

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 August 20th. 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.

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.]

ASCO has published a summary of the proposed Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS) for 2011 and is conducting additional review of the data and statements presented by CMS in order to prepare detailed comments for submission prior to the deadline in late August. In summary, medical oncology will experience a payment cut in 2011; diagnostic imaging will

The *ANCO FAX News* has information for every member of your practice or organization. Pass it along!

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

Watch for important changes to the *ANCO FAX News* in September!

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.

experience a larger payment cut than expected in 2011; and, therapeutic radiation will experience a payment increase in 2011. Among ASCO's highlighted concerns are:

- Changes in practice expense relative values based on the AMA's *Physician Practice Information Survey* (PPIS) that decrease overall Medicare reimbursement for medical oncology practices by approximately 2%.
- Rebasement and revising the *Medicare Economic Index* (MEI) that increases overall Medicare reimbursement for medical oncology practices by approximately 1%.
- The absence of *Congressional* action to address the sustainable growth rate that will cut reimbursement by approximately 28%.
- A proposal to begin using *Average Manufacturers Price* (AMP) as a means to limit drug payment levels in the physician office setting under certain circumstances.

For details, please view ASCO's initial summary at www.anco-online.org/ASCOAnalysis2011.pdf; and, ASH's analysis at www.anco-online.org/ASHAnalysis2011.pdf

The *Community Oncology Alliance* (COA) has compiled a database containing over 850 community oncology sites adversely impacted by Medicare payment cuts. Visit

www.communityoncology.org/wp-content/uploads/Press-Release-Cancer-Care-Impact-Report-7-14-10-final.pdf for more information. In addition, COA has modeled the changes and produced a tool for you to use to estimate the impact of the proposed 2011 Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*. Visit www.communityoncology.org > Immediate Action Needed to access this tool. And, please sign the *Stop Cancer Care Cuts* petition at www.communityoncology.org/coa-petition/ and add your name to show your support for the future of cancer care.

The *American Society of Health-System Pharmacists* (ASHP) has listed a drug shortage for Leucovorin as follows:

- *Bedford's* 200mg vial, 1 count (NDC 55390-0053-01)
- *Bedford's* 200mg Novaplus vial, 1 count (NDC 55390-0824-01)
- *Teva's* 100mg vial, 1 count (NDC 00703-5140-01)
- *Teva's* 350mg vial, 1 count (NDC 00703-5145-01)

No reason behind the *Bedford* shortage has been provided; however, the *Teva* shortage is due to manufacturing delays. For more details on the shortage and information regarding resupply dates, visit www.ashp.org/Import/PRACTICEANDPOLICY/PracticeResourceCenters/DrugShortages/GettingStarted/CurrentShortages/Bulletin.aspx?id=488.

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. CMS has posted updated 2010 PQRI educational products to the PQRI webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. In addition, an updated list of registries that have become "qualified" to submit quality data to CMS on behalf of their eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI and eRx reporting and an updated list of EHR vendors and their programs that have been "qualified" to submit quality data to CMS by eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI reporting are now available on the *Alternative Reporting Mechanisms* page of the PQRI website. **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-2010.shtml. In addition, **ASCO's PQRI website** (www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS has posted updated 2010 *Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program* educational products to the eRx webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.

The CMS *Provider Communications Group* is hosting a **national provider conference call on the 2010 PQRI and eRx programs** on Tuesday, August 17th, 12PM. :00 - 4:30 p.m. EDT. Visit www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/05ae7ec7-c70f-4605-b749-b43fe06786ac to register for the call.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has announced final rules to support the meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs; see *The New England Journal of Medicine* article at www.anco-online.org/NEJM_MeaningfulUse.pdf) governing how eligible health care professionals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments (available to physicians only) when they adopt certified EHR technology and use it to achieve specified objectives. One regulation, issued by CMS, defines the minimum requirements (the "meaningful use") that providers must meet through their use of certified EHR technology in order to qualify for the bonus payments. The other rule, issued by the *Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology* (ONC), identifies the standards and certification criteria for the certification of EHR technology, so eligible professionals may be assured that the systems they adopt are capable of performing the required functions. With "meaningful use" definitions in place, EHR system vendors can ensure that their systems deliver the required capabilities and providers can be assured that the system they acquire will support achievement of "meaningful use" objectives. CMS's three fact sheets summarizing meaningful use of EHRs and the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs are available at their new EHR incentives website (www.cms.gov/EHRIncentiveprograms/). CMS will conduct a training conference call for individual practitioners detailing the specifics of the EHR incentive programs on Tuesday, August 10th, at 11AM. Visit www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/

register/8c89727a-acec-4c44-b95e-716ea061fbfb for more information. ASCO's highlights of the CMS rule can be found at www.anco-online.org/ASCOonMeaningfulUse.pdf.

ASCO has identified the EHR as an important vehicle for advancing the quality of cancer care. The *Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR* serves as the only comprehensive, oncology-specific handbook on the market. The *EHR Field Guide* has been developed to equip practitioners with the information and resources needed to select and implement current and future EHRs for clinical practice and management as well as quality-of-care measurement and improvement. An essential resource for evaluating and selecting EHRs, the *EHR Field Guide* includes:

- Core functions of an oncology EHR
- EHR selection and making the right choice
- EHR implementation and customization
- Ongoing EHR management and best practices

To purchase your copy of the *EHR Field Guide*, visit www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide. **ASCO has developed an 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.** The *California Medical Association (CMA)* has established a *Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Center* on its website designed to educate physicians about the HIT subsidies for physicians in the *Federal stimulus package*. Visit 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. The *California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization (CalHIPSO; www.calhipso.org)* is a joint venture between the *California Primary Care Association*, the *California Medical Association*, and the *California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems* that has been

allocated a total of \$17.3M by the *United States Department of Health and Human Services* for helping primary care doctors and other health providers purchase and use technology for electronic health records. CalHIPSO plans to begin enrolling doctors for services to help them buy and install EHR systems and will also begin offering EHR technology packages to doctors at a discount in the next couple of months. CalHIPSO has scheduled a webinar on meaningful use for September 29th at 12PM; visit www.calhipso.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=38 for more information. Finally, the *California Medical Association* plans to offer several EHR systems at a cost savings as well that meet CMS standards.

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

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

- AB591 would impose a 90-day moratorium on increases in health insurance premium rates; would prohibit health plans from increasing premium rates by more than the average percentage increase in the medical care component of the *Consumer Price Index* unless the plan is given approval by the *State*; would prohibit approval of an increase unless the health plan completes an audit showing that its medical loss ratio meets or exceeds *Federal* requirements; and, would prohibit a health plan from increasing the premium rate it charges a subscriber or policyholder during the 12 months following the last premium rate increase. AB591 is pending in the *Senate Appropriations Committee*.

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the *Capitol* on their journey to the *Governor's* desk. And, many of these bills threaten

the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It's critical that **physicians have an advocate at work for them every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the *California Medical Association* (CMA).** While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. **Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payers and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you. The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers.** For membership, contact Ron Lopp at (916) 551-2042 or rlopp@cmanet.org; for reimbursement assistance, call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

CMA Practice Resources (CPR) is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services* that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. The current issue includes:

- Unfair Payment Practices: Claim Acknowledgement
- Contract Amendments: An Action Guide for Physicians
- Payer Updates
- Health Plan Provider Newsletters

Visit www.cmanet.org/news/cpr to subscribe.

Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers

[*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 informs ANCO that claims submitted for clotting factors for hemophilia patients with dates of service April 1st through June 18th were incorrectly priced and has resulted in a number of overpaid and underpaid claims. The overpaid codes are J7187, J7190,

J7192, and J7198; the underpaid codes are J7189, J1793, and J7194. Providers will receive refund requests for the overpaid claims/codes in the very near future; additional payment was made on the underpaid claims/codes in late June. All pricing files were corrected in mid-June and provider claims for these codes on or after mid-June were reimbursed correctly.

CMS recently extended the PECOS (*Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System*) enrollment deadline to September 1st to ensure contractors have adequate time to complete enrollment applications before the January 3rd, 2011, enforcement deadline. Between now and January 3rd, if claims are submitted with ordering or referring physicians who are not in the system, the billing provider will receive an informational message explaining that the claim failed the “ordering/referring provider edits.” Affected claims will, however, continue to be processed and paid. Claims received on or after January 3rd will not be paid if the ordering or referring provider is not enrolled in PECOS.

Palmetto/J1MAC has identified California physicians who do not have a record in PECOS. These physicians will receive letters from Palmetto/J1MAC notifying them of the need to enroll. Don't know if you are in PECOS? CMA has developed a step-by-step guide to walk you through the process, from determining if you are already in PECOS to accessing the Internet-based PECOS enrollment system. This guide is available at the members-only website.

Palmetto/J1MAC has announced that the annual ICD-9-CM update will be effective for dates of service on and after October 1st. For more information about the new, revised, and discontinued ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7N2SRQ1615?opendocument.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 established the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program to identify fraud and waste in the Medicare system. Audit contractors are expected to focus on companies and individuals whose billings for specific Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers in their communities. Auditors cannot request more than 10 patient records from a practice in

any 45-day period. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has developed a tool kit to help physicians understand the program and, if necessary, navigate the audit process. The tool kit is available free to CMA members. Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program* and added a RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument or www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf for more information on the RAC program. **HealthDataInsights (HDI), the Medicare RAC for Region D (that includes California), has posted the CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review** at racinfo.healthdatainsights.com.

Palmetto/J1MAC's August Medicare Advisory is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_August2010.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_August2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_August2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_August2010.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- October 2010 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files
- **Circulating Tumor Cells (CTC) Billing and Coding Guidelines**
- Resubmitted or Separate **Claims** for Same Service Tips to Avoid Denials or Processing Delays
- **Discarded Drugs and Biologicals Update**
- Definition of a “New Patient” for **E/M Services**
- The Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (**PQRI**) and E-Prescribing (**eRx**) Medicare Quality Reporting Initiative Programs Manual
- Medicare Contractor Annual Update of the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (**ICD-9-CM**)
- **Part B LCD Updates**
- July Update to the 2010 **Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)**

- **Signature Guidelines** for Medical Review Purposes

Did you know that the California has a quick, easy, and free way for physicians to get help with claims payment problems? The *Department of Managed Health Care's (DMHC) Provider Complaint Unit (PCU)* has recovered more than \$16M in additional payments owed by health plans to physicians since it was created in 2005. The DMHC PCU was created as an alternative way for physicians to resolve claims payment issues without having to go to court. An online *Provider Complaint System* evaluates claim reimbursement disputes such as timely submission and payment of claims, failure to pay according to contracts, coding disputes, and enforcement of the provider bill of rights. The PCU investigates and addresses individual claims problems and also systemic unfair payment or billing patterns among health plans. The DMHC is the *State* agency that regulates all California HMOs, and *Anthem Blue Cross* and *Blue Shield PPOs*. If you are a physician and would like to report a problem regarding claims payment, please contact DMHC at (877) 525-1295 or visit www.healthhelp.ca.gov. DMHC is especially interested in current preauthorization/certification, claims processing, and payment problems facing the hematology/oncology community. Visit www.anco-online.org/Resources.pdf for specific instructions on how to report your issues to DMHC. The independent dispute resolution process is described at dmhc.ca.gov/providers/clm/clm_idrp.aspx. Practices can review past DMHC enforcement actions at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/healthplans/enf/enf_default.aspx; or, past independent medical review findings at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_imrdec.aspx.

EDUCATION

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

MOASC's ONS Chemotherapy Certification Course

MOASC invites registered nurses at ANCO member practices to attend its *ONS Chemotherapy Certification Course* on October 1st-

2nd at the *Courtyard Marriot* in Pasadena. Nurses that successfully complete the course and pass the test earn 13.5 CEUs. Visit moasc.org/moasc-calendar.html to download and complete the registration form; return the form via FAX to (909) 985-8581. This meeting is supported in part by *Abraxis BioScience, Celgene, and Meda Pharmaceuticals*.

6th Annual Oncology Congress



The *6th Annual Oncology Congress* will take place October 15-17th at *The Palace Hotel* in *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. Discounted ANCO physician member and nurse registration is available by using priority code ANCO at oncologycongress.com/en/San-Francisco-CA.

MOASC's Lunchtime Webcast Series

ANCO is pleased to provide two presentations from MOASC's *Lunchtime Webcast Series*. The two presentations are:

- *Medicare & What's Going on Right Now* (with Bobbi Buell)
- *Managed Care Issues and Current Payer-Provider Relations* (with Glenn Solomon).

Download the presentations and/or listen to a recording of the webcasts at www.anco-online.org.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

August 11th
Advances in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

August 11-12th
Cancer Pain Forum: Complete Cancer Pain

Management—Integrating Interventional Pain and Supportive Care

Napa Pain Institute and Health Roots Foundation
Napa
(www.napapainconference.com/cancer-college.html)

August 26th

Medicare Surveys Are Coming: Are You Prepared
California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Webinar

(www.calhospice.org/included/docs/education/Medicare_Surveys_Webinar_Registration_Form.pdf)

September 11th

Caregiving, Caregivers, & Cancer Conference
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
Stanford

(www.cpic.org > outreach > Education Programs)

September 21st

Treatment Update on Soft Tissue Sarcoma
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

September 23rd-25th

Oncology Nursing Care: Meeting Today's Challenges

Reed Medical Education
Las Vegas

September 24th

The Important Role of Clinical Trials
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

September 24-26th

15th Annual North American Educational Forum on Lymphoma

Lymphoma Research Foundation
San Francisco

September 29th

Medical Update on T-Cell Lymphomas: Part I—Update on Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

September 29th-October 2nd

27th National Oncology Economics Conference
Association of Community Cancer Centers
St. Louis

(www.accc-cancer.org/mainevent)

October 2-6th

Mind-Body Medicine 2010

Center for Mind-Body Medicine
Washington, D.C.

October 4-6th

Annual Conference

California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Las Vegas

October 5th

The Importance of Taking Your Pills Everyday on Schedule: Understanding Adherence

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

ANCO Online

ANCO's website, 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.
- updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

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. To subscribe to

the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send an e-mail to ListServ@anco-online.org.

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 August 19th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Payer Provider Partnerships

Over the past several months, the ANCO *Board of Directors* has educated itself and considered its role in **payer provider partnerships**, learning about the available compliance models used by vendors in the payer provider partnership space, and exercised its due diligence with respect to the various vendors in this space. An *ANCO FAX News Special Edition* will be published on Monday, August 9th detailing ANCO's payer provider partnership strategy.

Individual Member News

Redwood Regional Medical Group (RRMG) and US Oncology, the nation's leading integrated oncology company, today announced a new collaboration in Northern California to expand patient access to high-quality, advanced cancer care through the *United Network of US Oncology*. Through this new collaboration, RRMG and *US Oncology* plan to expand the availability of and patient access to advanced cancer care, including physician-developed treatment guidelines and peer-to-peer physician collaboration, in order to give Northern Californian cancer patients the best opportunities for positive outcomes. Wayne Keiser, M.D., will serve as RRMG's liaison to *US Oncology*. RRMG will take an active role in the efforts of the *United Network of US Oncology* in ensuring that

community-based practices that deliver and report on evidence-based medicine receive appropriate acknowledgement for this higher level of quality care being offered to patients.

ASCO is looking for its leaders of tomorrow. If you completed your final subspecialty training between 2001 and 2006 and are interested in becoming a future leader in ASCO, the *Leadership Development Program* is for you. Participants in this yearlong program will learn valuable leadership skills and gain exposure to the roles and mission of ASCO and its powerful place in developing the future of cancer care. Please note that the *Program* requires a time commitment for travel and training. If selected, you will:

- Network with and receive mentorship from ASCO leadership
- Gain exposure to ASCO committees and government research agencies
- Enhance leadership skills through interactive sessions
- Receive first-hand advocacy experience on *Capitol Hill*

Apply for ASCO's *Leadership Development Program* at www.asco.org/leadership. The application deadline is September 21st.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2010 is now available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. In the interest of saving resources and bring "green," this year's *Directory* will not be printed and mailed. We urge all ANCO members to download and print their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members 2010*. The online edition will be regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

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.

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
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials** (also see below), please visit:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr
- clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php

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 BioScience • Agendia
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech
Cephalon Oncology • Eisai
Genentech BioOncology
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology

Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals
Onmark,
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
Response Genetics • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services • Vidacare

We especially wish to thank and welcome *bioTheranostics* as a new Corporate Member in 2010. *Alaven* and *Enzon Pharmaceuticals* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2010.

Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for **updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**.

Centocor Ortho Biotech informs ANCO that it will host a series of 30-minute informational teleconferences entitled *Mid-Year Medicare Physician Payment Update* almost daily in **August**. Call Colleen Flanders at (202) 416-5064 for more information.

Novartis Oncology has provided ANCO with **important information regarding the FEMARA Cares Program Prescription Discount Card**, a patient support program for postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer who are prescribed FEMARA. The *Program* offers eligible patients the ability to pay only \$10 for FEMARA prescriptions, with a potential savings of up to \$800. The *Card* is provided to health care providers by *Novartis* and is also available for download on www.femara.com.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that **United States Food and Drug Administration approved Jevtana** for use in combination with prednisone for treatment of patients with metastatic hormone-refractory prostate cancer (mHRPC) previously treated with a docetaxel-containing regimen. The *National Drug Code* (NDC) for Jevtana is 00024-5824-11; the HCPCS codes for Jevtana are J9999/C9399.

Clinical Trial News

UC San Francisco brings the following oncology clinical trials to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Neratinib (HKI-272) after Trastuzumab in Women with Early-Stage HER-2/neu Overexpressed/Amplified Breast Cancer. PI: Jo Chien, M.D.; for information or patient referral contact: Michael Pelayo, (415) 885-3789, pelayom@cc.ucsf.edu
- A Randomized Phase 3 Study of Tasisulam Administered as a Intravenous Infusion on Day 1 of a 28-Day Cycle vs. Paclitaxel as Second-Line Treatment in Patients with Metastatic Melanoma. PI: Adil Daud, M.D.; for information or patient referral contact: Emily Arimura, (415) 885-3855, arimurae@cc.ucsf.edu
- A Phase IB, Open Label, Dose Escalation Study of the Safety and Pharmacology of MEGF0444A, a Humanized IgG1 Antibody, in Combination with Bevacizumab with or without Paclitaxel in Patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors. PI: Pamela Munster, M.D.; for information or patient referral contact: Anne Reinert, N.P., anne.reinert@ucsfmedctr.org

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's 2010 *Oncology Literature Reviews* offer concise summaries of key articles published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* as well as other major journals. Designed for practicing oncologists, Fellows, and allied health oncology caregivers, the *Oncology Literature Reviews* are presented in a self-paced slide-based format with interspersed audio commentary and links to the articles. For more information on the schedule for this series, visit university.asco.org/LiteratureReviews.

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. The current issue features:

- ASCO Updates Guideline of Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy for Breast Cancer

ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a

culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO is now offering the *QOPI Certification Program* to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The *QOPI Certification* designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. For more information or to register, go to qopi.asco.org.

The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (Volume 8, Number 7) features articles entitled *NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Non-small Cell Lung Cancer*. Visit www.nccn.org/JNCCN/default.asp for more information. NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for prostate cancer.

NCCN is offering on-line educational activities to discuss the latest treatment strategies for mesothelioma (with Thomas A. D'Amico, M.D., *Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and Lee M. Krug, M.D., *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*). These activities are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, October 19th at 9AM
- Tuesday, November 2nd at 7AM
- Tuesday, November 16th at 11AM
- Tuesday, December 7th at 9AM

Visit www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/webinars/mesothelioma.asp for more information and to register. In addition, NCCN is offering on-line educational activities as part of the 2010 *Congress Series: Breast Cancer* discussing topics that will cover the entire spectrum of breast cancer treatment (with John H. Ward, M.D., *Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah*). These activities are scheduled as follows:

- *Treatment of Metastatic Disease*
Monday, August 16th at 8AM
Monday, August 23rd at 8AM
- *Supportive Care for Patients with Breast Cancer*
Thursday, August 19th at 8AM
Thursday, August 26th at 8AM

Visit www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/congress/default.asp for more information and to register.