

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 December 2nd.

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, 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) have agreed

to share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to oncology practices.]

With enrollment starting last November 15th, and coverage effective January 1st, 2006, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) will be available to people who have Medicare. PDPs are offered through private companies. Medicare beneficiaries must enroll in a PDP to get their prescription drug

**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.

coverage at the time of eligibility or they can be charged an extra premium if they decide to enroll at a later time. Medicare beneficiaries who are interested in obtaining more information about enrollment, coverage, and more details should contact 800-Medicare (or 800-633-4227) or the *Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program* (HICAP) at (800) 434-0222. Additional information is available at www.medicare.gov.

ACCC has posted a Medicare Part D presentation by James Whitfield, DHHS *Regional Director*, at www.accc-cancer.org/edu/whitfieldpresentation.pdf. This is a great resource to help healthcare professionals get up to speed on the new drug benefit. Additional resources for healthcare professionals are available at the CMS/Medicare website, as follows:

- CMS's Toolkit for Healthcare Professionals (www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/provtoolkit.pdf)
- CMS's Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Information for Providers (www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp)
- Current list of California's PDPs (www.cms.hhs.gov/map/charts/chart4ca.pdf)

CMS expects physician offices to answer general questions and to point beneficiaries to additional resources. However, physicians are not allowed to direct patients to a specific PDP. While **PDPs are not meant to substitute for Part B coverage** (i.e., coverage of drugs provided in the physician office setting), some injectable and/or oral anti-cancer drugs may be included in each plan's formulary. Nonetheless, injectable drugs administered in the office setting are billed under Part B. Finally, oral chemotherapy equivalents stay under Part B; but new oral anti-cancer drugs without an injectable equivalent will be covered under Part D.

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 released the 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule*. It can be viewed

at www.cms.hhs.gov/physicians/pfs/CMS-1502-FC.pdf. (NHIC/Medicare has also posted the schedule on its website; see below.) Also visit www.cms.hhs.gov/physicians for more information about the final rule (in the *Highlights* section). Under the statutory sustainable growth rate (SGR) methodology, the conversion factor will decrease by 4.4% in 2006 compared to 2005. The 2006 conversion factor is \$36.1770. In addition, CMS confirmed the following revisions to Medicare reimbursement policy:

✍ **2006 drug administration CPT codes** are available on the *American Medical Association* website (www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html; select *What's New*). The 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* eliminates the 3% transitional payment for drug administration. Contact the ANCO office for a crosswalk between 2005's G codes and 2006's CPT codes for drug administration. New CPT code descriptor language is generally similar to the G-code descriptions. There are some entirely new CPT codes, however.

✍ CMS has decided not to revise the method of calculating **practice expense relative value units**. Practice expense RVUs will remain essentially the same in 2006.

- CMS is revising the **oncology demonstration project** in 2006 to gather more specific information about the extent to which evidence-based guidelines set forth by ASCO and the *National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (NCCN) are used as the standard of care. CMS states that the 2006 demonstration project is intended to support care that has been shown to lead to better outcomes for patients with cancer, determine how and whether oncology practices follow well-established evidence-based practice guidelines, and associate reporting of quality by evaluating physician services rather than chemotherapy administration.

Participation in the project will be available only to office-based hematologists/oncologists. An additional payment of \$23 will be made if a physician bills an office-visit code for an established patient (levels 2 through 5) who is being treated for any one of thirteen specified cancer diagnoses. To qualify for the payment, the physician must, in addition to the visit code, submit three G codes that will provide information about (1) the primary reason for the visit, (2) the current disease state, and (3) whether or not current management adheres to relevant guidelines issued by ASCO, NCCN, or some other source. Details on the diagnoses included in the demonstration and how the primary focus of visit and level of guideline adherence will be reported are included in a CMS Fact Sheet on the demonstration available at www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006_Chemo_Demo_factsheet.pdf. Specific G codes are expected to be announced in December.

✍ **Drug reimbursement** will remain at ASP plus 6%. However, in response to concerns about the availability of **intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)** at the Medicare payment level, CMS has established G0332 valued at 1.90 RVUs, that can be billed once per day when IVIG is administered. Practices should bill the J and G codes for IVIG.

- CMS announced refinements to its **Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)** on November 3rd. CAP will be implemented on July 1st, 2006. There were no major changes to the interim final rule. Refinements include an improved bidding process for vendors, an increase in the number of drugs that can be furnished under CAP, and improved access to newly approved drugs. Unresolved issues remaining include reimbursement for additional administrative work with ordering and tracking of drugs, wastage, ceasing shipment of drugs for patients with

outstanding copayments, and adaptability to dynamic clinical decisions. CAP remains a voluntary program. For more information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/drugs/compbid/default.asp (select *Highlights*). Vendors will be invited to bid for participation in the CAP program upon publication of the fee schedule notice, and CMS anticipates that the physician election process will take place in early to mid-Spring 2006 (i.e., April 15th through May 30th, 2006). Finally, in a related ruling, CMS announced that drug prices paid by CAP vendors do not have to be included in ASP calculations.

- CMS estimates that there will be a **10% reduction in revenue to oncology practices** from Medicare as a result of changes to the demonstration and other fee schedule provisions.

Visit www.asco.org/mma, www.anco-online.org/mma.html, or call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/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.

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 *Special Election* has passed and the failure of the Governor's initiatives has heightened the political nature of the Legislature. Both sides of the aisle spent an unprecedented amount of time and money in the hope of passing or defeating the Governor's reform measures. This

political momentum has continued and will have an impact on upcoming legislation, the budget, and the next election. The unions are emboldened from their victory in the *Special Election* and the *Republicans* are determined to gain a win on reform. One of the first tests for both sides will be on January 10th, when the *Governor* releases his budget proposal.

ANCO and MOASC have agreed to form the *California Oncology Political Action Committee* or CalCancerPAC. Organizational steps have been completed and ANCO will launch fund-raising efforts for CalCancerPAC in December. CalCancerPAC's goal will be to support candidates sensitive to and issues specific to the needs of oncologists and their patients in California.

CMA urgently needs your help to fight Medicare reductions. Medicare payments will be cut by 4.4% on January 1st, 2006. Over the next five years, Medicare physician payments will be cut a total of 26% while medical practice costs increase 15%. *Congress* is adjourning for the year this month and they will not be back until after January 2006. There is one more chance to stop the Medicare physician payment cuts by calling your *Member of Congress* immediately. Call (800) 833-6354 and enter your zip code, and your call will automatically be forwarded to your *Representative's* office. Please urge your *Representative* to ask the members of the *Budget Conference Committee* to:

1. Stop the Medicare physician payment cuts.
2. Be fair to physicians. Institute a comparable cost-of-living increase for physicians. All other Medicare providers have already been granted increases for 2006 (e.g., health plans, +4.8%; home health, +3.3%; hospitals, +3.7%; nursing homes, +2.7%).
3. Protect California's senior citizens, and make sure they have access to doctors. If these cuts take effect, doctors will be forced to stop taking Medicare patients.

Inform your *Representatives* of just how serious this situation is for patients and physicians. In

addition to phone calls, visit your local *Congressional* office next week. Arrange with your colleagues to take no more than an hour away from your offices. Together, visit your *Representative's* office and tell them you have patients waiting and that you need just 5 minutes of your *Representative's* time. Your county medical society office is ready to help you coordinate with other doctors in your area. Or simply arrange to go with your medical staff colleagues.

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 next in Anaheim, January 6-7th, 2006, and in San Francisco in September 2006. Visit www.cmanet.org/painmanagementfiles/Brochure.pdf for more information. 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.

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.]

NHIC/Medicare has posted the 2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule on its website at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml#60. You will also find the *Medicare Participation Agreement*, the cover letter, and *Key Medicare News for 2006* at this webpage. If you download the PDF file version of the fee schedule, you will see a "Find by Code" quick link in the upper right hand corner to assist you in locating a particular code. The CDs that physicians will receive via USPS will not contain the fee schedule this year. The *Participation Agreement* and other CMS information will be on the CD, as will other valuable billing information. *Medicare B Resources* for the past two years will also be on the CD. If you have any questions, please contact NHIC/Medicare's

Customer Service at (877) 527-6613.

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2005) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec05.pdf. Among the items most relevant to oncology are:

- October 2005 Quarterly ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing File, Effective October 1, 2005, and Revisions to April 2005 and July 2005 Quarterly ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files
- Quarterly Update to CCI Edits, Version 11.3, Effective October 1, 2005
- How to Avoid Duplicate Claims
- October Update to the 2005 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database
- Medicare Announces End of HIPAA Contingency Plan for Claims Submissions
- Remittance Advice Remark Code and Claim Adjustment Reason Code Update
- October 2005 Quarterly Update to SNF CB
- 2006 Annual Update of HCPCS Codes for SNF CB

Visit 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; under *California News*).

ANCO and a coalition of Corporate Members and other manufacturers, guided by *Noteware Government Relations*, is seeking to meet with Sandra Shewry, Director, Department of Health Services, to understand and to resolve DHS/MediCal's very slow approval process for cancer care drugs. The Corporate Members and other manufacturers (and products) involved include *Bayer/Onyx Pharmaceuticals*, *Lilly Oncology* (Alimta), *Genentech BioOncology* (Avastin), *MGI Pharma* (Aloxi), *Millennium* (Velcade), and *Pharmion* (Vidaza). Some of these products were approved more than 16 months ago by the FDA and are still waiting for DHS/MediCal to add them to their medical benefit.

EDUCATION

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

ACCC's Redefining Cancer Economics

ACCC's 2005 *Regional Oncology and Management Symposium: Redefining Cancer Economics* took place on Wednesday, November 16th at the *Radisson San Francisco Airport*. Only twenty (20) participants attended. The following presentations were made:

- Issues Affecting Quality Cancer Delivery (Joseph S. Bailes, M.D., ASCO)
- Implications of the Evolving MMA on Hospitals and Practices in 2006 (Lynn Jones, ELM Services, & Marci Cali, ACCC).
- Quality Cancer Care (Karen Stanley, R.N., ONS)
- ACCC Policy & Education Update (Christian Downs, J.D., M.H.A., ACCC)
- Panel Discussion on Quality Care in Your Community

Move the Ball!

The *National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship's* (NCCS) first annual **Move the Ball! Golf Tournament** at **Pebble Beach Golf Links** takes place on **Thursday, December 15th**. NCCS's objective is to foster collaboration among the oncology community, biotech, pharmaceutical, health care venture capitalists, and other industry thought leaders by engaging in an expert panel discussion following the golf event to explore ways in which NCCS can help "move the ball" in the research, innovation and treatment of cancer as they pursue their advocacy efforts. NCCS is a non-profit cancer advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. It is the oldest survivor-led cancer advocacy organization in the country focused on empowering cancer survivors and representing an authentic voice at the Federal level, advocating for quality cancer care for all Americans. Non-golfers are strongly encouraged to attend the dinner and the panel discussion. A banquet only fee has been included to accommodate anyone interested in attending the

dinner and discussion. Please feel free to contact Kym Martin, NCCS *Manager of Development*, with any questions at (301) 562-2775 or kmartin@canceradvocacy.org.

SAVE THE DATE

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2005

ANCO's annual *San Antonio Breast Cancer Cancer Symposium Highlights 2005* will take place on Wednesday evening, January 18th, 2006 at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from Stanford (Robert W. Carlson, M.D.), UC Davis (Janice Ryu, M.D.), and UC San Francisco (Laura J. Esserman, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Helen K. Chew, M.D., *UC Davis*, and accredited by ASCO. Watch for a meeting announcement and registration form in early December.

ASCO's Prostate Cancer Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach

ASCO's *Prostate Cancer Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach* will be held February 24-26th, 2006, in San Francisco. This three-day *Symposium* is co-sponsored by ASCO, the *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology* (ASTRO), the *Prostate Cancer Foundation*, and the *Society of Urologic Oncology* (SUO) and is designed for individuals with clinical or research interests in the evaluation and management of prostate cancer. The deadline for early registration and housing reservations is Tuesday, January 31st, 2006. Visit www.asco.org/asco/downloads/Prostate_Program_Announcement_FINAL.pdf for more information and to register.

Other ANCO Meetings

Additional ANCO meetings (e.g., Medicare Update 2006, Introduction to MedicareRx, an Updated ASCO Practice Management Curriculum, ASH Highlights, ASCO Highlights, 2006 Annual Meeting) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

November 29th

Advances in Radioimmunotherapy: What Lymphoma Patients Should Know
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

November 30th

Medical Update on Lung Cancer
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

December 9th

Glioblastoma: Current Treatments and Hope for the Future
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

December 10-13th

47th Annual Meeting
American Society of Hematology
Atlanta, GA

December 14th

The Latest Developments Reported at the 28th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

December 14th

Update on Lymphoma Treatment from the 2005 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

January 18th-23rd, 2006

Advances in the Understanding and Treatment of Melanoma
Keystone Symposia
Santa Fe, NM

January 29th-February 4th, 2006

MindBodySpirit Medicine: The Professional Training Program

Center for Mind-Body Medicine & University of

Minnesota
Berkeley

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 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 are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO's e-News, MMA Special Alerts, and MMA Todays
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (or subscribe to 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 ListSers for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information and has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

ListSers. The COC operates two e-mail based communications systems called ListSers. The COC-ADMIN ListServ is available to all ANCO and MOASC physician members, practice managers and nurses, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest *Association* news, special bulletins, legislative reports, and other information impacting oncology practices. To post an item to the COC-ADMIN ListServ, send e-mail to COC-ADMIN@californiaoncology.org.

The COC-CLINICAL ListServ is open only to ANCO and MOASC physician members for the secure exchange of information and ideas between physicians. To post an item to the COC-CLINICAL ListServ, send e-mail to COC-CLINICAL@californiaoncology.org.

All members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use these ListSers to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to oncology practices by sending their e-mail addresses to the ANCO office.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on November 9th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California legislative/regulatory issues, proposed California legislation, and public and private payer issue updates.
- Clinical and professional education, and *Annual Meeting* plans for 2006.
- Membership benefits and surveys.
- Nominations to the *Board* and strategic planning for the *Association*.
- Mid-year financial report.

- ANCO's ASCO *State Affiliate Grant Application* on emergency planning/preparedness.

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 in January 2006. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

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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Post Office Box 491
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Telephone: (650) 697-7020
hrexgreene17@hotmail.com

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*

*Cephalon • 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.

***Lilly Oncology's Alimta (pemetrexed; J9305, 10mg)* is reimbursable for some cancer treatments (mesothelioma or non-small cell lung cancer; ICD-9-CM 162.2-163.9) by DHS/MediCal for dates of service on or after November 1st. Providers must bill CPT-4 code 96410 with J9305 in conjunction with one of the acceptable diagnosis codes. Providers may bill for an entire vial of pemetrexed when it is necessary to discard the unused portion of the vial because only a partial dose was required to treat the patient.**

***Vidaza (azacitidine)* has been issued a unique HCPCS code (J9025; 1mg) effective for dates of service on or after January 1st, 2006. For additional information visit www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/pufdownload/anhcpddl.asp where you can **download the entire 2006 HCPCS annual update**.**

PhRMA has printed a **directory of patient assistance programs** offered by its member companies that provide free or reduced price medicine to people in need. Download this directory at www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf. In addition, the ***Patient Access Network Foundation (PANF)*** is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access

to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment. Patients or providers can contact PANF directly at (866) 316-PANF (7263) or visit www.patientaccessnetwork.org for more information. Finally, the *Patient Advocate Foundation* (PAF) helps lung cancer patients with co-payments for pharmaceutical treatments. Patients may enroll in the Co-Pay Relief program by calling (866) 512-3861 or visiting www.copays.org or www.patientadvocate.org.

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:

- cancer.stanfordhospital.com/newsEvents/events/default
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

UCSF's *5th Annual Clinical Cancer Update* takes place in Lake Tahoe on January 13-15th, 2006. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06003 for more information.

The *8th Annual Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado* will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* from March 10-12th. Registration and case submission materials can be obtained from ANCO or from Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

UCD's **online CME pain management courses** are now available at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm. In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California. Visit

www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm for additional information.

Clinical Trial News

ANCO members can obtain information about Institutional Member's clinical trials, including the latest edition of UCSF's *GI Oncology Trials Newsletter*, at www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

BreastCancerTrials.org (BCT) is a web-based, pilot project, to match breast cancer patients with clinical trials sponsored by the *National Cancer Institute's* (NCI) *Center for Bioinformatics*, the *University of California, San Francisco* (UCSF) *Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *Center of Excellence for Breast Cancer Care*. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's Personal Health Record (PHR) is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit www.breastcancertrials.org for more information.

Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials** at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/ where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37. The *National Cancer Institute* (NCI) also has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit patients. It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

Membership Dues for 2005

Membership renewal notices for 2006 will be mailed the first week in December. Watch for this mailing, pay your membership dues promptly, and be sure to add any physicians in your practice that are not members.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!