

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 September 3rd. 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.

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

The *ANCO FAX News* is expanding its content and distribution in September!

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.]

Claims for selected oral anticancer drugs (busulfan, capecitabine, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, fludarabine, melphalan, methotrexate, temozolomide and topotecan) are eligible for coverage by Medicare Part B and are processed by the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs). In March 2010, the DME MACs published a

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.

revised oral anticancer drugs policy that identified the ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for which each drug would be covered. The DME MAC policy was revised to be consistent with Medicare's national coverage policy entitled *Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen* and was effective for claims with dates of service on or after June 1st, 2010. Recently, the DME MAC Medical Directors have become aware that the policy revision failed to include a number of diagnoses that are listed in one of the four compendia defined in the *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*. **A revision of the DME MAC policy with a significantly expanded list of diagnoses is planned for release in August coverage for all of the added diagnoses will be retroactive to June 1st.** Visit www.noridianmedicare.com/dme/news/docs/2010/08_aug/oral_ant anticancer_drugs_cd.html for the latest information.

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 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%.
- Rebased 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 ACCC's summary at www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/advocacy-proposed2011rulesoverview.asp; ASCO's initial summary at www.anco-online.org/ASCOAnalysis2011.pdf; and, ASH's analysis at www.anco-online.org/ASHAnalysis2011.pdf. In addition, the **Community Oncology Alliance (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. Please urge your *Congressional Representatives* to sign the *Stop Cancer Care Cuts* letter and sign the *Stop Cancer Care Cuts* petition at www.communityoncology.org > Immediate Action Needed.

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, updated lists of registries that are "qualified" to submit quality data to CMS on behalf of their eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI and eRx reporting and of EHR vendors and their programs that are "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 *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 the EHR incentives website (www.cms.gov/EHRIncentiveprograms). 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

that meet CMS standards at a cost savings.

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:

- AB52 would establish the *Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program* within the *University of California* for the purpose of collecting umbilical cord blood for transplantation and research. Umbilical cord blood is a non-controversial source of stem cells for therapeutic uses. ANCO and MOASC supported AB52 as it would expedite research discoveries that could be translated into effective treatments and cures for a number of debilitating diseases, including some cancers. Unfortunately, AB52 died in the *Senate Appropriations Committees* due to cost implications to the *State*.

The *California Oncology Political Action Committee* (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

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

To help physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payer agreements, CMA has published a contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations—A Focus on Payer 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 payers.

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.]

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.

Palmetto/J1MAC's 2010 Coding & Reimbursement Update contains a wealth of information that will be helpful to your office, including additions, deletions, and changes for HCPCS; CDT; CPT codes and modifiers; and, proper use of modifiers. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf/\\$File/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf/$File/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf) to download your copy.

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).

DHCS/MediCal training seminars benefit both new and experienced billers. Held in various cities throughout the state, these seminars target providers and billing staff who are either new to the DHCS/MediCal program or who have specific DHCS/MediCal billing questions. Forthcoming DHCS/MediCal training seminars will take place in Concord on September 28th and 29th. Visit files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/eo/list_concord_092810.asp or files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/eo/list_concord_092910.asp for more information

The *UnitedHealthcare Network Bulletin* for July includes the following oncology relevant items:

- *Drug Policy*
Bevacizumab (Avastin) Use for Treatment of Cancer
Immune Globulin (IVIG)
- *Pharmacy Updates*
Oral Oncology Medications

The *Network Bulletin* features important updates regarding *UnitedHealthcare* procedure and policy changes and is available at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com.

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 26th
Medicare Surveys Are Coming: Are You Prepared
California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Webinar

September 11th
Caregiving, Caregivers, & Cancer Conference
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
Stanford

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 1st-3rd
Breast Cancer Symposium
American Society of Clinical Oncology
National Harbor, MD
(breastcasymposium.org/)

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

October 14th
Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer: What's New?
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

October 20th
*Medical Update on T-Cell Lymphomas: Part II—
Update on Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma*

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

October 23rd
Mastery of Myeloma Course
MediCom Worldwide
San Diego

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

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 October 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. As a result, the *Board* has adopted a payer provider partnership strategy and identified *Innovent Oncology* and *Via Oncology* as preferred vendors. For full details and additional information please visit www.anco-online.org/P3.html.

Individual Member News

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.**

Novartis Oncology has provided ANCO with **important information regarding the ZOMETA Medical Benefit Assistance Card** that helps reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients, helps patients start and stay on ZOMETA, and provides hassle-free reimbursement directly through the ZOMETA Card program. Providers can enroll patients for the Card by calling (888) 966-3826 or visiting www.zometacard.com.

Spectrum Pharmaceuticals is supporting *The Essential Role of Immunotherapy in Follicular Lymphoma Management*, an online educational activity with Stephanie A. Gregory, M.D., *Rush University Medical Center*, David Maloney, M.D., *University of Washington*, and Peter S. Conti, M.D., Ph.D., *University of Southern California*. Visit <http://www.coexm.com/ACE03.asp> for more information.

Clinical Trial News

Stanford University Medical Oncology brings the following oncology clinical trials to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- A Randomized, Open-label, Multi-center Phase III Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Nilotinib versus Imatinib in Adult Patients with Unresectable or Metastatic Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors. PI: George Fisher, M.D.; for information contact: Heidi Kaiser, (650) 724-0079, hkaiser@stanford.edu
- Phase II Multi-Institutional Study to Evaluate the Efficacy of Gemcitabine and Fractionated Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Unresectable Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma. PI: Albert Koong, M.D.; for information contact: Laurie Ann Columbo, R.N., (650) 736-0792, lcolumbo@stanford.edu
- A Phase III Study of Chemotherapy and Chemoradiotherapy With or Without HyperAcute-Pancreatic Cancer Vaccine in Subjects with Surgically Resected Pancreatic Cancer. PI: George Fisher, M.D.; for information contact: Donna C. Williams, R.N., (650) 498-6608, donnacw@stanford.edu

- A Phase I Study of Safety and Bioactivity with FG-3019 in Combination with Gemcitabine and Erlotinib for Subjects with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer. PI: George Fisher, M.D.; for information contact: Donna C. Williams, R.N., (650) 498-6608, donnacw@stanford.edu
- A Phase II Study of Pertuzumab and Erlotinib for Refractory Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma. PI: George Fisher, M.D.; for information contact: Donna C. Williams, R.N., (650) 498-6608, donnacw@stanford.edu
- A Phase II Study of EZN-2208 (PEG-SN38) Administered With or Without Cetuximab in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma. PI: George Fisher, M.D.; for information contact: Katie Turner, (650) 721-3114, keturner@stanford.edu
- A Phase II Study of Capecitabine, Carboplatin, and Bevacizumab for Metastatic or Unresectable Gastroesophageal Junction and Gastric Adenocarcinoma. PI: George Fisher, M.D. and Pamela Kunz, M.D.; for information contact: Vani Jain, (650) 725-5459, vani@stanford.edu
- A Phase II Study of Pertuzumab and Erlotinib for Metastatic or Unresectable Neuroendocrine Tumors. PI: George Fisher, M.D and Pamela Kunz, M.D.; for information contact: Vani Jain, (650) 725-5459, vani@stanford.edu
- A Double-blind, Randomized Placebo-controlled Clinical Trial Investigating the Efficacy and Safety of Somatuline Depot (lanreotide) Injection in the Treatment of Carcinoid Syndrome. PI: George Fisher, M.D; for information contact: Heidi Kaiser, (650) 724-0079, hkaiser@stanford.edu
- Collection of Biospecimen and Clinical Information in Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancers. PI: Teri Longacre, M.D and Pamela Kunz, M.D.; for information contact: Nate Wilcox-Fogel, natewf@stanford.edu
- Phase II Study of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) and Chemotherapy for Unresectable Cholangiocarcinoma Followed by Liver Transplant. PI: Daniel Chang, M.D and Pamela Kunz, M.D.; for information contact: Vani Jain, (650) 725-5459, vani@stanford.edu

All new patient referrals for clinical trials should go through the new patient coordinator, Laura Fletcher, (650) 498-6000, lfletcher@stanfordmed.org.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

With an expanding geriatric population, it is important for cancer providers to be prepared to address the unique issues that relate to older

patients. ASCO University's *Older Patients with Cancer* (university.asco.org/OlderPatients) is a comprehensive review of core principles relating to the care of older patients with cancer designed to provide instruction in the unique treatment and management issues in the area of geriatric care. In this module, participants will explore four presentations:

- Aging and Cancer
- Physiology of Aging
- Assessment of the Older Cancer Patient
- Pharmacology and Aging

Each presentation is accompanied with audio commentary from the faculty. After reviewing, participants can take a post-assessment with reference links and rationales.

ASCO's continued dedication to enhancing the overall quality of cancer care is furthered with the publication of its most recent educational tool for oncologists, the *ASCO Self-Evaluation Program* (ASCO-SEP). *ASCO-SEP, 2nd Edition* is the only resource designed specifically for medical oncology board exam preparation. With more than 250 interactive practice questions and a comprehensive print textbook, the new edition of *ASCO-SEP* is the most efficient way to assess your knowledge of the field. *ASCO-SEP, 2nd Edition* covers the full range of cancer disease areas, along with critical general topics, such as symptom management. The practice questions directly correspond to the Medical Oncology Certification and MOEC Exam blueprints and include detailed answer rationales with references. Price and purchasing information can be found in the ASCO Bookstore (at www.asco.org/ASCO/ASCO+Bookstore).

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 *Community Oncology Alliance's* (COA)

Administrators' Network (CAN) website is available at communityoncology.info. Bobbi Buell is the CAN *Web Mistress*. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for cancer and chemotherapy-induced anemia.

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 23rd at 8AM
- *Supportive Care for Patients with Breast Cancer*
Thursday, August 26th at 8AM

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

The July issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles entitled *The EMR Landscape: A Review of the ASCO 2010 EHR Lab*; *ASCO 2010 Top News Stories*; and, *Payer Reactions to Highly Anticipated Clinical Trial Presentations*. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.