

# ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists  
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## INTRODUCTION

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

**The *ANCO FAX News* is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members.** The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on May 22<sup>nd</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.]

**According to CMS and effective July 10<sup>th</sup>, claims for clinical trials with dates of service on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, with either the modifier QV or the modifier Q1 shall be returned as unprocessable if the diagnosis code V70.7 is not submitted on the claim with 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.

following messages:

- Claims Adjustment Reason Code 16: Claim/service lacks information that is needed for adjudication. As least one Remark Code must be provided (may be comprised of either the Remittance Advice Code or NCPDP Reject Reason Code.)
- Remittance Advice Remark Code M76: Missing/incomplete/invalid diagnosis or condition.

For more information, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM5790.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM5790.pdf). Alternatively, visit [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/CR6431\\_clinicaltrialsbilling\\_rev.pdf/\\$File/CR6431\\_clinicaltrialsbilling\\_rev.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/CR6431_clinicaltrialsbilling_rev.pdf/$File/CR6431_clinicaltrialsbilling_rev.pdf) for Palmetto/J1MAC's billing instructions.

**HR1392 would remove prompt-pay discounts extended to drug wholesalers from the calculation of the Average Sales Price (ASP) for Medicare Part B drugs.** Drug manufacturers are currently required to net out prompt-pay discounts paid to wholesale distributors before reporting ASP figures to CMS, even though the wholesaler prompt-pay discount is not passed along to physicians. Physician drug reimbursements are lowered by approximately 2% by this provision in the ASP calculation. **S717 (21st Century Cancer ALERT Act)** would improve cancer care in the United States. ALERT stands for Access to Life-saving Early Detection, Research and Treatment. The bill includes funding for a variety of programs and is intended to promote:

- Greater coordination of care through the use of registries.
- Increased access to research and clinical trials.
- Increased cancer prevention programs through access to early detection and other screening programs.
- Improvements in the coverage of cancer by Medicare and Medicaid.
- Increased funding for survivorship programs.
- Qualified patient navigation programs.

The bill also includes provisions to develop a national biorepository network for collecting tissue samples that will advance cancer research efforts. **S488 (Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act)** addresses gaps in insurance coverage and economic barriers faced by cancer patients who participate in clinical trials. It would require insurance coverage in plans regulated by *Federal* and *State* law and would also set the standard for coverage in traditional insurance plans regulated by *State* law. **HR1844 (Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2009)** seeks to establish a new Medicare service for care planning, including a written care plan, treatment summary and survivor care plan that is communicated to survivors. Finally, **HR1927 (Assuring and Improving Cancer Treatment Education and Cancer Symptom Management Act)** would provide Medicare reimbursement for the time that registered nurses spend on educating newly diagnosed cancer patients about their disease and the effects of treatment. All members of the cancer community should contact their *Congressional* representatives to support this legislation.

**CMS has announced a National Coverage Determination (NCD) that expands coverage for positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) scans for the management of patients with cancer.** Under the NCD, Medicare will cover one FDG-PET study related to initial treatment decisions for patients with essentially all types of solid tumors that are either biopsy proven or are strongly suspected based on other diagnostic testing. Prostate cancer is excluded from this coverage, and certain coverage limitations remain for breast and cervical cancer and melanoma. For more information, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdecisionmemo.asp?from2=viewdecisionmemo.asp&id=218&](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdecisionmemo.asp?from2=viewdecisionmemo.asp&id=218&).

**CMS attempted to clarify the RAC review process of provider claims during a recent open door teleconference.** According to CMS, there will be two types of reviews—automated reviews and complex reviews. Automated reviews will use data searches to identify misalignments in coding claims and will likely generate large volumes of re-payment requests in an automated format.

These automated reviews may also then generate the complex review, in which the RAC identifies a claim issue and sends a written request for medical records. The provider has 45 days to reply and then the RAC has 60 days to send in the results. The RAC can also make another request during that time, starting a fresh clock. The demand letter, as well as further discussions, takes place between the provider and the RAC. The RACs will likely handle the appeals as well. With regard to the specifics of RAC requests to providers:

- The RAC can look backwards no more than three years from a period that begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.
- RACs cannot accept records electronically (via EMR). They can only accept images of medical records on CDs or paper.
- There is a limit on the number of records RACs can request: Solo practice, 10 records; 2-5 docs, 20 records; 6-15 docs, 30 records; and 16+ docs, 50 records.

For further details, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/RAC](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/RAC).

**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. For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials, 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 "Spotlight" section on the PQRI webpage is updated frequently and alerts eligible professionals to the newest program information available on the PQRI webpage. **The American Medical Association (AMA) has posted PQRI participation tools** at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml). 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 an incentive program for eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers, or "e-prescribers"**. The incentive program, which began in January, 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. 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. 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. CMS will post updates to e-prescribing quality measures, such as specifications or reporting instructions, at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ERXIncentive/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ERXIncentive/). Medicare's *Practical Guide to the E-Prescribing Incentive Program* is now available at [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Current%20News~Medicare%20Practical%20Guide%20to%20the%20E-Prescribing%20Incentive%20Program%20is%20now%20available%20online!?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Current%20News~Medicare%20Practical%20Guide%20to%20the%20E-Prescribing%20Incentive%20Program%20is%20now%20available%20online!?opendocument). The *Guide* explains the e-prescribing incentive program, how eligible professionals can participate, and how to choose a qualified e-prescribing system. Additional information is available at *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). **For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at [www.asco.org/eprescribing](http://www.asco.org/eprescribing).**

**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 at [www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/](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 *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 or calling (800) 804-1425. More information is available at www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide. Finally, ASCO has developed a new EHR social networking site (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.

With the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) signed into law, now is the time to implement electronic health records (EHR) into your practice. ASCO is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> *EHR Symposium: Harnessing the HER—From Incentives to Sustainability*, October 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the *San Francisco Marriott*. The *Symposium* will prepare you with the knowledge and tools for successful selection and implementation. Program highlights include:

- Budgeting for the EHR
- Personal Health Records
- Implementation and Project Management
- Incentives: Planning for the ARRA Stimulus Package
- EHRs as a Quality Tool
- ROI and Costs
- Physician Compliance

Registration opens the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Visit www.asco.org/ehrsymposium for more information and updates.

**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/mma.html and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2009 PowerPoint* presentation.
- The April 2009 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file.

Members may also e-mail ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. Please include your ASCO member ID in your e-mail.

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

*[Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]*

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

- ANCO/MOASC support SB158 that would require health plans that provide coverage for cervical cancer treatment or surgery to also provide coverage for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The *Governor* vetoed an identical bill last year stating that to fix health care, whole scale reform must be taken, rather than patchwork mandates on plans.

**The 2009 Federal economic stimulus package includes \$19B for health information technology (HIT), the vast majority of which will be directed to physicians to subsidize the purchase and usage of electronic health record (EHR) systems.** Beginning in 2011, qualifying Medicare providers stand to gain up to \$44,000 under the program; qualifying MediCal providers stand to receive as much as \$64,000. CMA advises physicians to begin the process of assessing their EHR needs, with an eye on what will work best for their specialty, the size of their practice, the stage in their career, and their comfort level with technology. CMA has

established a *Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Center* on the CMA website designed to educate physicians about the HIT subsidies for physicians in the recent *Federal stimulus package*. Visit [www.cmanet.org/hit/](http://www.cmanet.org/hit/) for the latest information focusing on materials to help physicians assess their HIT needs and begin the process of choosing an EHR system that works best for their practices and qualifies them to receive the *Federal* funds. CMA will also provide materials for physicians and practices that currently use EHR systems to help them know how to qualify for the funds as well.

The *California Medical Association* will host a webinar entitled *Best Practices—Improving the Efficiency and Quality of Your Practice* on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30PM. A practice cannot provide quality medical care unless it can keep its doors open, and even the most magnanimous physician can not support an unprofitable practice forever. Physicians who work in well-run practices can spend less time worrying about making ends meet, which, in turn, affords them more time for patient care. This webinar is based on CMA's new toolkit. Registration is free for CMA members and their staff. Visit [www.cmanet.org/calendar/](http://www.cmanet.org/calendar/) for more information and to register.

To help physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payor agreements, CMA has published a contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations—A Focus on Payor Contracting* that is available free to CMA members at the members-only website. Nonmembers can purchase the tool kit for \$100 in the CMA bookstore (call (800) 882-1262). This tool kit joins several other CMA tool kits (i.e., *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow*, *Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*) aimed at empowering physician practices vis-à-vis their relationships with private payors.

## 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 May edition of the Palmetto/J1MAC *Medicare Advisory* is now available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/J1\\_MedAd\\_May09.pdf/\\$File/J1\\_MedAd\\_May09.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/J1_MedAd_May09.pdf/$File/J1_MedAd_May09.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, this edition features:

- Filing Requirements for Providers Responding to **Additional Documentation Requests** (ADRs)
- Billing Routine Cost of **Clinical Trials**
- Program Overview: 2009 **PQRI** and 2009 **E-Prescribing** Incentive Program
- J1 Part B LCD Updates
- **Self-Administered Drugs** Exclusion List 2009

DHCS/MediCal's eTAR is an easy, effective, fast and free way to submit TARs. Providers that utilize the eTAR application are generally more successful when submitting TARs. Most DHCS/MediCal providers have been activated to use eTAR. To verify access, go to [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov), select the Transactions tab, and log in with your NPI and PIN. An eTAR tab with options for Medical TARs will be available. If you do not have access or only see options for Inquire only, please contact DHCS/MediCal at (800) 541-5555 and follow the prompts for eTAR to request access. The eTAR training team would like to extend an invitation to access the free learning tools available to all DHCS/MediCal providers. Tutorials are available online to provide step by step instructions on how to submit eTARs and attachments, update eTARs, as well as inquire on previously submitted TARs. These tutorials can be viewed at [pro.medi-cal.ca.gov/wct/etar/etarms05/etarms05default.asp](http://pro.medi-cal.ca.gov/wct/etar/etarms05/etarms05default.asp) or on the DHCS/MediCal website under "eLearning" and "eTAR Medical Services Tutorial." In addition, free DHCS/MediCal seminars where eTAR will be taught are scheduled for Fresno (May 12-14), San José (July 14-16), and Santa Rosa

(September 10-11). For more information about Training seminars, please visit the DHCS/MediCal website.

## EDUCATION

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

### ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing reservations for the 2009 ASCO Annual Meeting that takes place May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Orlando, Florida is available at [www.asco.org/ASCO+Annual+Meeting](http://www.asco.org/ASCO+Annual+Meeting).

### Best of ASCO

Those who will wish to revisit or initially view the cutting-edge science presented at the 2009 ASCO Annual Meeting can now register and reserve housing for the upcoming *Best of ASCO* meeting in Los Angeles. This meeting will feature high-impact abstracts on scientific findings in primary disease sites, as well as practice-changing advances in cancer prevention and treatment. *Best of ASCO* takes place in Los Angeles on June 19-20<sup>th</sup>, at the *Hyatt Regency Century Plaza*. Visit [www.asco.org/ASCO/Meetings/ASCO+Symposia+%26+Workshops/Best+of+ASCO+Meetings/Best+of+ASCO+Los+Angeles](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/Meetings/ASCO+Symposia+%26+Workshops/Best+of+ASCO+Meetings/Best+of+ASCO+Los+Angeles) for more information and to register. MOASC will host a reception on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*. Please RSVP via e-mail to [neast@moasc.org](mailto:neast@moasc.org) by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### ASCO/ONS Highlights 2009

ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2009* will summarize the major research and treatment advancements presented at this year's *ONS Congress* and *ASCO Annual Meeting*. The program will focus on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, and lung cancers as well as hematological malignancies. The faculty will place these developments in context as to their immediate clinical utility. A plenary talk on immunotherapy will also be presented. *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2009* will take place on Saturday morning, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at *The Claremont*

*Resort* in Oakland. Meeting announcements and registration forms will be disseminated in early July.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Oncology Congress



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Oncology Congress will take place September 24-26<sup>th</sup> at the *Hilton San Francisco*. This event is an interactive CME conference providing practicing oncologists with the latest clinical data, best practices, and new technologies that are directly applicable to the practice of oncology today. The *Congress* agenda and registration information will be posted over the next few weeks. Please visit [www.oncologycongress.com](http://www.oncologycongress.com) for more information

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 14<sup>th</sup>

*For Parents, Caregivers, and Professionals: Helping Brothers and Sisters of Children Living with Cancer*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 15<sup>th</sup>

*Managing Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 19<sup>th</sup>

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Survivorship Series—Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer Part 2: The Importance of Nutrition and Physical Activity*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 20<sup>th</sup>

*Pieces of the Nutritional Puzzle*  
Northern California Cancer Center  
San Francisco

June 9<sup>th</sup>

*Breast Cancer and Hispanic Women*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 10<sup>th</sup>

*Emerging Treatments for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 11-14<sup>th</sup>

*CancerGuides II: Cutting-Edge Cancer Care*  
*Professional Training Program*  
&  
*Food as Medicine: Professional Training Program*  
Center for Mind-Body Medicine  
Washington, D.C.

June 17<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Lung Cancer from the 2009*  
*American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)*  
*Annual Meeting*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 18<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Breast Cancer from the 2009*  
*American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)*  
*Annual Meeting*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 19-20<sup>th</sup>

*Great Debates and Updates in Breast Cancer*  
Imedex  
San Francisco

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Survivorship Series—Living*  
*With, Through, and Beyond Cancer Part 3:*  
*Survivors, Too, Family, Friends, and Loved Ones*  
*Managing the Fatigue of Caregiving*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 24-25<sup>th</sup>

*10<sup>th</sup> Annual Patient Congress*  
Patient Advocate Foundation  
Washington, D.C.

June 25<sup>th</sup>

*Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

June 26<sup>th</sup>

*When the Diagnosis is Cancer of Unknown*  
*Primary: Guidelines for Care*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

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

## MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & 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. 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 using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

## 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 May 12<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 2008* was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 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 July 2009.

### 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 is 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 initiated an institutional membership in 2002. *Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology* of accredited, degree-granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for institutional membership. ANCO thanks the following **Institutional Members** for their support:

- *Stanford 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)

*Stanford's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GI Cancers* meeting takes place July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the *Mauna Lani Bay Resort* in Hawaii. Visit [www.cme.stanfordhospital.com](http://www.cme.stanfordhospital.com) for more information and to register.

### 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 Pharmaceuticals* • *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 • Response Genetics*  
*Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology*  
*Spectrum Pharmaceuticals*  
*US Oncology Physician Services*  
*Wyeth Pharmaceuticals • Vidacare*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Response Genetics* as a new Corporate Member in 2009.

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.

**AMGEN and P4 Healthcare** are hosting webcasts entitled *Evaluating Practice Efficiency in an Oncology Clinic Environment* starting May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. For more information and to register, visit [registration.p4healthcare.com/go/invite/live/webconference28](http://registration.p4healthcare.com/go/invite/live/webconference28).

**Novartis Oncology and P4 Healthcare** are hosting a national dinner program entitled *Management of Iron Toxicity in MDS and Transplant Patients* on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Northern California location for this program is *Piatti Ristorante* in Roseville. For more information and to register, visit [registration.p4healthcare.com/go/invite/live/program0512](http://registration.p4healthcare.com/go/invite/live/program0512).

The next *Onmark, a McKesson Special Care Solutions Company*, CORE webcast will discuss cost-effective, creative solutions for marketing and branding your practice in the current fiscal environment. Enroll for this webcast to learn how to boost your marketing efforts and achieve maximum results within your current budget. This webcast will take place on Tuesday, May

12<sup>th</sup>, at 9AM, and Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12PT. Visit [www.elabs6.com/content/24791/April%202009/CORE%20Q2%20Mkt%20%20Brand.pdf](http://www.elabs6.com/content/24791/April%202009/CORE%20Q2%20Mkt%20%20Brand.pdf) for more information and to register.

### Clinical Trial News

**Stanford** seeks patients for two new clinical trials, as follows:

- A clinical trial of XL184, a c-MET and VEGF inhibitor in subjects with unresectable, locally advanced, or **metastatic medullary thyroid cancer**. *Stanford Cancer Center* is the only Northern California site for this trial.
- A phase 2 study of docetaxel, cisplatin, fluorouracil, bevacizumab, and radiation therapy for patients with advanced **nasopharyngeal carcinoma** (NPC). This trial is building upon the backbone of INT 0099 and RTOG 0615. New components to the treatment plan include the use of induction rather than adjuvant chemotherapy, adding docetaxel and research hypoxia imaging.

Contact A. Dimitrios Colevas, M.D., or Ruth Lira at (650) 724-9707 for more information.

**UCSF** seeks patients for a phase I dose-escalation study of the safety, tolerability and maximally tolerated dose of AP24534 in subjects with BCR-ABL-positive leukemias. AP24534 is a potent, orally-administered ATP-competitive and reversible inhibitor of drug-resistant forms of BCR-ABL, including the highly resistant T315I mutation. This first human study is aimed at patients with BCR-ABL-associated leukemias that are refractory or intolerant to standard therapies. Four cohorts have been evaluated to date with no evidence of dose-limiting toxicity. Eligible patients must be at least 18 years of age and have chronic myeloid leukemia or Philadelphia chromosome-associated acute lymphoblastic leukemia that is relapsed, refractory, or intolerant of standard therapy. The drug is given as an oral formulation once daily. If you have a potentially eligible patient, please contact Dr. Neil Shah's

research coordinator, Patty Olszynski, at (415) 502-1564.

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

**The American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation** has announced a grant program targeted at practicing physicians. The *Putting the Charter into Practice* grant program will facilitate the development of innovative, emerging strategies to advance one or more principles and commitments outlined in *Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physician Charter*. (A copy of the *Charter* may be found at [www.abimfoundation.org/professionalism/charter.shtm](http://www.abimfoundation.org/professionalism/charter.shtm).) The *Foundation* will award four grants of up to \$20,000. The deadline for applications is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.abimfoundation.org](http://www.abimfoundation.org) or contact Amy Cunningham at (215) 606-4123 or [acunningham@abim.org](mailto:acunningham@abim.org) for more information.

ASCO's *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) is now available. *Practical Tips* is a fully-indexed and spiral-bound reference guide to Medicare coverage, coding, and billing for the oncology practice. Order the latest edition at [www.asco.org/practicaltips](http://www.asco.org/practicaltips).

ASCO's *Oncology Practice Insider* is an interactive biweekly communication specifically devoted to oncology practice management issues and for practice managers. Subscribe to the *Oncology Practice Insider* via e-mail to [practice@asco.org](mailto:practice@asco.org). The latest issue and includes:

- CMS Clarifies Use of Advance Beneficiary Notice with Medically Unlikely Edits
- FDA Reverses Action to Pull Unapproved Liquid Morphine Off Market
- Comment on Proposed Personal Health Record Breach Notification Rule
- CMS Conference Call on ICD-10-CM/PCS Implementation and General Equivalence Mappings

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology for Kidney Cancer* to

reflect the recent FDA approval of everolimus for advanced renal cell carcinoma in patients whose disease has progressed after treatment with kinase inhibitors such as sunitinib and sorafenib. Everolimus has been added as a category 1 option for patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma following failure of tyrosine kinase therapy.

NCCN is developing a library of chemotherapy order templates to improve the safe and effective use of drugs and biologics in cancer care. The information contained in the NCCN *Templates* is based on their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and their *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* and include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, supportive care agents, monitoring parameters, and safety instructions. Special instructions for self-administered chemotherapeutic agents are also provided. *Templates* are now available for bladder, breast, cervical, colon, hepatobiliary, kidney, non-melanoma skin, non-small cell lung, ovarian, prostate, small cell lung, and testicular cancers; chronic myelogenous leukemia; and, uterine neoplasms. Access the latest updates at [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org).

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

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed in late April. 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 July 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.

**Please Note:** The ANCO Office will be closed from June 11<sup>th</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup> while the *Executive Director* is out of the country.