

# ANCO FAX News

*Association of Northern California Oncologists*  
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## INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings continue, the *ANCO FAX News* summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the *ANCO FAX News* or to contribute items.

The *ANCO FAX News* is sent to member practices (via FAX) and corporate member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at 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 oncology practices and people with cancer.

We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

### *ACCC, ASCO, 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). We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of

national importance to oncology practices.]

ACCC has prepared a summary of the *Competitive Acquisition Program's* (CAP) interim final rule (available at [www.accc-cancer.org/publicpolicy/CAPRuleJuly2005.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/publicpolicy/CAPRuleJuly2005.pdf)). The final rule implements CAP with a single category of 181 drugs and one nationwide region. CMS expects to phase in additional categories for specific specialties as it refines the CAP. Physicians will have the opportunity to elect

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

- ☐ Physician Members
- ☐ Nurse & Office Managers
- ☐ Office Staff
- ☐ Colleagues & Representatives

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of medical oncologists and hematologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of oncology 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.

annually to participate in CAP. The CAP physician election process will run from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year. Physicians who elect to participate in the CAP will continue to bill their local Medicare carriers for drug administration services. **In late breaking news, the bidding process for CAP vendors has been temporarily delayed. CMS now anticipates that drugs will be delivered through the CAP program by July 2006.**

**ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community.** Here is the latest with regard to the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003* (MMA):

- CMS expects to pay approximately \$56.5B to 875,000 physicians and other health care professionals in 2006, according to the recently **proposed 2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**. The proposed rule indicates that payment rates for physicians' services would be reduced by 4.3 percent for 2006, a reduction required by a statutory formula that takes into account substantial growth in overall Medicare spending in 2004. Other provisions in the proposed rule include:

- ✍ Revising the methodology used to account for the costs of running a physician's practice.
- ✍ Refinements to the payment adjustments for the malpractice costs associated with specific services.
- ✍ Revising the list of health services for which those physicians are prohibited from self-referring their patients (the physician self-referral rules) to include diagnostic nuclear medicine services and therapeutic nuclear medicine services.
- ✍ Technical refinements to the ASP methodology.

**CMS also discusses the 2005 demonstration measuring quality of care for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.** CMS's *Oncology Demonstration Project Fact Sheet*, issued along with the fee schedule, states that

CMS will "engage all stakeholders on the merits of the program and the opportunities to better capture data on the clinical care of patients with cancer, and improve the provision of that care." CMS seeks input on the merits of the program and opportunities to evolve the program in order to not only better capture data on the clinical care of patients with cancer, but also to provide support for improvement in the provision of that care. ASCO's summary of the proposed 2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule can be found at [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma) (under *Special Alerts* for August 4<sup>th</sup>).

• **House Resolution (HRes) 261** was recently moved from *Committee* to the full *House of Representatives*. This legislation commends CMS for creating the demonstration project, calls for policy makers to extend the demonstration project beyond 2005, and (at ASCO's suggestion) contains specific language stating that payments to physicians for participating in the demonstration project should continue to ensure that Medicare patients with cancer have access to chemotherapy treatment. **Please call or write your Congressional Representative to express your support for HRes261 and to ask them to sign on to this important Resolution.** You can find contact information for your *Representative* by visiting ASCO's *Grassroots Action Center* at [capwiz.com/asco](http://capwiz.com/asco).

Visit [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma), [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html), or call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/[practice@asco.org](mailto:practice@asco.org) for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. And, **join ASCO's Grassroots Advocacy Network** at [www.asco.org/grassroots\\_survey](http://www.asco.org/grassroots_survey).

## **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) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC cooperate on several joint ventures and coordinate activities in the advocacy and membership benefit arenas. Each is represented at the Board meeting of the other.]

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

- The *Legislature* is on Summer recess until August 15<sup>th</sup> and all *Committee* hearings and legislative action have been put on hold until that time. When the *Legislature* reconvenes, the authors of AB651 (allowing physician-assisted suicide) and SB583 (regarding cancer and CAM) will have less than a month to pass their bills for the *Governor's* signature before the end of the legislative session.

Contact the ANCO office for ANCO/MOASC's positions on additional legislation.

CMA encourages physicians to contact their *Congressional Representatives* and urge them to support S1081 and HR2356 that would provide physician rate increases for at least the next two years. If *Congress* fails to act before the end of the year, physician rates will be cut 4.3 percent on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, and will be cut by a total of 31 percent during the next six years. The cuts are an unintended consequence of the sustainable growth rate formula. The *House* and *Senate* bills—both called the *Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act of 2005*—provide a physician payment increase for 2006 of at least 2.7 percent, as recommended by the *Medicare Payment Advisory Commission* (MedPAC). The *Senate* bill would add an estimated 2.6 percent increase in 2007. The *House* bill would provide a permanent fix to the Medicare payment formula, calculating physician rates in 2007 and beyond with a new formula based on the *Medicare Economic Index* (which measures physician practice cost inflation). AMA, CMA, and the county medical societies are working together to convince *Congress* to permanently fix the Medicare payment formula. Physicians are encouraged to

participate in this grassroots effort by calling on their Federal legislators to support a permanent fix to the Medicare formula.

Effective immediately, **physician office laboratories (POLs) established on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1996, must be either licensed by or registered with the California Department of Health Services**, subjecting them to fees and regulations beyond those currently imposed under the Federal *Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments* (CLIA) program. Laboratories that perform only "waived" tests (classified by FDA or CDC to be so simple that there is little risk of error) and labs that perform only "provider-performed microscopy" tests will be exempt from the State licensure requirements, but will have to register with the State. Download DHS's memorandum entitled *Clinical Laboratories Oversight Program* and FAQs at [www.anco-online.org/advocacy.html](http://www.anco-online.org/advocacy.html) or visit [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/lfsb/default.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/lfsb/default.htm).

**AB487 requires all physicians renewing their license through 2006 to complete twelve (12) hours of pain medicine and end-of-life care continuing medical education (CME).** CMA's *Pain, Palliation, and Politics: Pain Management and End-of-Life Care in California's Regulatory Environment* takes place at the *San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel* on September 9-10<sup>th</sup>. Register by August 10<sup>th</sup> to receive a \$40 discount. Additional information is available at [www.cmanet.org/painmanagement.htm](http://www.cmanet.org/painmanagement.htm). Additional sites/dates (San Francisco, September 2006; Anaheim, January & December 2006) have been scheduled. CMA and the *University of California, San Diego*, have launched a unique case-based CME program entitled *Pain Management: A Case-Based CME Program for Physicians* on DVD that physicians can use to receive their State-mandated CME. Contact UCSD at (888) 229-6263 for more information.

CMA recently published California's first physician cost survey entitled *Physician Practice Cost Survey: Experience of Smaller Practices in California—2004 Report Based on 2003 Data*. Physician practices that submitted data for the survey will receive a complimentary copy of the cost survey report. ANCO and CMA members may purchase the report at the reduced price of

\$100. An order form is attached to this edition of the *ANCO FAX News*.

### **NHIC/Medicare & DHS/MediCal**

[Editor's Note: ANCO meets with *National Heritage Insurance Company* (NHIC) that administers Medicare in California and the *Department of Health Services* (DHS) that administers MediCal in California.]

The *Medicare B Resource* (June 2005) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_jun05.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_jun05.pdf).

**Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, CMS will terminate the HIPAA contingency plan for incoming claims.** NHIC/Medicare will return incoming claims submitted in a non-HIPAA compliant format.

**NHIC/Medicare will send providers the 2006 Participation Enrollment and Fee Schedule on CD in November 2005.** No internet access is required to access the information. There are many advantages to having the participation enrollment material on CD. For example:

- Physician's will not have to remove the paper participation enrollment form from a booklet and they can complete the application on the computer and then print it for mailing.
- A CD is space saving and provides easy access to information via its search and find utility. (The CD will include the fee schedules for all of California.)
- Guides for topics such as CMS 1500 Claim Form Completion, EDI, and Provider Enrollment, as well as useful internet links, will be included on the CD.

Providers who have billed Medicare in the past year will be mailed a CD automatically. If, after receiving the CD, they find that they cannot access the data properly or cannot download the information from the NHIC/Medicare website, a paper copy of the fee schedule for their area can be mailed to their office. Further information on ordering a paper copy will be published in the September *Medicare B Resource*.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee* (CAC) meeting took place

in Oakland on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Two agenda items relevant to oncology were discussed:

- Draft negative LCD on *Oncotype DX*
- Least costly alternative LCD for LHRH agonists.

ANCO will formally comment on the non-coverage draft LCD on *Oncotype DX*. Urology has formally requested that the least costly alternative LCD for LHRH agonists be reconsidered. The next *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee* (CAC) meeting takes place in Los Angeles in October.

Visit [www.medicarenhic.com/whats\\_new/whats\\_new.shtml](http://www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.shtml) to learn the latest information (updated weekly) from NHIC/Medicare. Weekly updates are also posted on ANCO's WebLog (at [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html); under *California News*).

**DHS/MediCal is asking providers to complete the Conversion of X Codes to NDC Survey during August 2005.** The Survey is intended to gauge provider interest in using *National Drug Codes* (NDCs) for billing non-pharmacy drugs. The Survey is available at [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov) (under *HIPAA News*).

## **EDUCATION**

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

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **ANCO's 2005 Annual Meeting**

ANCO will hold its 2005 *Annual Meeting* from Friday evening, October 14<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday morning, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the *Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite*. Physician members and their nurse and practice managers should plan on attending this event. A distinguished national and local faculty will present the latest national and statewide legislative/regulatory updates, discuss ethical issues in oncology care, present information on the use of physician extenders, debate legal issues in drug contracting, and dissect CMS's *Competitive Acquisition Program* (CAP). Visit [www.anco-online.org/std.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/std.pdf) for housing information. Watch for registration materials in early August.

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

August 10<sup>th</sup>

*Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience*

CancerCare (and others)

Telephone Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org)

August 11<sup>th</sup>

*Treatment Update for Early Stage Colon Cancer*

CancerCare (and others)

Telephone Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org)

August 16<sup>th</sup>

*Finding New Ways to Cope with Fatigue*

CancerCare (and others)

Telephone Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org)

August 25<sup>th</sup>

*Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)*

CancerCare (and others)

Telephone Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org)

September 9-11<sup>th</sup>

*From Research to Action: Seeking Solutions*

California Breast Cancer Research Symposium

California Breast Cancer Research Program

Sacramento

September 10<sup>th</sup>

*Breakthroughs in Colon Cancer Treatment*

Network for Oncology Communication

(NOCR) & Colorectal Cancer Network

Santa Rosa

September 11-14<sup>th</sup>

*5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Residual Cancer*

International Society for Cellular Therapy

San Francisco

September 13-16<sup>th</sup>

*Partnering to Shape the Future of Cancer Care:*

*22<sup>nd</sup> National Oncology Economics Conference*

Association of Community Cancer Centers

Portland, Oregon

September 15-18<sup>th</sup>

*8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Oncology, Hematology, and Stem Cell Transplantation Conference*

Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Half Moon Bay

September 17-18<sup>th</sup>

*The Essentials of Pain Medicine: What You Need to Know on the Front Line of Medicine*

American Academy of Pain Medicine

Los Angeles

October 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

*25<sup>th</sup> Annual Nurses Symposium*

Scripps Cancer Center

San Diego

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

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are eligible for benefits from the *California Oncology Consortium* (COC) and *Hematology Oncology Leadership Network* (HOLN).]

#### ANCO On-Line

ANCO's independent website at [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 MMA resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports and publications and WebLog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations, and updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

The WebLog (ANCO News On-Line) posts and archives important news for oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO meeting announcements
- ASCO's e-News, MMA Special Alerts, and MMA Today's
- CMA Alerts

- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) (or subscribe to [www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml](http://www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml) using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

### ***California Oncology Consortium (COC)***

The COC is a cooperative venture of ANCO and MOASC. The *Consortium* maintains two ListSrvs for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information and has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

**Group Purchasing Organization.** The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network (ION)/Oncology Supply (OS)*, *National Oncology Alliance (NOA)/Cardinal*, and *Onmark/Oncology Therapeutics Network (OTN)* for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

**ION reports that due to a manufacturing issue Ellence (100mL vials) are temporarily on backorder** and will not be available for six to eight weeks. In the meantime, orders can be placed for Ellence (25mL vials) as adequate supply is available.

ION's 2005 meeting schedule includes:

- 6<sup>th</sup> *Annual Perspectives in Colorectal Cancer* (September 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Chicago)
- 11<sup>th</sup> *Annual Perspectives in Breast Cancer* (October 14-15<sup>th</sup>, Boston)
- 10<sup>th</sup> *Annual Perspectives in Thoracic Oncology* (November 4-5<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia)

NOA cordially invites oncologists and oncology nurses to attend *Exploring a Novel Approach to Taxane Therapy* featuring Hope Rugo, M.D., on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Hawthorne Lane in San Francisco. For more information, please call (866) 866-4632 x204.

**Onmark** is offering a free series of webcasts this Summer covering the impact of regulatory changes on today's community oncology practice. ANCO members are invited to

participate in this valuable program. Topics that will be covered include:

- CAP—What Does it Mean to You? (August 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>)
- What's Next? 2006 and Beyond (August 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Maximizing Inventory System Utilization for Greater Practice Efficiency (September 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>)

The presenter will be Elaine Towle, CMPE, *Program Director, Oncology Metrics*, a leading provider of data-driven education, tools, and knowledge for the oncology community. To learn more about this series or to register, visit [www.onmarkservices.com](http://www.onmarkservices.com) (under *Upcoming Events*) or call (866) 686-8340.

### ***Hematology Oncology Leadership Network (HOLN)***

HOLN is a network of state oncology and oncology manager societies from Northern California, Southern California, Connecticut, Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio/West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. As an ANCO member, you may enroll in HOLN and benefit from discounted pricing from several major pharmaceutical manufacturers for medical supplies and drugs. HOLN-contracted prices are honored at several distributors, including *Oncology Supply* and *Oncology Therapeutics Network*. A complete current price list of HOLN contracted products is available from the ANCO office or online at [www.holn.org](http://www.holn.org).

## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### ***Board of Directors***

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconference will take place on September 6<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

**Peter Eisenberg, M.D., ANCO Founder and Past President**, has been appointed to **United Healthcare's Premium Oncology Advisory Committee**. This *Committee* will provide expert physician guidance on the creation of programs to evaluate, report on, and improve clinical quality.

*The ANCO Directory of Members & Membership Information 2005* was published and mailed in June to all physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2006.

The following update(s) to the *Directory* should be inserted in the appropriate location(s):

#### ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

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### Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to grow and expand its services for the 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:

AMGEN • APP/Abraxis Oncology  
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cell Therapeutics • Chiron Corporation  
Enzon Pharmaceuticals  
Genentech BioOncology  
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health  
GlaxoSmithKline

International Oncology Network  
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants  
Lilly Oncology • Matrix Oncology  
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma  
Millennium • National Oncology Alliance  
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply  
Oncology Therapeutics Network • Onmark  
Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics  
OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology  
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology  
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen  
US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Enzon Pharmaceuticals* and *Onmark* as new Corporate Members in 2005. *AstraZeneca*, *Ligand Pharmaceuticals*, and *Oncotech* have not renewed their Corporate Membership for 2005.

*biogenIDEC* and *Genentech BioOncology* are supporting *Understanding Community Oncology Coding Guidelines for Optimal Patient Care*, a CD-ROM self-study CE program for oncology practice administrators and community oncologists featuring Michele Weiss. An order form is available from the ANCO office.

*Genitope* is hosting a *Corporate Friday Symposium on Clinical Advances in Idiotype Vaccine Therapy for NHL* preceding the 47<sup>th</sup> *American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting* featuring Ronald Levy, M.D., *Stanford University*, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 at 12:30PM. The *Symposium* will be held at the *Sheraton New Orleans*. For more information visit [www.hematology.org/meetings/2005/attendee/corporate\\_friday.cfm](http://www.hematology.org/meetings/2005/attendee/corporate_friday.cfm).

*Millennium* is supporting the *Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation's* on-line series of monthly (through December 2005) *Great Debates: Case-based Analyses of Treatment Options in Multiple Myeloma*. Visit [www.multiplemyeloma.org](http://www.multiplemyeloma.org) to view the cases.

*Pfizer Oncology* is supporting the *Johns Hopkins School of Medicine* web teleconferences on breast cancer. Visit [www.ernjreg.com/jhutelecon](http://www.ernjreg.com/jhutelecon) for more information.

*Roche Oncology* has announced FDA approval of *Xeloda* for the adjuvant treatment of patients with *Dukes' C* colon cancer. This approval gives patients who have undergone complete resection

of their primary tumor the option of an oral chemotherapy when fluoropyrimidine therapy alone is preferred.

### ***Institutional Member News***

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 being organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- [med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date)

*UCD's Review and Update of Pain and Palliative Medicine* takes place in San Francisco on August 12-14<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/PAINSF6\\_8-12-05.pdf](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/PAINSF6_8-12-05.pdf) for more information. (Additional programs in different cities and different dates are also available.)

**UCD's online CME pain management courses** are now available at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm).

*Stanford's Advances in Hematology 2005 Symposium* takes place in Palo Alto on November 4-5<sup>th</sup>. Visit [hematology.stanford.edu/education/index.html](http://hematology.stanford.edu/education/index.html) for more information.

**UCD's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Advances in Oncology: Updates from ASCO, ACCR, and SWOG** takes place in Sacramento on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference** takes place in San Francisco on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06002](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06002) for more information.

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

ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP; [www.jopasco.org](http://www.jopasco.org)) addresses the practical needs

of clinicians featuring a broad range of topics of interest to a busy clinician's day-to-day practice and exploring issues that are necessary to sustain an oncology practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Volume 1, Issue 2 (July 2005) is now available, focuses on oncology and information technology, and includes an article by John a Keech, Jr., D.O., *ANCO Past President*.

ANCO will conduct its biennial ***Practice Staff Salary Survey*** in 3Q05. Data collected will be compared with that collected in 2003 and earlier. Please be sure to complete and return the *ANCO Practice Staff Salary Survey* upon its receipt.