

# 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. 9

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 May 14<sup>th</sup>. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; *Voice:* (415) 472-3960; *FAX:* (415) 472-3961; [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org).

## ADVOCACY

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

**ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO is a member of the *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO).

ANCO and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

**Congress passed and the President signed the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (HR4851) reinstating Medicare physician payments to where they were on March 31<sup>st</sup> and again postponing the 21% cut that was supposed to take effect in 2010.** This most recent extension of 2009 payment rates will continue through the

**There is information in the  
ANCO FAX News  
for every member of your practice  
or organization.  
Pass it along!**

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

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge. The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

end of May and will be applied retroactively to all physician services provided to Medicare patients in April. The hold on processing April claims that CMS had placed to avoid implementing the payment cut has been lifted and any claims paid at the lower rates will be reprocessed automatically without any action required from physicians. In order to avoid having to go through this process repeatedly, *Congress* needs to pass a permanent repeal. Last fall, the *House* passed a bill to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) that results in *Fee Schedule* reductions, but the *Senate* has not taken up that bill. It is imperative that your *Senators* hear how devastating this cycle of temporary patches is on your patients and your practices. ANCO and ASCO continue to call on *Congress* to permanently repeal the flawed SGR formula and to end the practice of jeopardizing cancer patients' access to care.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, *President* Obama signed into law the *Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act* (PPACA) that includes a number of things that will benefit cancer patients in the short term and long term. Among these are guaranteed insurance coverage for individuals participating in clinical trials, closure of the drug prescription gap in Medicare Part D, removal of the lifetime cap on insurance coverage, and prohibiting the exclusion of children with pre-existing conditions from being covered by their parent's policy. **In addition, the Act amended the time period for filing Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) claims as one of many provisions aimed at curbing fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program.** Under the new law, claims for services furnished on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, must be filed within one calendar year after the date of service. And, claims for services furnished before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, must be filed no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Medicare eliminated the use of all consultation codes except those for telemedicine and instructed physicians to bill for these services using the most appropriate remaining evaluation and management codes effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.** The *American Medical Association* (AMA) and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) are working with the *American Group Management Association* (AGMA) and 16 other specialty

societies (including ASCO) to modify this policy. To gather data for this effort, they have designed a short survey that should take only 10 or 15 minutes to complete. Your participation in this important survey will help them understand and quantify how this policy is affecting physicians. The survey can be accessed at [amaassn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_8kXz7i5hk n939yY&SVID=Prod](http://amaassn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8kXz7i5hk n939yY&SVID=Prod) and will be open through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions, please contact Carol Schwartz at [cschwartz@hematology.org](mailto:cschwartz@hematology.org) or (202) 292-0258.

**The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has extended its enforcement date (to June 1<sup>st</sup>) of its ruling that would consider physicians who regularly bill their patients (including co-payments and coinsurance) to be creditors.** The *American Medical Association*, *American Dental Association*, *American Osteopathic Association*, and *American Veterinary Medical Association* have asked the FTC to leave health care professionals out of the regulation. If they succeed, the exclusion will most likely apply to all health care providers. For now, physicians must develop and implement written identity theft prevention and detection programs for their practices in order to be in compliance with the FTC's *Red Flag Rule*. **The American Medical Association has developed guidance material** (available at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/red-flags-rule.shtml](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/red-flags-rule.shtml)) to help physicians comply with the *Rule*. **The California Medical Association (CMA) has published a tool kit to help physicians and their staffs understand the scope and requirements of the Red Flag Rule.** The tool kit provides guidance on designing and implementing an identity theft detection and prevention program for the physician practice. CMA's *Red Flag Rule Tool Kit* is free to members at the members-only website. **For a primer on the FTC's Red Flag Rule, please see the article at [www.anco-online.org/RedFlagRule.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/RedFlagRule.pdf).** ANCO has also arranged for *Risk Mitigation Solutions* to offer compliance services to members (visit [www.anco-online.org/RiskMitigationSolutions.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/RiskMitigationSolutions.pdf)).

**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](http://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.shtml](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml). In addition, ASCO’s PQRI website ([www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1](http://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](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive). For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO’s e-prescribing website at [www.asco.org/eprescribing](http://www.asco.org/eprescribing).

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. The 2009 *Federal* economic stimulus package includes \$19B for health information technology (HIT), the vast majority of which will be directed to physicians to subsidize the purchase and usage of electronic health record (EHR) systems. Beginning in 2011, qualifying Medicare providers stand to gain up to \$44,000 under the program; qualifying MediCal providers stand to receive as much as \$64,000. A CMS website ([www.cms.hhs.gov/Recovery/11\\_HealthIT.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Recovery/11_HealthIT.asp)) is now available where you can find information pertaining to the Medicare and Medicaid incentives for EHR adoption. 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 <http://www.asco.org/ehrfieldguide>. Visit the EHR Lab at the ASCO *Annual Meeting* to learn about ARRA meaningful use measures. ASCO’s 4<sup>th</sup> EHR Lab provides a standard platform for *Annual Meeting* attendees to gain hands-on experience with the latest EHR technology. This year, EHR vendors will demonstrate the capacity of their products to:

- Comply with select meaningful use measures as outlined under ARRA
- Select patients that meet ASCO’s QOPI case selection methodology
- Apply measures that focus on clinical decision support
- Generate a treatment plan and summary

Informational sessions that focus on EHR selection and implementation will also be available. Finally, ASCO has developed an EHR social networking site ([ehr.ascoexchange.org](http://ehr.ascoexchange.org)) to help oncologists and their practice staff connect and collaborate with other users of EHRs, as well as find information on EHRs and other health information technology tools. 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](http://www.cmanet.org/hit) for the latest information focusing on materials to help physicians assess their HIT needs and begin the process of choosing an EHR system that works best for their practices and qualifies them to receive the *Federal* funds.

### **CMA, 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:

- In hopes of removing liability impediments from a physician volunteering their professional services, the CMA is sponsoring SB1031 that creates a *Volunteer Insured Physicians Program*. The *Program* would be administered by the *Medical Board of California* to provide specified medical malpractice insurance coverage to physicians providing volunteer uncompensated care to patients pursuant to a contract with a qualified health care entity. SB1031 has passed out of its first policy committee and is pending in the *Senate Appropriations Committee*.

**CMA has launched *CMA Practice Resources (CPR)*, a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's Center for Economic Services.** CPR 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 first issued featured:

- Problems Getting Paid?
- Know Your Rights: Fee Schedule Changes
- Authorization=Payment

Visit [www.cmanet.org/news/cpr](http://www.cmanet.org/news/cpr) to subscribe.

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

**Effective June 27<sup>th</sup>, physicians in California must inform their patients that they are licensed by the *Medical Board of California*, and include the *Board's* contact information.** The notice must contain the following information:

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS  
Medical doctors are licensed and regulated by the  
*Medical Board of California*  
(800) 633-2333  
[www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov)

Physicians may provide this notice by one of three methods:

1. Prominently posting a sign in an area of their offices conspicuous to patients, in at least 48-point type in Arial font.
2. Including the notice in a written statement, signed and dated by the patient or patient's representative, and kept in the patient's file, stating the patient understands the physician is licensed and regulated by the *Board*.
3. Including the notice in a statement on letterhead, discharge instructions, or other document given to a patient or the patient's representative, where the notice is placed immediately above the signature line for the patient in at least 14-point type.

For more information, please contact the *Medical Board's* information officer, Candis Cohen, at

(916) 263-2394 or [candis.cohen@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:candis.cohen@mbc.ca.gov).

### **Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payors**

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers DHCS/MediCal in California.]

**Palmetto/J1MAC's Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) for flow cytometry (L30692), in vitro chemosensitivity and chemoresistance assays (L30697), and CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy; L28250)** have been updated. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/84HR646420?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/84HR646420?opendocument) for more information.

From April 8<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>, Palmetto/J1MAC will be accepting comments on their draft Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) on **Implantable Infusion Pumps for Treatment of Intractable Pain (DL28268)**. To view the proposed coverage policy and make comments, please visit [www.cms.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd\\_id=30940&lcd\\_version=3&show=all](http://www.cms.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd_id=30940&lcd_version=3&show=all).

**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 new RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument) or [www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf](http://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 first group of CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review** at [racinfo.healthdatainsights.com](http://racinfo.healthdatainsights.com).

**Palmetto/J1MAC's May Medicare Advisory is available** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_May2010.pdf/\\$File/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_May2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_May2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_May2010.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Revisions to **Consultation Services Payment Policy**
- Instructions for **E/M Review Checklist and Scoresheet Tool for Established Patients**
- **Part B LCD Updates**
- **Maximum Allowed Units Update**
- **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) (NaF-18) to Identify Bone Metastasis of Cancer**

**DHCS/MediCal's eTAR application is an easy, effective, fast and free way to submit TARs.** Providers that utilize the eTAR application are generally more successful when submitting TARs. Most MediCal providers are activated to use eTAR. To verify access, go to [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov), select the Transactions tab, and log in with your NPI and PIN. An eTAR tab with options for Medical Services will be available. If you do not have access or only see options for Inquire only, please contact MediCal at (800) 541-5555 and follow the prompts for eTAR to request access. The eTAR training team invites providers to access the free learning tools. The eTAR Program Information webpage ([www.medi-cal.ca.gov/go/etar](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/go/etar)) contains information useful to both new and experienced providers. Web based tutorials are available on this webpage to provide step-by-step instructions on how to submit eTARs and attachments, as well as update and inquire on previously submitted TARs. This newly updated webpage also contains Medical and Pharmacy eTAR training dates, provider bulletins and helpful tips and pointers for both Medical and Pharmacy eTAR providers.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.]

### *An Economic Assessment of ANCO Member Practices*

In late 2009 and early 2010, ANCO offered a service to member community-based practices to assess their economic health, report results individually and confidentially to the *Association* in the aggregate, and prescribe measures to improve the member practice's economic health. Roberta Buell, MBA, and Patricia Falconer, MBA, two nationally recognized experts in

oncology practice management, were engaged to conduct these economic health assessments. View/listen to their presentation online at <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/playback/Playback.do?id=78vz68>. A copy of their presentation is now available at [www.anco-online.org/ANCOEconAssessReport.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/ANCOEconAssessReport.pdf)

### *ASCO Annual Meeting*

ASCO's *Annual Meeting* will take place June 4-8<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. You may now reserve your room and register at [chicago2010.asco.org/Home.aspx](http://chicago2010.asco.org/Home.aspx).

### *ASCO's Best of ASCO*

ASCO's *2010 Best of ASCO* takes place at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco on July 16-17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will feature the premier abstracts in sessions on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and lung cancers, and malignant hematology from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* that represent the most relevant and timely research in oncology today. Visit [www.asco.org/boa2010](http://www.asco.org/boa2010) for more information.

### *Forthcoming ANCO Meetings*

ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2010* is being superseded in July 2010 by *ASCO's Best of ASCO*. Watch for an ANCO event on the evening of July 15<sup>th</sup> at *ASCO's Best of ASCO*.

### *Mastery of Myeloma*

An online enduring program based on last Fall's *Mastery of Myeloma* meeting is now available at [www.managingmyeloma.com](http://www.managingmyeloma.com). This is a slide/audio program featuring the faculty from the San Francisco meeting. Members who could not attend the meeting in person can earn CME, CPE, and CNE by taking the course online. Visit [www.managingmyeloma.com/index.php?option=com\\_continued&view=continued&cat=2&Itemid=77](http://www.managingmyeloma.com/index.php?option=com_continued&view=continued&cat=2&Itemid=77).

### *Additional Education Meetings*

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Understanding Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5<sup>th</sup>

*Treatment Update on Thyroid Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5-8<sup>th</sup>

*Real World Tools for Real World Challenges*

Medical Group Management Association

Chicago

May 7-8<sup>th</sup>

*Great Debates and Updates in Breast Cancer*

Imedex

San Francisco

(for discounted ANCO registration, call Latasha Milner at 678-242-0906; for information, visit [www.imedex.com/appweb/announcements/a182-01.asp](http://www.imedex.com/appweb/announcements/a182-01.asp))

May 18<sup>th</sup>

*The Eighth Annual Cancer Survivorship Series:*

*Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer, Part II—Communicating with Your Health Care Team*

*After Treatment and Making the Most of Your Visit*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 20<sup>th</sup>

*MPD Foundation Patient Symposium*

Myeloproliferative Disorder Foundation

San Mateo

([www.mpdfoundation.org](http://www.mpdfoundation.org))

May 20<sup>th</sup>

*Progress in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 21<sup>st</sup>

*Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML): Current*

*Perspectives and Treatment Update*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 25<sup>th</sup>

*Breast Cancer Treatment Update*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 26<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Metastatic Lung Cancer*

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](http://www.anco-online.org), features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.
- updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

### ANCO Online ListServ

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](mailto:ListServ@anco-online.org).

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* webconferenced on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California advocacy
- Forthcoming ANCO educational programs
- Payer-provider partnerships

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 meeting** will take place on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

### Individual Member News

A regularly updated online (.pdf) edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members* is available at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html). Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published and distributed in July 2010.

### 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](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme)

*Stanford's Division of Oncology* is hosting a **Stanford Oncology Alumni Reunion for Stanford oncology alumni, faculty, and fellows during the ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago**. The reunion will take place on Monday evening, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM, at *The Grill on the Alley Restaurant (Westin Hotel Michigan)*. Please RSVP by FAX by June 1<sup>st</sup> to Leslie Quiroz or Christina Kasson at (650) 725-1420 or via e-mail to [lquiroz@stanford.edu](mailto:lquiroz@stanford.edu) or [ckasson@stanford.edu](mailto:ckasson@stanford.edu).

*UCSF* will host a reception honoring Frank McCormick, Ph.D., F.R.S., *Director, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the 2010 ASCO *Science of Oncology Award* recipient, during the **ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago**. The reception will take place on Sunday evening, June 6<sup>th</sup>, in the *Waldorf Room, The Hilton Chicago*, at 5:30PM. Please RSVP to Victoria Karno at (415) 885-3846 or [vkarno@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:vkarno@medicine.ucsf.edu).

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

- [cancertrials.stanford.edu/](http://cancertrials.stanford.edu/)
- [ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr](http://ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr)
- [clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php](http://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 Oncology • Agendia • Alaven  
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics  
AMGEN • AstraZeneca  
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech*

*Cephalon Oncology • Eisai  
Enzon Pharmaceuticals  
Genentech BioOncology  
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology  
GlaxoSmithKline 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.

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

*GlaxoSmithKline Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* have approved *Arzerra* for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab.

*Millennium* informs ANCO that it is supporting *Multiple Myeloma: Translating Learning Into Care—What's Best?* an on-line series of activities combining panel discussions, case study reviews, and practical advice from a multidisciplinary faculty of key community and academic thought leaders. For more information, visit [www.questmeded.com](http://www.questmeded.com).

*Spectrum Pharmaceuticals* informs ANCO that it is supporting *The Essential Role of Immunotherapy in Follicular Lymphoma Management* with Stephanie A. Gregory, M.D., *Rush University Medical Center*, David Maloney, M.D., *Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*, and Peter S. Conti, M.D., *Keck School of Medicine*. This on-line activity is available at [www.coexm.com/ACE03.asp?utm\\_source=Center+of+Excellence+Media&utm\\_campaign=840aa664d1-ACE03\\_Launch&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.coexm.com/ACE03.asp?utm_source=Center+of+Excellence+Media&utm_campaign=840aa664d1-ACE03_Launch&utm_medium=email).

## Clinical Trial News

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

- CALGB90601: A Randomized Double-Blinded Phase III Study Comparing Gemcitabine, Cisplatin, and Bevacizumab to Gemcitabine, Cisplatin, and Placebo in Patients with Advanced **Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC)** (PI: Andrea Harzstark, M.D.; Contact: Katie Koepfgen, (415) 885-7329, [kkopfgen@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:kkopfgen@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- ECOG2805: Adjuvant Sorafenib or Sunitinib for Unfavorable **Renal Cell Carcinoma** (PI: Maxwell Meng, M.D.; Contact: Joanna Mi, (415) 885-7329, [jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- A Phase I/II Multi-Center, Open Label Study of TKI248 Administered Orally on an Intermittent Schedule in Adult Patients with Advanced or Metastatic **Renal Cell Cancer (RCC)** (PI: Andrea Harzstark, M.D.; Contact: Christine Kilian, (415) 885-3632, [ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- A Single Center, Open Label, Phase II Trial of Immunotherapy with Sipuleucel-T (Provenge) as Neoadjuvant Treatment in Men with Localized **Prostate Cancer** (PI: Lawrence Fong, M.D.; Contact: Christine Kilian, (415) 885-3632, [ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- CALGB90202: A Randomized Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase III Study of Early Versus Standard Zoledronic Acid to Prevent Skeletal Related Events in Men with **Prostate Cancer** Metastatic to Bone (PI: Eric Small, M.D.; Contact: Yvonne Maruca, (415) 885-7329, [ymaruca@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:ymaruca@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- Anti-CTLA-4 Blockade Alone or Combined with Systemic GM-CSF for **Prostate Cancer** Immunotherapy (PI: Lawrence Fong, M.D.; Contact: Christine Kilian, (415) 885-3632, [ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:ckilian@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- Phase II Study of Abirateron Acetate in Patients with Castration Resistant **Prostate Cancer** (PI: Charles Ryan, M.D.; Contact: Joanna Mi, (415) 885-7329, [jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- A Randomized Phase II Study of Intermittent Chemotherapy or Intermittent Chemotherapy with Maintenance GM-CSF in Patients with Previously Untreated Metastatic Hormone Refractory **Prostate Cancer** (PI: Eric Small, M.D.; Contact: Joanna Mi, (415) 885-7329, [jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:jmi@medicine.ucsf.edu))
- MDV3100: A Multinational Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of Oral MDV3100 in Patients with Progressive Castration-Resistant **Prostate Cancer** Previously Untreated with Docetaxel-Based Therapy (PI: Charles Ryan, M.D.;

Contact: Carl Formaker, (415) 885-3557,  
cformaker@medicine.ucsf.edu

For a complete list of all available studies, please contact Julie Russell, R.N., at (415) 353-7171. New patient referrals should go through the *New Patient Coordinator*, Sarah Rankin, at (415) 353-9692, FAX (415) 353-7107, or srankin@medicine.ucsf.edu.

### **Patient News**

The *Patient Advocate Foundation's* (PAF) *National Underinsured Resource Directory* is intended to help underinsured individuals and their families locate important resources and seek alternative coverage options or methods to cover their healthcare needs. The *Directory* is available through an online tutorial program and a written publication that supports this program. To access the *Directory* visit [patientadvocate.org/help4u.php](http://patientadvocate.org/help4u.php).

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

ANCO and *SullivanLuallin* have cooperated on *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* for the past several years. Another *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be offered in 2010. ANCO is using its negotiating leverage to offer you expert and reliable *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* at steep discounts. ANCO will fund the set-up fee so that members may participate at discounted per physician rates. An announcement of the *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be mailed and FAXed to all ANCO community-based member practices the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, visit [www.anco-online.org/pxsrvy.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pxsrvy.html).

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

- Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice module added to ASCO University at [university.asco.org/PracticalTips](http://university.asco.org/PracticalTips)

NCCN will continue to provide free access to the NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* to all individuals. For a free

subscription, simply create a free account on NCCN.org and you will be granted seamless access to the NCCN *Guidelines*. For current registrants of NCCN.org, you may soon be receiving a notification that your NCCN *Guidelines* subscription is expiring and you will need to update your profile information to renew your subscription. Please note that there is no fee attached to updating your profile—it simply ensures that NCCN has the most accurate information in their system.

*The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (Volume 8, Number 4) features articles entitled *NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Gastric Cancer*. Visit [www.nccn.org/JNCCN/default.asp](http://www.nccn.org/JNCCN/default.asp) for more information. NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for bone cancer. Visit [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org) for the latest information.

### **Individual Membership Dues for 2010**

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed in early April. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2010 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2010*. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by July 1<sup>st</sup> will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.