

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
execdir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 9, No. 19

September 3rd, 2010

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 17th. 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.]

A revision of the DME MAC oral anticancer drug policy with a significantly expanded list of diagnoses has been released with coverage for all of the added diagnoses retroactive to June 1st. Visit www.noridianmedicare.com/dme/coverage/docs/lcds/current_articles/oral_ant anticancer_drugs.htm%3f for the latest

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

California Oncology News is coming 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.

information.

ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and the *Community Oncology Alliance* (COA) have all provided comments to CMS on the proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) for 2011. In summary, ASCO's comments were:

- CMS should implement in full the methodology described within the proposed rule to revise and rebase the *Medicare Economic Index* (MEI) as a means to improve the fairness and adequacy of the payment levels assigned to Medicare's *Physician Fee Schedule*.
- CMS should reverse its current policy and resume payment for consultation codes under Medicare.
- CMS should finalize its proposal to promote the use of registries for reporting data to the PQRI and work closely with ASCO to integrate the *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) within the PQRI and other aspects of the Medicare program.
- CMS should expedite efforts to address the lack of meaningful performance measures that reflect the day-to-day treatment of cancer patients work with ASCO and other relevant stakeholders to promote adoption of the QOPI performance measures, which are evidence based, peer developed, and well accepted in the oncology community.
- CMS should exercise caution in posting comparative information on physician practices and imposing penalties on physician practices under the PQRI. In addition, CMS should ensure that physicians have meaningful opportunities to review and appeal information prior to public reporting.
- CMS should protect patient safety and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on physician practices by clarifying the requirements and taking responsibility for generating the information on alternative providers that would be required to meet the in-office ancillary exception under the proposed rule.

- CMS should revise the language used to describe the proposed regulatory safeguards regarding the use of any extra amounts of prescription drugs provided within standard packaging to eliminate ambiguity and promote clear understanding within the provider community.
- CMS should ensure that implementation of the price substitution authority for prescription drugs based on *Average Manufacturer Price* (AMP) does not expand and exacerbate ongoing concerns regarding the ability of oncology practices to recoup the actual acquisition cost of oncology drugs. CMS should delay implementation of any price substitutions until the potential adverse impacts on access to oncology drugs in the physician office setting are evaluated and until the recent changes to AMP are fully implemented and understood.
- CMS should reverse its policy to phase in the use of data from the *American Medical Association's Physician Practice Information Survey* (AMA PPIS) to set the practice expense relative value units for physician services.
- CMS should revise the proposal to use 2011 as the reporting period for the electronic prescribing incentive program for the penalties calculated for both 2012 and 2013.
- ASCO objects to the current MPPR policy and considers it yet another mechanism by which CMS has inappropriately cut payments for services provided by oncologists. ASCO is further concerned by the proposal to expand the MPPR across families of codes and does not believe CMS' justification for doing so is reasonable or sufficient. ASCO encourages CMS to withdraw this proposed policy.

For additional information about ASCO's comments, visit www.anco-online.org/ASCO2011MPFS.pdf; for ACCC's comments, visit www.anco-online.org/ACCC2011MPFS.pdf; for ASH's comments, visit www.anco-online.org/

ASH2011MPFS.pdf; and, for COA's comments, visit www.anco-online.org/COA2011MPFS.pdf.

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. And, 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 will host a conference call entitled *ICD-10 Implementation in a 5010 Environment on Monday, September 13th at 9AM*. This toll-free call will focus on ICD-10 implementation issues, including proposals to partially freeze code updates, and implementation updates for HIPAA versions 5010 and D.0, including implemented readiness review, how HIPAA 5010 updates impact ICD-10 implementation, and advice for providers in moving toward HIPAA 5010 implementation. Subject matter experts will review basic information on both ICD-10 and HIPAA 5010 and explain how they are interrelated. A question and answer session will follow the presentations. To register for this conference call, visit www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/0bddc38c-007c-44ae-abf3-cfcc00db3b35.

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 and CMS have scheduled a webinar on meaningful use for September 16th at 5PM**; visit webinar.cms.hhs.gov/r48228856/ to view the presentation and dial (800) 603-1774, conference ID 95411711 to hear the presentation. 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:

- The *Governor* has signed SB1163 into law requiring health plans to file rate information with the State at least 60 days prior to implementing any rate changes. The rate filings must be actuarially sound and include a certification by an independent actuary. SB1163 bill requires health plans to provide an enrollee 60 days notice prior to any change in premium rates. Finally, the bill requires plans declining coverage or enrollment for group coverage to provide the applicant with a reason for their decision. SB1163 becomes law January 1st, 2011.

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.

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 Practice: Unreasonable Requests for Medical Records
- Blue Cross Provides Clarification on Upcoming Policy Change
- Claim Your Share of the \$350M UnitedHealth Group Settlement
- CMA Advocacy at Work
- Ask the Expert: Health Plan Requests for Medical Records
- Health Plan Newsletters
- Payer Updates

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 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 September Medicare Advisory is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_September2010.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_September2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_September2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_September2010.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Resubmitted or Separate **Claims** for Same Service Tips to Avoid Denials or Processing Delays

- **Timely Claims Filing:** Additional Instructions
- **Claim Status** Category and Claim Status Code Update
- **Electronic Prescribing (eRx)** Incentive Program 2010 Updates
- Alternative Process for Individual Eligible Professionals to Access Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and Electronic Prescribing (E-Prescribing) Feedback Reports
- Payment for **Implantable Tissue Markers** (HCPCS Code A4648) and **Implantable Radiation Dosimeters** (HCPCS Code A4650)
- Part B LCD Updates
- Medicare **Mammography** Services Claims Processing Issue
- **Oral Anticancer Drugs**—Coverage Issue
- **Skilled Nursing Facility Consolidated Billing** as it Relates to Certain Types of Exceptionally Intensive Outpatient Hospital Services

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

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*.

ANCO/MOASC's Business of Oncology Webcast Series

ANCO and MOASC will host a series of webcasts in October focusing on the business of oncology. Speakers will address patient financial

counseling, treatment cost analysis and reimbursement, coding, revenue incentive programs, and payer provider partnerships. One webcast will take place per week and will be scheduled during the lunch hour. These webcasts are supported by *Abraxis BioScience* and *Cephalon Oncology*. Watch for the webcast announcement in early September.

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.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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 29-30th

*21st Century Solid Tumor Treatment—State-of-the-
Art*

The Virtual Congress on Oncology
Webcast (www.oncologycarelive.com)

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

October 27-29th

MACToberfest

Palmetto/J1MAC

Palm Springs

(www.palmettogba.com/internet/

[macworkshops.nsf/workshops?openform&
Category=All](http://macworkshops.nsf/workshops?openform&Category=All))

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

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

The ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news sent on the *ListServ* for hematology/oncology practices on a regular basis. ANCO urges its members to bookmark 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* teleconferenced on August 19th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California advocacy issues
- Medicare coverage issues and support requests
- Educational programming
- Payer provider strategy implementation

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

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.

ANCO initiated a **Multi Site Group Membership** in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks *California Cancer Care*, *EastBay Partners in Cancer Care*, *Palo Alto Medical Foundation*, *Redwood Regional Oncology Center*, and *Valley Medical Oncology Consultants* for their multi-site group memberships.

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**.

Millennium is supporting an online CME activity entitled *Considerations in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma: Case Studies in Mantle Cell Lymphoma*. Visit www.coexm.com/Activity.asp?ActivityID=126 for more information.

US Oncology Physician Services is hosting a webcast entitled *Accountable Care Organizations and Impact on Community Oncology* on Thursday, September 9th at 11AM. Visit www.myoncologyservices.com for more information and to register.

Clinical Trial News

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

- A Phase II Study of Bortezomib for Patients with Relapsed or Refractory T-cell Prolymphocytic Leukemia. PIs: Bruno Medeiros, M.D., (650) 725-3973, bruno.medeiros@stanford.edu; Holbrook Kohrt, M.D., (650) 723-6661, kohrt@stanford.edu

UCSF brings the following oncology clinical trials to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- CALGB 80802: Phase III Study of Sorafenib plus Doxorubicin versus Sorafenib in Patients with Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). For information contact: Jennifer Luan, (415) 514-6220, jennifer.luan@ucsf.edu
- E1208: Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind Trial of Chemoembolization with or without Sorafenib in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Patients with and without Vascular Invasion. For information contact: Lindsey Watt, (415) 353-7463, lwatt@medicine.ucsf.edu
- Two-Arm Phase II Trial of Sequential Axitinib and Carboplatin/Paclitaxel in Melanoma with Correlative FLT PET. PI: A. Daud, M.D.; for information contact: Emily Arimura, (415) 885-3855, arimurae@cc.ucsf.edu

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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.

Oncology Practice (practice.ascoexchange.org), a social networking site where practice administrators can easily connect, collaborate, and exchange information about day-to-day issues facing oncology practice, **has moved to ASCOConnection.org**. ASCOConnection merges Practice, EHR, and ASCO Connection Magazine into one site. The Practice section will be located under the "Forums" tab.

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:

- ICD-10
- Medical Record Retention and Media Formats for Medical Records

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.

The *National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has announced a collaboration with Proventys*, a leader in advanced decision support technologies, to introduce the *Proventys CDS Oncology System powered by NCCN* offering clinicians efficient access to the NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and an effective vehicle to align with payer quality programs. The *Proventys CDS Oncology System* is the first prompt-based, online tool to use and integrate the NCCN *Guidelines* and clinical logic into a system offered commercially for use by providers and payers. For more information, visit www.proventyscds.com.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for acute myeloid leukemia.

NCCN is offering on-line educational activities to discuss *Maintenance Therapy for NSCLC* (with David S. Ettinger, M.D., *Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center*) and 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*). The NSCLC activities are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, September 22nd at 11AM
- Friday, September 24th at 12PM
- Friday, October 1st at 10AM
- Friday, October 22nd at 11AM

The mesothelioma 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/default.asp for more information and to register for these and other NCCN meetings.

Oncology Care Live, produced by the *Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*, is the world's largest virtual medical congress on oncology. Participants can:

- Receive CME conveniently online, at no cost.
- Watch live educational sessions featuring global leaders in oncology care.
- Network with peer healthcare professionals and respected faculty presenters in real time.
- Explore a virtual exhibit floor showcasing advances in patient care therapies and medical technologies.

Visit www.oncologycarelive.com/ for more information and to register for a program.