

# ANCO FAX News

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The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association* and membership news. While membership mailings and e-mail/FAX broadcasts 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*. Find the *ANCO FAX News* online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html).

#### In this issue:

- FDA Overview of Biosimilar Products
- HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures
- ANCO/MOASC Sponsor AB2209
- 16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancer

#### 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 March 25<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).

**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 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.

## ADVOCACY

[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 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 meets regularly with these and other 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, COA, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

The *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has released an online CDERLearn continuing education (CE) credit course for health care professionals about biosimilars entitled *FDA Overview of Biosimilar Products*.

The 90-minute course shares important information about this new type of biological product to help health care professionals make informed decisions when considering, prescribing, or dispensing biosimilar products.

The course also provides a general review of FDA's process for biosimilar product development programs. Go to [www.fda.gov/Training/ForHealthProfessionals/default.htm?source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](http://www.fda.gov/Training/ForHealthProfessionals/default.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to access the course.

The *Office of Civil Rights* has released two HIPAA fact sheets entitled *Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Health Care Operations* and *Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Treatment* at [www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/exchange\\_health\\_care\\_ops.pdf](http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/exchange_health_care_ops.pdf) and [www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/exchange\\_treatment.pdf](http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/exchange_treatment.pdf), respectively.

Although HIPAA regulations have been in effect for quite some time, health care providers frequently still question whether the sharing of health information, even for routine purposes like treatment or care coordination, is permissible under HIPAA. Confusion about the rules has been cited by many as a potential obstacle to interoperability of digital health information. To address this confusion, the HHS *Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT* (ONC) and the *Office of Civil Rights* (OCR) have worked collaboratively to develop a series of topical fact sheets on HIPAA *Permitted Uses and Disclosures* that provide examples of when PHI can be exchanged under HIPAA without first requiring a

specific authorization from the patient, so long as other protections or conditions are met.

**CMS has announced the development of seven sets of clinical quality measures developed by the Core Quality Measure Collaborative.** The core measures include a set for medical oncology. Payors have committed to using these core sets of quality measures for reporting as soon as feasible. Review the medical oncology measures at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Downloads/Medical-Oncology-Measures.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Downloads/Medical-Oncology-Measures.pdf); read the CMS fact sheet at [www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-02-16.html](http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-02-16.html).

**The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)** introduced significant changes, on an ambitious timeline, to how Medicare will pay oncologists for the care they provide—and now is the time to understand and prepare for these changes. Besides repealing the *Sustainable Growth Rate* formula for reimbursement related to the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, MACRA's goal is to move Medicare toward a value-based practice environment that ensures high-quality, affordable health care. Learn more about MACRA at [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra) and [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4702.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4702.aspx). Download ASCO's presentation on MACRA at [www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/macra\\_december\\_2015\\_webinar\\_slides.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/macra_december_2015_webinar_slides.pdf). For an introduction to MACRA, read *MACRA: Transforming Oncology Practice* at [www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-action-brief-macra](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-action-brief-macra). ASH staff have prepared a document that provides information about the Alternative Payment Model (APM) option included in MACRA at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/4855.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/4855.aspx). The *American Medical Association's (AMA) Guide to Physician-Focused Alternative Payment Models* describes seven different APMs under MACRA that can help physicians in every specialty redesign the way they deliver care in order to improve patient care, manage health care spending, and qualify for APM annual bonus payments. Download the *Guide* at [download.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/washington/alternative-payment-models-physician-guide.pdf](http://download.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/washington/alternative-payment-models-physician-guide.pdf).

### CMS has extended the 2015 PQRS data submission timeframes:

- EHR Direct or Data Submission Vendor (QRDA I or III) by March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs; QRDA III) by March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) Web Interface by March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Qualified Registries (Registry XML) by March 31<sup>st</sup>
- QCDRs (QCDR XML) by March 31<sup>st</sup>

### CMS 2016 EHR Incentive Program resources are available at:

- Eligible Professionals: What You Need to Know in 2016  
([www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016\\_EPWhatYouNeedtoKnowfor2016.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016_EPWhatYouNeedtoKnowfor2016.pdf))
- Health Information Exchange Fact Sheet  
([www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016\\_HealthInformationExchange.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016_HealthInformationExchange.pdf))
- Broadband Access Exclusions  
([www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016\\_BroadbandAccessExclusionsTipsheet.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2016_BroadbandAccessExclusionsTipsheet.pdf))

**Because of a delay in the publication of regulations governing the Medicare meaningful use program, CMS is allowing eligible physicians to apply for an exemption under the “extreme and uncontrollable circumstances” category.** Physicians are urged to preemptively file for a 2015 hardship exemption to avoid penalties in 2016. The deadline for applying for the exemption is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to [www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/paymentadj\\_hardship.html](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/paymentadj_hardship.html) for more information. Alternatively, visit ASCO’s update at [www.asco.org/advocacy/congress-passes-legislation-allowing-cms-expedite-stage-2-meaningful-use-hardship-0](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/congress-passes-legislation-allowing-cms-expedite-stage-2-meaningful-use-hardship-0). Finally, CMA has published *Meaningful Use Hardship Exception Frequently Asked Questions* at [www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=meaningful-use-hardship-exception-faqs](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=meaningful-use-hardship-exception-faqs).

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

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.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* has voted to sponsor AB2209 that would prohibit health insurance plans from developing and implementing clinical care pathways. Additional legislative positions will be taken as bills are reviewed.

The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has released guidance for prescribing lethal doses of medication under California’s new physician assisted death law (ABX2-15). CMA’s *The California End of Life Option Act* is available at [www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=the-california-end-of-life-option-act](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=the-california-end-of-life-option-act). The CMA guidance details the legal and medical steps physicians must take before prescribing life-ending medication and physicians’ legal rights to participate or opt out based on their moral or religious beliefs. The guidelines are written in a Q&A format and provide detailed information about the new law. However, they do not currently recommend what type of drug physicians should use to facilitate aid-in-dying and they state that physicians can choose not to assist patients to end their own lives. ABX2-15 will *not* become law until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature’s current special session on healthcare financing.

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* (CES) has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers. For membership, please call (916) 551-2042; for reimbursement assistance, please call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

#### **Forthcoming CMA webinars include:**

- Closing a Medical Practice (March 9)

Contact CMA's member help center at (800) 786-4262 or [memberservice@cmanet.org](mailto:memberservice@cmanet.org) for more information. Register online at [www.cmanet.org/events](http://www.cmanet.org/events).

**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. Please visit [www.cmanet.org/cpr](http://www.cmanet.org/cpr) to subscribe. The March 2016 edition includes:

- CMS extends meaningful use hardship exception deadline
- Blue Shield EOBs missing critical information
- Anthem Blue Cross to require member ID numbers on medical record submissions
- Anthem Blue Cross disconnects its contract support/network relations phone number
- Reminder: Deadline to register for CURES is July 1, 2016
- The Coding Corner: CPT 2016: A highlight of the changes

#### **Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers**

**Noridian Administrative Services** is the Jurisdiction E (JE) *Medicare Administrative Contractor* (MAC). Jurisdiction E includes California. Regularly review postings at the *Noridian/JEMAC* website at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb). Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews *Announcements*—Alignment and

Simplification of Quality Measures; EHR Hardship Exception Application-New FAQ

*Events*—Provider Enrollment Revalidation Call-Last Chance to Register  
*Publications & Videos*—Guidance on PQRS 2014 Reporting Year and 2016 Payment Adjustment for RHCs, FQHCs, and CAHs MLN Matters Article-Released; New Educational Web Guides Fast Fact

- Bladder Tumor Markers LCD Retirement-Effective February 29, 2016
- Screening for Cervical Cancer with HPV Testing-NCD 210.2.1 CR9434
- MolDX-CDD: NSCLC, Comprehensive Genomic Profile Testing Final LCD-Effective April 15, 2016
- MolDX: BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 Genetic Testing Final LCD-Effective April 15, 2016
- MGMT Promoter Methylation Analysis Final LCD-Effective April 15, 2016
- Provider Enrollment Revalidation-Cycle 2 SE1605
- HPTCs Code Set Update-April 2016 CR9461
- MPFSDB-Quarterly Update April 2016 CR9531

*Noridian/JEMAC's* Electronic Data Interchange Support Services (EDISS) invites you to subscribe to its e-mail distribution list to receive current information at [www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html](http://www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html).

#### **Forthcoming Noridian/JEMAC meetings/workshops include:**

- Noridian Medicare Portal Web-Based Workshops (thru March 10)
- Outpatient Therapy Services Workshop (March 16)
- Basic E and M Avoiding Common Errors Workshop (March 22, 23)

Visit [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events) for more information and to register.

**Subscribe today to receive the DHCS/Medi-Cal Subscription Service (MCSS) via e-mail.** The MCSS is a free service that can help keep you up-to-date on the latest DHCS/MediCal news. Go to the MCSS Subscriber Form ([files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp)) to subscribe.



A list of DHCS/MediCal webinars is at [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom\\_23149.asp?utm\\_source=iContact&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Medi-Cal%20NewsFlash&utm\\_content=23149](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_23149.asp?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Medi-Cal%20NewsFlash&utm_content=23149).

**Anthem (formerly Wellpoint)** is offering California oncologists a monetary incentive for each patient who receives treatment as specified by one of the insurer's recommended regimens. Learn more about the *Anthem* program at [www.cancercarequalityprogram.com](http://www.cancercarequalityprogram.com). ANCO members are encouraged to review *Anthem's Cancer Care Quality Program Treatment Pathways* and send their comments to ANCO at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org). ANCO's comments on the *Program* and *Anthem's* response are available online at [www.anco-online.org/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/index.html).

**UnitedHealthcare's Network Bulletin** (March 2016) is now available online at [unitedhealthcareonline.com](http://unitedhealthcareonline.com) > Quick Links > Network Bulletin and includes articles entitled Amendment to 2016 Administrative Guide; Prior Authorization Requirement—Genetic Testing; UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy, Drug Policy, and Coverage Determination Guideline Updates; New Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy Policy; and, Federal Requirements for Advance Directives.

## EDUCATION

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

### REGISTER NOW

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-Based Approach**

The *16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-Based Approach* returns to the *Silverado Resort and Spa* in Napa on March 18-20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is sponsored by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* and the *Association of Northern California Oncologists* and presented in collaboration by the *Stanford Cancer Institute*, *UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*. This meeting is now fully subscribed; download the meeting brochure and sign up for the waiting list at [med.stanford.edu/cme/courses/2016/multicancer2016.html](http://med.stanford.edu/cme/courses/2016/multicancer2016.html).

### **ASCO Annual Meeting**

Registration and housing for the 2016 ASCO *Annual Meeting*, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, at *McCormick Place* in Chicago is now open. Reserve your room and register at [am.asco.org/](http://am.asco.org/).

### **Additional Education Meetings**

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

March 9<sup>th</sup>  
*Progress in the Treatment of Oral and Head and Neck Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 10<sup>th</sup>  
*Treatment Update on Mantle Cell Lymphoma*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 11<sup>th</sup>  
*New Perspectives in the Treatment of Advanced Skin Cancer: Basal Cell and Squamous Cell Cancers (Part I of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Managing the Cost of Care When You Have Lymphoma*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 18<sup>th</sup>  
*Emerging Treatments for Metastatic Melanoma (Part II of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 19<sup>th</sup>  
*A Look at Where We are Now—Moving Forward: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference*  
Cancer Prevention Institute of California  
San Francisco  
([www.cpic.org](http://www.cpic.org))

March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
*Treatment Update on Colorectal Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Progress in the Treatment of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN; Part I of Living with*

*Myeloproliferative Neoplasms)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 24<sup>th</sup>*Update on Glioblastoma*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 28<sup>th</sup>*Update on Polycythemia Vera (Part I of Living with Polycythemia Vera)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 30<sup>th</sup>*Managing Aches and Pains, and Treatment Side Effects from Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN; Part II of Living with Myeloproliferative Neoplasms)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 1<sup>st</sup>*The Role of Immuno-Oncology in the Treatment of Melanoma (Part III of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 4<sup>th</sup>*Managing Eye and Vision Changes Related to Cancer Treatments*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 8<sup>th</sup>*Advances in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 11<sup>th</sup>*Coping with the Stresses of Caregiving When Your Loved One Has Polycythemia Vera (Part II of Living with Polycythemia Vera)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 12<sup>th</sup>*Advances in the Treatment of Lung Cancer (Part I of Living with Lung Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 13<sup>th</sup>*The Role of Nutrition, Exercise and Meditation in Coping with Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN; Part III of Living with Myeloproliferative Neoplasms)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 14<sup>th</sup>*Progress in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma (Part I of Living with Multiple Myeloma)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 14-15<sup>th</sup>*The COA 2016 Community Oncology Conference—Innovation in Cancer Care: Moving from Theory to Practice*

Community Oncology Alliance

Orlando, FL

(www.coaconference.org)

April 20<sup>th</sup>*Treatment Update on Pancreatic Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 26<sup>th</sup>*For Caregivers: Practical Tips for Coping with Your Loved One's Lung Cancer (Part II of Living with Lung Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 27<sup>th</sup>*Understanding the Role of Immuno-Oncology in Treating Cancer (Part I of Immuno-Oncology: A Promising New Approach to Treating Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

April 28<sup>th</sup>*Coping with the Stresses of Caregiving When Your Loved One Has Multiple Myeloma (Part II of Living with Multiple Myeloma)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

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

<b>ASSOCIATION &amp; MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, &amp; BENEFITS</b>
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**Board of Directors**

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* teleconferences/meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors** teleconference is scheduled for April

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

### **Individual Member News**

A current *Directory of Members* is available online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html) as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org) 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 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 *Annadel Medical Group/St Joseph's Heritage Healthcare, California Cancer Associates for Research and Excellence, Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EPIC Care, Pacific Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 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 Cancer Center*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

*Stanford and UC San Francisco*, in collaboration with the *National Cancer Institute, Consortium of Universities for Global Health*, and *Global Health*, are co-hosting the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Global Cancer Research** on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the *Hilton Union Square Hotel* in San Francisco. For more

information and to register, visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-symposium-on-global-cancer-research-tickets-19192248532](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-symposium-on-global-cancer-research-tickets-19192248532).

### **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:

*AbbVie • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN  
Astellas Oncology • AstraZeneca  
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
Biodesix • Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions  
Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo  
Dendreon • Eisai • Foundation Medicine  
Genoptix Medical Laboratory  
Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health  
Gilead Sciences • Helsinn Oncology  
Incyte • Infinity Pharmaceuticals  
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals  
Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals  
Lilly Oncology • Merrimack Pharmaceuticals  
Medivation • Merck  
nanoString • Novartis Oncology  
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Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics  
Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals • Sanofi Genzyme  
Sargass Pharmaceutical Adherence  
& Compliance (SPAC) International  
Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology  
Takeda Oncology • Tesaro • TEVA Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *AbbVie, Biodesix, Clovis Oncology, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Ipsen Pharmaceuticals, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics, Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals, Taiho Oncology, and Tesaro* as new Corporate Members for 2016. Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**. ANCO encourages all member practices to use this resource and enroll all patients at the start of treatment in all available and appropriate patient assistance programs.

**AMGEN** informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has updated the prescribing information for *Kyprolis* as of January 21<sup>st</sup>. *Kyprolis* is indicated in combination with

dexamethasone or with lenolidomide plus dexamethasone for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma who have received one to three lines of therapy and as a single agent for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma who have received one or more lines of therapy. In other news, *AMGEN* informs ANCO that Blinicyto has been assigned HCPCS code J9039 (1mcg) effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

*AstraZeneca* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved a new indication expanding the use of Faslodex to include use in combination with palbociclib.

*Genentech BioOncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* granted approval to Gazyva in combination with bendamustine followed by Gazyva monotherapy for the treatment of people with follicular lymphoma who relapsed after, or are refractory to, a rituximab-containing regimen.

*Janssen Biotech* informs ANCO that *Noridian/JEMAC* has published an FAQ on Yondelis at [med.noridianamedicare.com/web/jeb/education/act/act-qa-012016](http://med.noridianamedicare.com/web/jeb/education/act/act-qa-012016) in which they state that Yondelis is a covered drug by *Noridian/JEMAC* using J9999. A decision on whether the pump will be covered is still being discussed.

*Novartis Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Afinitor for the treatment of adult patients with progressive, well-differentiated non-functional, neuroendocrine tumors (NET) of gastrointestinal (GI) or lung origin with unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic disease.

*Pfizer Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Ibrance in combination with fulvestrant for the treatment of women with hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer with disease progression following endocrine therapy and in combination with letrozole as initial endocrine-based therapy in postmenopausal women. Visit [www.ibrancehcp.com](http://www.ibrancehcp.com) for more information.

*Takeda Oncology* is hosting a dinner program entitled *An Oral Proteasome Inhibitor for Patients with Multiple Myeloma* with John M. Pagel, M.D., Ph.D., *Swedish Medical Center*, on March

18<sup>th</sup> at *Brix Restaurant*, Napa. This dinner program is hosted by Hank Schwarz and Leslie Williams. RSVP via e-mail to [epic@theselvagroup.com](mailto:epic@theselvagroup.com) before March 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Clinical Trial News

***Stanford Cancer Center* brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:**

- A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) vs. Chemotherapy in Microsatellite Instability High (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficient (dMMR) Stage IV Colorectal Carcinoma [Keynote-177; NCT02563002]. Principal Investigator: Sigurdur Haraldsson, MD; Contact: Donna Williams, (650) 498-6608; [donnacw@stanford.edu](mailto:donnacw@stanford.edu)

***UC San Francisco* brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:**

- A Phase II/III Trial of Neoadjuvant FOLFOX, with Selective Use of Combined Modality Chemoradiation versus Preoperative Combined Modality Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer Patients Undergoing Low Anterior Resection with Total Mesorectal Excision (Alliance N1048). Contact: Samantha Maisel, (415) 502-3310, [samantha.maisel@ucsf.edu](mailto:samantha.maisel@ucsf.edu)
- A Randomized, Active-Controlled, Partially Blinded, Biomarker Select, Phase III Clinical Trial of Pembrolizumab as Monotherapy and in Combination with Cisplatin+5-Fluorouracil versus Placebo+Cisplatin+5-Fluorouracil as First-Line Treatment in Subjects with Advanced Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ) Adenocarcinoma. (CC#154525) Contact: Claire Greene, (415) 514-6258, [claire.greene@ucsf.edu](mailto:claire.greene@ucsf.edu).
- A Phase II Clinical Trial of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in Subjects with Select Biomarker Positive Advanced Solid Tumors (KEYNOTE-158; CC#159522). Contact: Wesley Goodman-Levy, (415) 514-6363, [wesley.goodman-levy@ucsf.edu](mailto:wesley.goodman-levy@ucsf.edu).
- A Study of Safety, Tolerability, and Clinical Activity of MEDI4736 and Tremelimumab Administered as Monotherapy and in Combination to Subjects with Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma. (CC#16451) Contact: Andrea Bocobo, (415) 476-3755; [andreagrace.bocobo@ucsf.edu](mailto:andreagrace.bocobo@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase 1, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation and Dose Expansion Study Evaluating the Safety, Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics and Clinical Effects of Orally Administered CB-5083 (AAA ATPase, p97 inhibitor) in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors (CC#149511). Contact: Jenna Zhang, (415) 514-8867; [jenna.zhang@ucsf.edu](mailto:jenna.zhang@ucsf.edu)



- A Phase 1, First-Time-in-Human Study of MEDI9197, a TLR 7/8 Agonist, Administered Intratumorally in Subjects with a Solid Tumor Cancer (CC#159518). Contact: Jenna Zhang, (415) 514-8867; [jenna.zhang@ucsf.edu](mailto:jenna.zhang@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase 1, Open-Label Dose Escalation First-in-Human Study to Evaluate the Tolerability, Safety, Maximum Dose, and Pharmacokinetics of AM0010 in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors (CC#15957). Contact: Jim Leng, (415) 443-1588; [jim.leng@ucsf.edu](mailto:jim.leng@ucsf.edu)
- A Randomized, Multi-center Phase III Study of Nivolumab versus Sorafenib as First-Line Treatment in Patients with Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Contact: Anna Crosetti, (415) 514-8101; [anna.crosetti@ucsf.edu](mailto:anna.crosetti@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase II Trial of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with GM-CSF Induction in Advanced Biliary Cancers (CC#154524). Contact: Emily Mitchell, (415) 476-5442; [Emily.mitchell@ucsf.edu](mailto:Emily.mitchell@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase I Study of Ipilimumab and Nivolumab in Advanced HIV Associated Solid Tumors with an Expansion Cohort in HIV Associated Solid Tumors (AMC095). Contact: Ilaria Mastroserio, (415) 514-6245; [ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu](mailto:ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase 1b, Open-Label Study of Alpelisib (BYL719) in Combination with Cisplatin in Patients with HIV+ Solid Tumor Malignancies (CC#159516). Contact: Ilaria Mastroserio, (415) 514-6245; [ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu](mailto:ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase 1b, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study of the Safety and Pharmacology of GDC-0919 Administered with Atezolizumab in Patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors (CC#159515). Contact: Ilaria Mastroserio, (415) 514-6245; [ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu](mailto:ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu)
- A Phase 1/2a Study to Assess the Safety, PKs, & PDs of PLX8394 in Patients with Advanced, Unresectable Solid Tumors (CC#159523). Contact: Ilaria Mastroserio, (415) 514-6245; [ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu](mailto:ilaria.mastroserio@ucsf.edu)

Further information is available at [cancer.ucsf.edu/clinical-trials](http://cancer.ucsf.edu/clinical-trials).

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

ASCO's CancerLinQ is a cutting-edge health IT platform that securely connects and powerfully analyzes real-world cancer care data from many data sources. Vice President Joe Biden recently discussed ASCO's CancerLinQ as one of the major undertakings designed to advance the pace of progress in the fight against cancer at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Guided by ASCO's expertise and mission to support all cancer physicians—in every community and every setting—and powered by the SAP HANA platform, CancerLinQ equips oncologists with a vast network of information to

improve the quality of patient care and maximize outcomes. CancerLinQ will improve the care for all cancer patients and provide valuable tools to enhance practice efficiencies. We hope you can join this effort to empower oncologists everywhere to deliver high-quality care to their patients. When your practice joins CancerLinQ, designated users will have access to view, query, and visualize:

- Data for individual patients they are treating
- Data specific to their practice
- Aggregated de-identified data on all patients from all CancerLinQ practices

Between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>, if your practice signs a participation agreement, you will receive the following additional benefits:

- Waived connection fee (a \$50,000 minimum value)
- Waived user fees for 5 years
- Opportunity for national recognition alongside your professional society (ASCO)
- Open line of communication to help develop the next wave of CancerLinQ functionality

Watch a CancerLinQ presentation at [www.asco.org/advocacy/watch-cancerlinq-llc-ceo-kevin-fitzpatrick's-presentation-during-sap's-big-data-webinar](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/watch-cancerlinq-llc-ceo-kevin-fitzpatrick's-presentation-during-sap's-big-data-webinar). For additional information, please see the FAQs at [www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/cancerlinq\\_frequently\\_asked\\_questions.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/cancerlinq_frequently_asked_questions.pdf) and the Practice Kit at [www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/clq\\_practice\\_kit.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/clq_practice_kit.pdf). To set up an informational meeting, please contact Duane Heitkemper at (571) 344-9499 or [duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com](mailto:duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com) or Jeff Szykowny at (571) 242-9499 or [jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org](mailto:jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org).

ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department* has released a new annual survey, the 2016 *Survey of Oncology Practice Operations* (SOPO), which seeks feedback on practice management. The business and operations data reported in this survey will be used to prepare benchmarks and standards in practice management, and all participants will receive a copy of the survey report. Take the survey at [www.asco.org/advocacy/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations).

ASCO has launched PracticeNET, a collaborative network in which practices will share and receive insights to enhance their business operations and quality of care. PracticeNET is the first initiative of ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department*. This new initiative uses existing data from your practice management system to offer customizable reports that measure practice-wide and individual performance against a national database of other PracticeNET participants. Go to [www.asco.org/PracticeNET](http://www.asco.org/PracticeNET) for more information.

The *American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)* has approved *Maintenance of Certification (MOC)* points for physicians whose practices have received accreditation through ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) Certification Program (QCP)*. In addition, MOC points are available for physicians whose practices are participating in QOPI if the individual oncologist attests that he or she has been part of the quality improvement effort.

CMS has approved ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)* as a qualified clinical data registry (QCDR), a pathway for oncologists to meet the agency's current quality reporting requirements. Oncology practices registered with QOPI will have the opportunity to fulfill CMS's PQRS or QCDR reporting requirements through QOPI. Go to [www.asco.org/advocacy/cms-approval-new-platform-making-qopi-participation-easier](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/cms-approval-new-platform-making-qopi-participation-easier) for more information. QOPI is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO offers 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.

ACCC's online *Oncology Drug Database* provides quick access to information on oncology drug coding, billing, and reimbursement at [www.accc-cancer.org/drugdatabase/](http://www.accc-cancer.org/drugdatabase/).

ACCC's enhanced set of *Financial Advocacy Network* resources are at [www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp). This "one-stop" destination for comprehensive financial advocacy information includes online training materials, practical financial advocacy tools, peer-to-peer networking, and more.

ACCC's 2016 *Patient Assistance and*

*Reimbursement Guide* is an essential tool for cancer program staff to use in helping patients with issues related to the cost of treatment and in meeting reimbursement challenges. The *Guide* features a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. New for 2016 are tips for optimizing co-pay assistance programs and new financial advocate skills for the new healthcare environment. Visit [www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2016.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2016.pdf) to access this resource. In addition, ACCC has developed a tool for accessing patient assistance and reimbursement programs for use on a desktop, table, or mobile device. The *Financial Advocacy Network (FAN)* app is available at [accc-fan-app.org](http://accc-fan-app.org). ASH also has a webpage (at [www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/](http://www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/)) that provides a consolidated list of resources for hematologists and patients trying to access high cost hematologic drugs. And, at NCCN's Reimbursement Resource Room ([www.nccn.org/reimbursement\\_resource\\_room/default.asp](http://www.nccn.org/reimbursement_resource_room/default.asp)) you can select a cancer diagnosis or supportive care indication and learn about reimbursement help and services available to you. Finally, *assistPoint* is your website for complimentary one-stop cancer Patient Assistance. You can search by generic, brand name, manufacturer, or diagnosis for the enrollment forms you need; get enrollment form PDFs for 113 cancer drugs; get NDC numbers for all of those drugs; find the HCPCS J-code for each drug; get coding and billing guidelines for many drugs; and, learn more about the drugs you give. Go to [www.assistpoint.com](http://www.assistpoint.com) to learn more.

### **Individual Membership Dues for 2016**

Second notices of membership renewal for 2016 were mailed to all members in early February. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2016 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members*. 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 June 30<sup>th</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 do not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.