

# 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. 8, No. 1

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## 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 January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; *Voice*: (415) 472-3960; *FAX*: (415) 472-3961; [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org).

## 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 United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a document (at [www.fda.gov/Cder/drug/infopage/RHE/qa2008.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Cder/drug/infopage/RHE/qa2008.htm)) answering a series of questions related to its medication guides for ESAs.** The FDA developed this medication guide to provide patients with information on the risks of taking ESAs. The

**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.

FDA states that the medication guide should be distributed when ESAs are “dispensed” to patients. ASCO continues to seek clarification from the FDA on the extent to which this requirement applies outside of the pharmacy setting. The document also notes that the FDA is working with drug manufacturers to develop additional regulatory requirements in the form of a *Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy* (REMS) for ESAs.

**The FDA and the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) have recently reported a shortage of cisplatin (1mg/mL) injections.** The shortage has been reported by the three manufacturers (Bedford, Teva, and APP). APP currently has some availability, and Teva is on backorder with an expected release date sometime in January 2009. Bedford is backordered and no release date is being provided. **The shortage of leucovorin remains and no additional information on the manufacturing delays or release dates has been provided** by Bedford or Teva. More detailed information on these shortages can be found at [www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm#Current](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm#Current) and at [www.ashp.org/DrugShortages/Current/](http://www.ashp.org/DrugShortages/Current/).

**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 January 14<sup>th</sup>), 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). A new section on the PQRI web page, the “Spotlight” section, is updated frequently and was created to alert eligible professionals to the newest program information available on the PQRI web page. **The American Medical Association (AMA) has**

**posted 2009 PQRI data collection worksheets** at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/20358.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/20358.html). 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.**

**CMS recently announced the release of the detailed specifications for the 2009 PQRI measures and the 2009 PQRI measures groups.** The following resources have been posted to the PQRI webpage on the CMS website:

- *2009 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications Manual and Release Notes.* Contains the detailed specifications (including codes and reporting instructions) for the 153 2009 PQRI quality measures for claims or registry-based reporting and a summary of the changes from the 2008 PQRI Measure Specifications (in the form of release notes delineated by measure number).
- *2009 PQRI Implementation Guide.* Provides guidance about how to implement 2009 PQRI claims-based reporting of measures to facilitate satisfactory reporting of quality data codes by eligible professionals for the 2009 PQRI.
- *2009 PQRI Measures Group Specifications Manual and Release Notes.* Contains the detailed specifications and instructions for the seven (7) 2009 PQRI measures groups and a summary of the changes from the 2008 PQRI Measures Groups Specifications (in the form of release notes).
- *Getting Started with 2009 PQRI Reporting of Measures Groups.* Provides guidance about implementing the 2009 PQRI measures groups.

To access the *2009 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications Manual and Release Notes*, the *2009 PQRI Implementation Guide*, the *2009 PQRI Measures Group Specifications Manual and Release Notes*, or the *Getting Started with 2009 PQRI Reporting of Measures Groups*, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15\\_MeasuresCodes.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15_MeasuresCodes.asp#TopOfPage) (select Downloads and click on the appropriate link). Please note that the 2009 PQRI quality measure specifications for any given

quality measure may be different from specifications for the same quality measure used in 2008. Therefore, specifications for all 2009 PQRI quality measures, whether or not included in the 2008 PQRI program, must be obtained from the *2009 PQRI Quality Measure Specifications Manual*. In addition, measures group specifications are different from the specifications for individually reported measures that form the group. Therefore, the specifications and reporting instructions for the 2009 PQRI measures groups must be obtained from the *2009 PQRI Measures Group Specifications Manual*. Reporting for the 2009 PQRI began January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note there is no need to sign up or pre-register in order to participate.

**Beginning December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the names of physicians and other health care professionals who reported quality information under the PQRI in 2007 were available at [www.medicare.gov/physician](http://www.medicare.gov/physician), the *Physician and Other Healthcare Professional Directory* located on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). This information includes all eligible professionals identified by their *National Provider Identifier* (NPI) who submitted at least one quality data code on their Medicare claims for services furnished between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.**

**Physicians who use qualified e-prescribing systems to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies can earn a bonus payment of 2% of their total Medicare allowed charges during 2009.** To be eligible for the e-prescribing bonus, the services linked to e-prescribing measures must make up at least 10% of your Medicare charges for the year. You must also use a qualified electronic prescribing system that can:

- Generate a complete medication list with available data from pharmacies and benefit managers.
- Select medications and transmit prescriptions electronically (not via FAX) following applicable Federal standards, after warning the prescriber of any possible safety issues associated with the drug orders.
- Provide information on lower-cost, therapeutically appropriate alternatives.

- Provide drug plan information, such as formularies, patient eligibility, and authorization requirements.

For more details on the e-prescribing bonus, see CMS's *Practical Guide to the E-prescribing Incentive Program* at [www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/11399.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/11399.pdf) and eHealth Initiative's *Clinician's Guide to Electronic Prescribing* at [www.ehealthinitiative.org/erx/clinicians.msp](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/erx/clinicians.msp) (a how-to guide to help physicians make informed decisions about how and when to transition from paper to e-prescribing systems). CMS has posted specifications for the e-prescribing measure, which will be used to determine whether an eligible professional is a successful e-prescriber and may qualify for a 2% incentive payment for the 2009 reporting period. Information about the *E-Prescribing Incentive Program* can be found at [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/03\\_EPrescribingIncentiveProgram.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/03_EPrescribingIncentiveProgram.asp) #TopOfPage.

For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at [www.asco.org/eprescribing](http://www.asco.org/eprescribing), which specifically addresses the following questions:

- What is e-prescribing?
- What must I do to become a successful e-prescriber?
- What are some of the challenges physicians may face with this new program?
- What are the pros and cons of a standalone versus an integrated e-prescribing system?

**The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee recently introduced legislation that would create a system of incentives for speedy adoption of health information technology and penalties for providers who delay.** The incentive system would offer up to \$41,000 per physician to use electronic technologies for health records, prescriptions, and sharing data. Two other *Congressional* committees are working on health IT legislation.

**Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management**

**and reduce errors in patient care.** Members of ASCO's *EHR Workgroup* have provided commentary on several EHR topics via PodCast, as follows:

- An Overview of ASCO's EHR Goals and Activities
- Using the EHR to Promote Quality of Care and Patient Safety
- EHRs in Practice and EHR Vendors
- Implementation Issues and Tips
- Promoting ASCO's Clinical Guidelines in EHRs
- Technology Advances and EHR Trends

Listen to these PodCasts at [www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/Electronic+Health+Records+\(EHR\)+Lab+at+the+2008+Annual+Meeting?cpsextcurrchannel=1](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/Electronic+Health+Records+(EHR)+Lab+at+the+2008+Annual+Meeting?cpsextcurrchannel=1). In addition, ASCO has developed *The Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR*—the only oncology-specific consumer manual designed to guide oncology practices in selecting current and future oncology-specific EHRs for clinical practice management and quality-of-care measurement and improvement. The chapters in the *Field Guide* address the core functionalities desired in an oncology-specific EHR, including:

- Identifying an EHR project team
- Selecting an EHR
- Building a budget
- Using the EHR to support quality of care and patient safety
- Post-implementation management

The *Field Guide* is available in hard copy as well as PDF. Electronic users can print worksheets and forms as they go through the *Field Guide's* material. Both formats of the *Field Guide* can be purchased by e-mailing [support@articleworks.com](mailto:support@articleworks.com) or calling (800) 804-1425. More information is available at [www.asco.org/ehrfieldguide](http://www.asco.org/ehrfieldguide). Finally, ASCO has developed a new EHR social networking site ([ehr.ascoexchange.org/](http://ehr.ascoexchange.org/)) to help oncologists and their practice staff connect and collaborate with other users of EHRs, as well as find information on EHRs and other health information

technology tools.

**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 January 2009 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.]*

**New CME reporting requirements recently passed by the California Medical Board take effect in 2009.** Physicians will now be required to complete 50 CME hours during every two-year licensure period. Previously, physicians were required to complete 100 hours every four years. CME will also be calculated based on the physician's personal license renewal date (the last day of the month of your birthday), not the calendar year.

### **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.]*

**The January edition of the Palmetto/J1MAC Medicare Advisory is now available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Publications~Medicare%20Advisory?open](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Publications~Medicare%20Advisory?open).** Of specific relevance to oncology, this edition features:

- **Drug and Biological Injections and Infusions:** Use of the Units Field
- Northern California EDI FAX Cover Sheet
- Hospice Services
- Interest Payment on Clean Claims Not Paid Timely

- Part B LCD Update
- How to Request the Release of Claims in **National Provider Identifier** Development Status
- Part B **Reconsideration** Form
- **Remittance Advice Remark Code** and **Claim Adjustment Reason Code** Update

During the Medicare transition Palmetto/J1MAC created two sets of identical Part B *Local Coverage Determinations* (LCDs)—one for Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and another for California. **Palmetto/J1MAC plans to streamline the Part B LCDs on February 26<sup>th</sup> by implementing a single set of J1/MAC LCDs, with a single LCD Database ID Number, that will apply to all Part B providers in Palmetto/J1MAC. The LCD Database ID Numbers will stay the same for California providers. Please be advised that the actual content of the LCDs will not change.**

If you have any inquiries or concerns, please call the Palmetto/J1MAC Part B Provider Contact Center at (866) 931-3901 or visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Articles-General-Streamlining%20J1%20Part%20B%20LCDs?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Articles-General-Streamlining%20J1%20Part%20B%20LCDs?opendocument).

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). Transcripts of the CMS ICD-10-CM/PCS National Provider Conference Call for Physicians that was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is now available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/Downloads/November17calltranscript.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/Downloads/November17calltranscript.pdf). CMS has updated the ICD-10 download files by posting the 2009 version of the following documents at

[www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/02\\_ICD-10-PCS.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/02_ICD-10-PCS.asp):

- ICD-10 General Equivalence Mappings (these refer to procedure codes)
- Reimbursement mappings and guides for the use of the Mappings
- 2009 version of ICD-10-Procedure Coding System (PCS)
- ICD-10 version of the digestive Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Groups (MS-DRG)

The 2009 ICD-10-CM (Diagnosis codes) General Equivalence Mappings have been posted at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/03\\_ICD\\_10\\_CM.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/03_ICD_10_CM.asp). The 2009 version of ICD-10-Clinical Modifications (CM) Diagnoses are posted at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm) and [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/03\\_ICD\\_10\\_CM.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/03_ICD_10_CM.asp).

**ASCO has 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.

**Effective for dates of service on or after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, providers may no longer bill DHCS/MediCal using a recipient's Social**

**Security Number (SSN).** Claims submitted with a recipient's SSN will be denied. All exemptions to this policy are discontinued except for Medicare crossover claims. Providers may continue to bill Medicare crossover claims using the recipient's SSN. Claims submitted with a valid nine-digit Client Index Number will continue to be accepted. However, all providers are expected to use the DHCS/MediCal identification number from the recipient's Benefits Identification Card (BIC) or paper ID card when verifying eligibility, billing DHCS/MediCal or submitting Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs). DHCS/MediCal recognizes the importance of protecting the identity and health information of recipients and strongly encourages all providers to avoid using a recipient's SSN whenever possible.

The *Deficit Reduction Act* (DRA) mandates that all physician-administered drug claims require a *National Drug Code* (NDC). In order to comply with the DRA, **DHCS/MediCal providers must bill for these drugs using the appropriate CPT-4, HCPCS Level II, or local HCPCS Level III codes and, in addition, must include the NDC on the claim form.** Providers have been encouraged, for dates of service on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, to include the NDC code on the claim, but claims without an NDC code have still been paid. An analysis of providers' voluntary NDC submissions (for dates of service on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008) indicates that physician-administered drug claims are being submitted without the NDC. Providers are reminded that, claims with dates of service on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> that do not meet the NDC reporting requirements to include a valid NDC with a HCPCS code, will be denied. For more information on NDC reporting, including FAQs, please visit the NDC page on the DHCS/MediCal website at [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/ndc/ndc.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/ndc/ndc.asp). Training workshops have been scheduled in January and February 2009 to address NDC reporting. The dates, times and locations of these workshops, and how to pre-register, can be found on the DHCS/MediCal website at [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/ndc/articles/ndc\\_9992.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/ndc/articles/ndc_9992.asp).

**UnitedHealthcare (UHC) is removing the requirement to submit a pathology report to**

**obtain coverage for trastuzumab.** This change will be effective for claims submitted after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Claims that were submitted in 2008 that are pending payment will require the submission of the pathology report showing over expression of the HER2 gene. The pathology reports should be FAXed to (915) 231-1970 using a dedicated FAX cover sheet. Claims submitted after January 1<sup>st</sup> will continue to be subject The *National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (NCCN) policy and the Maximum Dosage Edit policies.

## EDUCATION

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

### *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2009*

ANCO recently organized three talks for oncologists, oncology nurses, and oncology practice managers entitled *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2009*. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *Managing Partner, Sausalito Healthcare Partners*, and Arthur Lurvey, M.D., *Contractor Medical Director, Palmetto/JIMAC*, presented the latest information impacting Medicare's reimbursement for oncology in 2009. Buell provided a complete update of changes for 2009—coding, PQRI, ESAs, e-prescribing, underinsured patients and what to do about them, and strategies for the future. Lurvey addressed the transition from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/JIMAC in California. Support for these meetings was provided by *Abraxis Oncology, Celgene, Eisai, Novartis Oncology, Onmark, a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company, Sanofi Aventis Oncology, and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals*. The meeting materials may be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/MedicareUpdate2009.html](http://www.anco-online.org/MedicareUpdate2009.html).

### *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2008*

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2008* will take place on Wednesday evening, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Ellie

Guardino, M.D., Ph.D.), *UC Davis* (Allen Chen, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Michael Alvarado, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Helen K. Chew, M.D., *UC Davis*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. A meeting announcement/registration form was mailed on December 11<sup>th</sup> and may be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html).

### ASH Highlights 2008

ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2008* will take place on Tuesday evening, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *UC Davis* (Joseph M. Tuscano, M.D.) and *Stanford* (Bruno Carneiro de Medeiros, M.D., Steven E. Coutre, M.D., and Jason R. Gotlib, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be moderated by Steven E. Coutre, M.D., *Stanford*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. A meeting announcement/registration form was mailed in late December and may be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/ash.html](http://www.anco-online.org/ash.html).

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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

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

January 28<sup>th</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma*  
*CancerCare*  
 Telephone Education Workshop

January 29<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer from the 2008 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*  
*CancerCare*  
 Telephone Education Workshop

January 31<sup>st</sup>

*Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients*  
 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
 San Francisco

February 11<sup>th</sup>

*Progress in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*  
*CancerCare*  
 Telephone Education Workshop

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, ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

### ANCO Online 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 [anco-online.blogspot.com](http://anco-online.blogspot.com) (see below). To subscribe to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, 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).

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 Results*

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for terms ending in 2011, inclusive):

- Norman Cohen, M.D.  
(Oakland)
- Bradley Ekstrand, M.D.  
(San Mateo)
- Daniel P. Mirda, M.D.  
(Napa)
- Margaret Tempero, M.D.  
(San Francisco)

In addition, Antoine Sayegh, M.D., resigned from the *Board* and is being replaced by Marshall S. Flam, M.D. (Fresno, 2010). Drs. Bohannon (San Francisco, 2009), Cronk (Antioch, 2010), Guardino (Stanford, 2009), Keiser (Santa Rosa, 2009), Lara (Sacramento, 2010), Patel (Antioch, 2009), and Robles (Pleasant Hill, 2010) continue on the *Board*. ANCO salutes Drs. Keech and Sayegh for their past service to the *Association*.

### *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* meeting will take place on January 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*

Peter Paul Yu, M.D., past ANCO *President*, has been elected to ASCO *Board of Directors* as a community oncology representative. He will serve a three-year term beginning in June 2009.

*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* Kristen Hege, M.D.

*Added* Gary G. Shi, M.D.

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

*Changed* Doreen Bechtold, Cathey Bervid, N.P., Teri Cott, Laverna Montz, Christine Raymond, R.N.

*Added* Judy DeJong, R.N., Mark Semone, Yinghong Shi

*Deleted* Vicki Davis, R.N., Marsha Coble Karman

### 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.

**Kaiser Permanente's cancer trial program in Northern California has become a full-fledged member the Southwest Oncology Group**, one of the largest cancer clinical-trial cooperative groups in the nation. *Kaiser* has participated in the SWOG cooperative for the last 17 years as an affiliate of *UC Davis*, providing its members with access to clinical trial through SWOG.

### 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)

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).

UCSF's **3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Cancer Metastasis and the Lymphovascular System: Basis for Rational Therapy** takes place in San Francisco on May 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information, please visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09002](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09002).

### 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*  
*Onmark, a McKesson Specialty Care*  
*Solutions Company*  
*Pfizer Oncology* • *Roche Oncology*  
*Sanofi Aventis Oncology*  
*Spectrum Pharmaceuticals*

*US Oncology Physician Services  
Wyeth BioPharma • Vidacare*

Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

**Cephalon Oncology informs ANCO that Treanda has been assigned a drug specific J-code effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.** The code is J9033 (1mg).

### **Patient News**

The *Northern California Cancer Center's 2nd Annual Cancer Survivorship Conference* was held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. You can now view sessions from the conference at [www.nccc.org](http://www.nccc.org). Select Program Presentations (or go directly to [www.nccc.org/site/c.foJNIXOyEpH/b.2913703/](http://www.nccc.org/site/c.foJNIXOyEpH/b.2913703/)). The available sessions include:

- Another Multiple Choice Test  
Joan Venticinque, *Cancer Survivor*
- Psychosocial Issues  
Jeremy E. Bornstein, PhD, CPMC
- A Life on Hold  
Gregg Timmons, *Cancer Survivor*
- Medical Issues  
Sandra Horning, MD, *Stanford*
- Transitioning from Oncologist to Primary Care Doctor  
Judy Luce, MD, UCSF

NCCC's *3rd Annual Post-Treatment Cancer Survivorship Conference* is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**IMPACT (IMProving Access, Counseling and Treatment For Californians With Prostate Cancer)** is a state funded program whose mission it is to provide high quality prostate cancer treatment to Californians who are low income and uninsured. In order to qualify for free prostate cancer treatment through IMPACT, a patient must have a positive biopsy for prostate cancer; have no current insurance coverage except CMSP (including Medicaid or Medicare); and, be low income. Potentially eligible patients may be referred to IMPACT at (800) 409-8252. Please contact Rick Edmiston, MPH, at (415) 353-7390 or [rick.edmiston@ucsfmedctr.org](mailto:rick.edmiston@ucsfmedctr.org), to discuss referrals. For more information, visit [www.california-impact.org](http://www.california-impact.org)

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

**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).

The *Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)* has suspended its complimentary online Drug Database service, which includes *DrugPoints* online, a copyrighted database of Thomson Micromedex. ACCC has also suspended publication of its *Compendia-Based Drug Bulletin*. ACCC is analyzing the newly recognized Medicare drug compendia and will notify members when they can expect an updated 2009 *Compendia-based Drug Bulletin* that reflects indications within the newly recognized compendia.

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

**Membership renewal notices for 2009 were mailed to all members in late November. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2009 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2009*.** Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 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.