the provider, this overview will help them think about future reporting, system updates, and training, considering that ICD-10 may be implemented in the future. The national provider call for physicians is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> (visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07\\_Sponsored\\_Calls.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07_Sponsored_Calls.asp) for more information). For those who are unable to attend, a transcript will be posted at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10) shortly after the conference call. **ASCO joined more than 100 health and medical associations in issuing****

**comments on the adoption of ICD-10 as the standard code sets for diagnosis and inpatient hospital procedures.** Moving from ICD-9 to ICD-10 code sets will be a significant change for the health care community. The organizations that signed onto the comments are concerned that the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 compliance deadline proposed by HHS will not provide enough time for a smooth transition. In the letter, the organizations strongly urge HHS to:

- Provide at least 36 months from the date of publication of the final rule to adopt and implement the X12 version 5010 Technical Reports Type 3 for HIPAA electronic transactions, to accommodate all levels of testing.
- Require adoption of ICD-10 no sooner than 60 months after publication of the final rule and after industry readiness levels have reached at least 95 percent.
- Plan adequately for outreach and education to physicians to ensure a smooth transition.
- Track and analyze the true costs associated with ICD-10 implementation.

**An updated *Medicare Evaluation & Management Services Guide*, which provides evaluation and management services information about medical record documentation, *International Classification of Diseases* and *Current Procedural Terminology* codes, and key elements of service, is now available on the *CMS Medicare Learning Network* at [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/eval\\_mgmt\\_serv\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide.pdf).**

**Effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, providers must enter their DHCS/MediCal registered *National Provider Identifier (NPI)* numbers on all *Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs)*. TARs submitted with a legacy number will not be processed. NPI numbers that are successfully registered with the *DHCS Provider Enrollment Division (PED)* can be used for all past and future dates of service. Questions regarding the NPI number registration process can be directed to the *Telephone Service Center (TSC)* at (800) 541-5555. Rendering DHCS/MediCal providers must register their NPI using their individual DHCS/MediCal provider numbers. Each**

member of a provider group must register their individual NPI separately from the group's NPI. A provider group may register an individual provider's NPI on their behalf, but the group must ensure that it uses the correct NPI and DHCS/MediCal provider number. Rendering providers can register their NPI using the NPIC tool ([files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi\\_reginfo.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi_reginfo.asp)). Rendering providers can also submit the NPI registration form ([files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/provappsenroll/16enrollment\\_DHCS6218.pdf](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/provappsenroll/16enrollment_DHCS6218.pdf)) to register their NPI. Providers can call the *Telephone Service Center* (TSC) at (800) 541-5555 by choosing option 16 and then option 18 to obtain forms, ask questions about NPI registration, or verify a rendering provider's registration status.

## EDUCATION

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

### *Payer & Patient Payments for Oncology Services*

ANCO is pleased to sponsor two talks for oncologists, oncology nurses, and oncology practice managers entitled *Payer & Patient Payments for Oncology Services*. In an era of reduced reimbursement for oncology goods and services, maximizing payer and patient collections is imperative to the survival of oncology practices. Brad Duke, *Practice Manager, East Bay Partners in Cancer Care*, will present *An Oncology Payer Checklist*. Michelle Weiss, *President, Weiss Oncology Consulting*, will present *Patient Collections and Navigating Patient Assistance Programs*. These programs will take place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at *The Fairmont* in San José. ANCO thanks *Genentech BioOncology* and *Sanofi-Aventis Oncology* for supporting these programs. Representatives from these organizations will be present to exhibit patient and reimbursement assistance services. A meeting announcement was mailed on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and may be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/payerpatient.html](http://www.anco-online.org/payerpatient.html).

### *New Important Clinical Advances in the Management of Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia*

ANCO will host an evening clinical education dinner meeting entitled *New Important Clinical Advances in the Management of Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia* with Gary Herbert Lyman, M.D., *Duke University School of Medicine*, on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the *Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf* in San Francisco. Dr. Lyman will discuss the potential clinical and economic consequences associated with chemotherapy-induced neutropenia, how to assess the impact of first-cycle neutropenic events, and national guideline recommendations for febrile neutropenia risk assessment and colony-stimulating factor use. This meeting is supported by *AMGEN*. A meeting announcement was mailed November 5<sup>th</sup> and may be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/lyman.html](http://www.anco-online.org/lyman.html).

### *Forthcoming ANCO Meetings*

Additional ANCO meetings (e.g., *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2009*, *SABCS Highlights 2008*, *ASH Highlights 2008*) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.

### *Additional Education Meetings*

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

November 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>  
*5<sup>th</sup> International Conference: Integration Across the Spectrum of Cancer Care*  
 Society for Integrative Oncology  
 Atlanta

December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Young Women with Breast Cancer: Treatment-specific Choices, Fertility, and Careers*  
 CancerCare  
 Telephone Education Workshop

December 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Update on Medicare Part D for People Living with Cancer*  
 CancerCare  
 Telephone Education Workshop

December 12<sup>th</sup>

*For Caregivers: Coping with Holidays, Special Occasions, and Birthdays Throughout the Year*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

December 17<sup>th</sup>

*The Latest Developments Reported at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

January 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium*  
ASCO, American Gastroenterological Association Institute, American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, Society of Surgical Oncology  
San Francisco

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

*Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients*  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
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 Online

ANCO's website, [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 Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, and ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

### ANCO Online ListServ & Weblog

ANCO suffered an interruption to its website, e-mail, and ListServ at the end of September. We have moved to a new host and reestablished an operational website ([www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org)), e-mail address ([execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org)), and ListServ. However, the e-mail addresses of all previous ListServ subscribers were deleted. Therefore, **you must re-subscribe to the ListServ in order to continue e-receiving messages from ANCO.** To resubscribe, visit [www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org) and follow the links or visit [www.anco-online.org/ListServ/mail.cgi/list/anco](http://www.anco-online.org/ListServ/mail.cgi/list/anco). Thank you for your patience during this interruption of service.

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 [anco-online.blogspot.com](http://anco-online.blogspot.com).

The ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news sent on the *ListServ* for hematology/oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at [anco-online.blogspot.com](http://anco-online.blogspot.com) are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO e-News and Cancer Policy Today
- ASH Practice Updates
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark [anco-online.blogspot.com](http://anco-online.blogspot.com) (or subscribe to [anco-online.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default](http://anco-online.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default) using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Annual Election

Four seats on the ANCO *Board of Directors* are up for election in 2008. ANCO seeks nominations for candidates for these seats. This year's election will be conducted via mail ballot in December. Candidates with the top four vote totals will serve for three years (i.e., from 2009-2011, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via FAX to the ANCO office at (415) 472-3961 no later than November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 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 December 16<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

Peter Paul Yu, M.D., a past ANCO *President*, has been nominated to the ASCO *Board of Directors*. In addition, Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., has been nominated to the ASCO *Nominating Committee*. ANCO urges you to vote for Drs. McAneny and Yu during the ASCO *Board* election. Voting for the 2009 ASCO *Election* opened on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will close on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.asco.org/ASCO/About+ASCO/2009+Election](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/About+ASCO/2009+Election) for more information.

*The ANCO Directory of Members 2008* was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. A regularly updated online (.pdf) edition is available at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html). 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 2009. The following update(s) to the *Directory* were recently included in the online edition:

### ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

*Changed* Ravinder K. Arora, M.D., Thomas P. Bradley, M.D., Ph.D., John T. Ganey, M.D., Shoba Kankipati, M.D., Ostap Melnyk, M.D., Nancy Rubin, D.O., Jerome Rubin, M.D., May Lin Tao, M.D.

*Added* K. Kenneth Chao, M.D., Tyler Y. Kang, M.D., Jelena Kao, M.D.

### ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

*Changed* Alice Barlettani, R.N., Lilia Clavano, R.N., Brad Duke, Susan Forslin, Cheryl Gentzler, Phelps Jackson, Greg Mitchell, Dianne Naujok, Kay Ruocco, R.N., Danna Tate, R.N., Susanne Thompson

*Added* Mary Davis, R.N., Lorraine Hughes, Lora Sanders

*Deleted* Kristi Chatham, Sandy Goldberg, Gregory Oberman, Judy Rosellini, Pat Speka, Sharon Williams

### Group Member News

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO. A complete roster of TPMG physicians that are now ANCO members is available at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html) (under *ANCO FAX News*, Vol. 7, No. 5).

*The Kaiser Permanente Oncology Trials Program* is sponsoring a *Research Symposium* on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8AM at the Jack London Square (Oakland) *Waterfront Plaza Hotel*. The *Symposium* features faculty

from TPMG as well as the Mayo Clinic, NCI, Stanford, and UCLA. For additional information and to register (\$75 for non-TPMG MDs; \$50 for non-TPMG RNs), please contact Desiree Goldstein, R.N., at (707) 651-2798 or [desiree.goldstein@kp.org](mailto:desiree.goldstein@kp.org).

### ***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/cmecalendar.do](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme)

The **10<sup>th</sup> Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference** takes place in San Francisco on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09004](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09004) for more information.

UCSF's **8<sup>th</sup> Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Update** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09006](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09006) for more information.

UCSF's **Innovations in Prostate Cancer: What's New, What's Next** takes place at San Francisco on February 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR09001](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR09001) for more information.

**Stanford's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach** (formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*) will be presented on March 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. For more information, to register, or to submit a case study, visit [cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2009/2009Silverado.html](http://cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2009/2009Silverado.html) or contact

Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or [schafer@stanford.edu](mailto:schafer@stanford.edu).

### ***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:

*Abraxis Oncology • Alaven  
Alexion Pharmaceutical • AMGEN  
AstraZeneca  
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals/  
Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
biogenIDEC  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology • Eisai  
Enzon Pharmaceuticals  
Genentech BioOncology  
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology  
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology • Hospira  
ImClone Systems  
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants  
Lilly Oncology • Millennium  
Novartis Oncology  
Oncology Supply/ION • OneOncology  
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals  
OTN/Onmark, McKesson Specialty  
Companies  
Pfizer Oncology • Roche Oncology  
Sanofi Aventis Oncology  
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals  
US Oncology Physician Services  
Wyeth BioPharma • Vidacare*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Alaven, ImClone Systems, Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, and Wyeth BioPharma* as new Corporate Members in 2008. *Clariant Diagnostics, Genitope Corporation, and Schering-Plough Oncology* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2008.

*Cephalon Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Treanda for the treatment of patients with indolent B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma who have progressed during or within six months of treatment with rituximab or rituximab-containing regimen. Treanda's original indication

was for chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

**Pfizer Oncology will host a meeting entitled *Integrating Clinical Pathways in Oncology Practice* with Linda Bosserman, M.D., President, Wilshire Oncology Medical Group, on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco.** Dr. Bosserman will provide a rationale for clinical pathways; describe their development and implementation; and, discuss the evaluation and outcomes associated with clinical pathways in oncology practice. Resources for oncologists to use to integrate clinical pathways into their practice will also be described and discussed. For more information and to register, please contact your *Pfizer Oncology* representative or *Advance Health Media* at (866) 292-6204 (ID #EZ008266 5130523).

### ***Clinical Trial News***

ANCO member, Robert W. Weber, M.D., reports that the *Northern California Melanoma Center*, now open at *St. Mary's Medical Center* in San Francisco, is pleased to announce the opening of an exciting adjuvant program for Stage III melanoma involving transgenic lymphocyte infusions. This study compliments the other studies available for metastatic melanoma including an ongoing phase II open label Abiraxane/Avastin study and an intralesional allovectin trial. For questions about enrollment to these studies or other clinical trials please call the *Center* at (415) 750-5660.

Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials** at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical\\_trials/bigc/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/) where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.

ANCO members can search information about **Institutional Member's clinical trials** at [www.anco-online.org/trials.html](http://www.anco-online.org/trials.html). A current list of UCD's active adult protocols is available at [ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicreport.csr?adult=1](http://ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicreport.csr?adult=1).

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

You may already be familiar with ASCO's *Clinical Practice Guidelines*, but did you know

they are accompanied by easy-to-use clinical tools? These tools include slide sets, and summaries of the guidelines, and may also include patient chart tools, such as flow sheets. In the midst of a busy practice, these tools enable oncologists to use the latest guidelines on emerging issues in clinical oncology. All of these tools are free of charge and available online through [www.asco.org/guidelines](http://www.asco.org/guidelines).

**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 practice performance improvement requirement for *ABIM Maintenance of Certification*. Register for QOPI at [www.asco.org/QOPI](http://www.asco.org/QOPI).

### ***Membership Dues for 2009***

**Membership renewal notices for 2009 will be mailed to all members in early December 2008. 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>, 2009 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!**