

# 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 March 25<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.]

José Luis González, ANCO *Executive Director*, represented ANCO at the *ACCC Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., March 9-12<sup>th</sup>, 2005*. Here are the highlights:

- CMS Administrator Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D. presented the keynote address highlighting CMS's focus on affordable, high quality, innovative, effective, and efficient health care. This

**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.

focus emphasizes better outcomes with higher patient and provider satisfaction for less cost. He pledged to protect beneficiary access to Medicare Part B drugs by monitoring access to care in the physician-office setting and ensuring that drugs and services are reimbursed appropriately. He asked the cancer care community to report access problems immediately via their national societies.

- A legislative/regulatory panel included staff from CMS and Congress. The Congressional staff emphasized their goal of providing fair reimbursement for the best clinical care. They did not expect any changes in MMA in 2005. CMS staff announced that 2Q05 ASPs will be announced in mid-March based on 4Q04 data. They also emphasized that approved MediGap insurance policies must cover the co-payments for demonstration project G codes. However, other secondary insurers are not subject to this requirement.

- Sessions on coding and billing reviewed basic practice management information and 2005 drug administration and demonstration project G coding and emphasized the importance of DMERC licensing so as to preserve pump revenue.

Additional information about these presentations is available from the ANCO office.

**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):

- ASCO announced the CPT Editorial Panel's recommendations to CMS regarding IV versus push infusions. Specifically:

*The CPT Editorial Panel addressed this issue by stating that an infusion of less than 15 minutes duration should be reported with the appropriate CPT code for the push technique (90775, 90776, 96409, 96411 or 96420) and that infusions lasting longer than 15 minutes should be reported with the*

*appropriate infusion code. The Panel also redefined an intravenous or intra-arterial push as an injection in which the healthcare professional who administers the substance/drug is continuously present to administer the injection and observe the patient, or an infusion of 15 minutes or less.*

Final adoption of these definitions by CMS is due very soon.

- ASCO/NCCS have prepared a **letter to patients on MMA**. Briefly, the letter states:

*You may have recently noticed changes in your payment for chemotherapy. That change is a result of the Medicare legislation passed by Congress in 2003. The government has recently shifted payments for cancer care by reducing payments for anti-cancer drugs and increasing payments for services. This new system now pays for all the different components of your cancer care.*

*Medicare also is now collecting information about how some of the symptoms of chemotherapy are managed. This is a positive step, as this information may result in better care for you and other patients in the future.*

*Most insurers require patients to pay a percentage of their medical bills, called a "co-payment." Medicare's co-payment is 20% of the total charges per visit. While patients' co-payments may vary depending on how they are being treated for their cancer, your co-payment for drugs will likely go down and the co-payment for services may go up. Overall, we believe that your total co-payment will be reduced under this new system.*

A copy of the letter may be downloaded from [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

- CMS's proposed **Competitive Acquisition Program** (CAP) for Part B drugs was released. ASCO's analysis of the announcement is available at [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma) (select Special Alerts) or via [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

- ASCO needs help identifying local carrier (i.e., NHIC/Medicare) coding/payment issues to be brought to

**CMS's attention.** (See *NHIC/Medicare & DHS/MediCal* for an update on NHIC/Medicare's processing of demonstration project G codes, however.) ASCO is passing along local information to CMS; and, CMS is reporting back to ASCO after contacting local carriers individually or via national teleconference. These are the questions ASCO needs answered:

1. Have you received payments for chemotherapy administration services rendered in 2005 and billed using the new G codes?
2. Did NHIC/Medicare recognize the new G codes and pay correctly based on the codes reported? Did you have any problems?
3. If you experienced problems with having your claims processed, please describe those problems.

Please be as specific as possible in your responses to ANCO (at ExecDir@anco-online.org) and ASCO (at practice@asco.org). Or call/FAX ASCO's *Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050/(703) 684-8364 to submit your information (absent any patient identifier information). Any information that you send to ASCO will be kept completely confidential.

Also bring these difficulties (and the resulting cash flow problems) to the attention of your *Congressional Representatives*. Meanwhile, ASCO's **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** have been updated to reflect local carrier implementation of drug administration and demonstration project G codes. They can be downloaded at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

• ASCO's *ASP Spreadsheet Tool & Guide* (available at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html)) allows you to analyze the impact of the 1Q05 Medicare drug allowables on your practice. It is very important that you report your actual prices to ASCO by sending a copy of your

completed spreadsheet to [aspspreadsheet@asco.org](mailto:aspspreadsheet@asco.org).

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.

### ***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* (March 2005) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_mar05.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar05.pdf). Among the items most relevant to oncology are:

- Appeals Amount in Controversy Requirements
- Drugs Paid by Average Selling Price
- Care Plan Oversight and HHA/Hospice Certification/Recertification Billing Reminder
- Chemotherapy Demonstration Project
- 2005 Annual Update for Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule
- Drug Administration Coding Changes and Reimbursement
- Electronic Health Records—CMS Doctors' Office Quality Information Technology (DOQ-IT) Demonstrations: Providing Leadership in the Adoption of Electronic Health Records
- Mandatory Electronic Submission of Medicare Claim
- Payment Limit for J0207
- Hospice Pre-Election Evaluation and Counseling Services
- ICD-9-CM Coding on Claims
- Injection Pricing and Payment Allowance Limits for Medicare Part B Drugs (January 2005 and Corrections)
- Interest Payment on Clean Claims Not Paid Timely

- Changes to the **Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD)** Edit
- Emergency and January 2005 Updates to the 2005 **Medicare Physician Fee Schedule** Database
- **Prolonged Physician Services** (With Direct Face-to-Face Contact)
- **Remittance Advice Remark Code and Claim Adjustment Reason Code** Update
- Modification to Reporting of Diagnosis Codes for **Screening Mammography** Claims
- **Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)** Consolidated Billing (Aranesp and Procrit; Services Furnished Under an "Arrangement" with an Outside Entity; HCPCS; Enforcement)

With regard to NHIC/Medicare and MMA in California, here is a summary of recent communications between the carrier and ANCO:

- At ANCO's request, NHIC/Medicare published an **article on drug administration coding** at [www.medicarenhic.com/providers/billing/drugadminrev\\_0305.htm](http://www.medicarenhic.com/providers/billing/drugadminrev_0305.htm)
- NHIC/Medicare also published an **article on the demonstration project G codes** at [www.medicarenhic.com/providers/billing/chemodemo\\_0205.htm](http://www.medicarenhic.com/providers/billing/chemodemo_0205.htm)
- NHIC/Medicare sent the following **message to ANCO members**:

*Information regarding coverage and billing for the new Drug Administration codes and Chemotherapy Demonstration codes came late in December 2004. Edits were developed as quickly as possible to ensure that claims were being submitted and processed according to Medicare coverage and billing guidelines. In researching various examples that were submitted through ANCO indicating claims were being delayed, we discovered that **demonstration claims were being held up without need due to an internal edit dealing with those codes**. The real intent of editing is to deal with the claims that do not meet the criteria... The edit was revised on February 24<sup>th</sup> and the claims being held were put back through*

*the system. Providers are all starting to get settled demonstration code claims. NHIC is sorry for the delays in getting these claims processed.*

*Due to the complexity of the annual release and the number of changes taking place, the education teams are not always aware of edits in place until someone reports a problem. Sometimes problems are discovered during our internal quality checking. Often times they come to our attention through our relationships with the providers and the provider associations. These open lines of communication are important to us. Please continue to let us know of any further issues so we can work together to get them resolved.*

In a follow-up communication, NHIC/Medicare assured ANCO that **any claim that was not settled in thirty (30) days would pay interest** since the suspended demonstration project claims were held "in-house...and considered clean claims."

Also with respect to 2005 G codes, **heparin and sodium chloride are both included in the administration code for port flush (G0363)** and should not be claimed separately.

**Claims to NHIC/Medicare for Aranesp and Procrit that initially denied for lack of a hematocrit and weight** despite including this information, were denied in error and can be corrected via telephonic appeal.

NHIC/Medicare, in a website article entitled ***Xeloda (capecitabine) in lieu of 5-FU for cancer therapy***, announced that it will cover the Part B-reimbursed components of any chemotherapy regimens which typically include 5-FU, whether the clinician's judgment leads to inclusion of 5-FU or capecitabine (Xeloda) in the regimen.

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, CMS and NHIC/Medicare will begin to implement a process by which **non-HIPAA compliant (aka "paper") claims could be denied for providers who do not meet with a waiver or an exception**. The details of this compliance are provided in the following MedLearn Matters article available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3440.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3440.pdf). After July 1<sup>st</sup>, NHIC/Medicare will have the ability to track

and identify providers that submit non-compliant claims, who then may be asked to substantiate their presumed waivers or exceptions. Only after such waivers/exceptions are not substantiated (or no response given) would denials occur. Please note that one of the waivers/exceptions to this compliance is for physicians, practitioners, or suppliers with fewer than ten (10) FTEs that bill a Medicare carrier. More detailed information is available by reading the CMS transmittal at [www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm\\_trans/R450CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R450CP.pdf)

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 posted on ANCO's WebLog (at [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html); under California News).

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Medicare Advisory Forum* (MAF) teleconference took place on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Among the items discussed most relevant to oncology were:

- Oncology (new drug administration and demonstration project codes) has been a hot topic at the current workshops.
- California LCDs/LMRPs are now saved at the CMS website and accessed via the NHIC/Medicare website.
- ANCO recommended that NHIC/Medicare organize an *Ask the Contractor Teleconference* (ACT) on oncology coding.

The next *NHIC/Medicare Advisory Forum* (MAF) teleconference takes place on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ANCO met with officials of DHS/MediCal on February 28<sup>th</sup>. They would like to know about ANCO member practice experience with the DHS/MediCal system. Specifically:**

1. What DHS/MediCal claims processing and coverage issues interfere with beneficiary access to cancer care?

2. Examples where DHS/MediCal is NOT paying the co-insurance on Medicare drug claims. DHS/Medicare will pay the 20% co-insurance up to MediCal's maximum allowable cost, whichever is less.

3. If you provide information regarding items 1 and 2 above, then please estimate the proportion of your patient population that is covered by DHS/MediCal.

In addition, they offered their EDS training team at (800) 541-5555 as a resource to help practices with DHS/MediCal claims processing problems.

## EDUCATION

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

### *MMA in California & ASCO's Practice Management Curriculum*

On Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at the San José Fairmont and Sacramento Hyatt Regency, respectively, ANCO will host a day long (9AM to 4PM) meeting discussing *MMA*

*in California & ASCO's Practice Management Curriculum*. Topics to be discussed include strategies to overcome Medicare coding and documentation challenges in 2005, NHIC/Medicare's perspective on the implementation of MMA in Northern California, and ASCO's *Practice Management Curriculum* which is designed to empower oncology practices with practical strategies for adapting to the changing Medicare environment, running a successful practice, and considering growth opportunities. ANCO acknowledges the support of AMGEN, Genentech BioOncology, MGI Pharma, National Oncology Alliance, Novartis Oncology, Therapeutics Network/Onmark, and Pfizer Oncology in making these meetings possible. Meeting announcements were mailed in late February.

#### ANCO thanks

AMGEN, Genentech BioOncology, MGI Pharma, National Oncology Alliance, Novartis Oncology, Oncology Therapeutics Network/Onmark, & Pfizer Oncology

for supporting clinical and professional education.

## SAVE THE DATE ASCO's Best of ASCO

On Friday and Saturday, June 17-18<sup>th</sup>, ASCO brings its annual *Best of ASCO* program to San Francisco's Marriott Hotel. Visit [www.asco.org/boa](http://www.asco.org/boa) for additional details. Watch for an announcement in the near future of an ANCO event on Friday evening of this meeting.

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Advances in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Medical Update on Pancreatic Cancer*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

March 26<sup>th</sup>

*Each One Reach One: Working Together to Make a Change—What African American Women Need to Know About Breast Cancer*  
Northern California Cancer Center  
Oakland

March 30<sup>th</sup>

*What's New on the Horizon: Treatment Choices for Men Living with Advanced Prostate Cancer*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>,  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>

*Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

April 1<sup>st</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Lung Cancer*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>

*The Third Annual Cancer Survivorship Series:  
Living With, Through, & Beyond Cancer*  
CancerCare (and others)  
Telephone Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org))

June 19-25<sup>th</sup>

*Food As Medicine*  
Center for Mind-Body Medicine  
Oakland

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) and *Oncology Supply* (OS), and with *National Oncology Alliance* (NOA) and *Oncology Therapeutics Network* (OTN) for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

**ION's 2005 meeting schedule** in California (and adjacent states) includes:

- West Coast Nursing Meeting (Las Vegas; Apr. 15-17)
- Lung Symposium (Las Vegas; Apr. 29-May 1)
- Business of Oncology (San Francisco; Jun. 24-26)

NOA's Spring Conference entitled *Survival Strategies in a Changing Environment* will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia. This meeting promises to equip all attendees, including physicians, nurses, and administrators, with practical clinical tools and reimbursement strategies that can easily be implemented in the oncology practice. Topics will include new coding and reimbursement strategies, supportive care assessment and management tools, NOA Compare, and NOA Clinical Guidelines. Registration is available at [www.noainc.com](http://www.noainc.com).

### *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 the membership. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on March 22<sup>nd</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*

*The ANCO Directory of Members & Membership Information 2004* was published and mailed to all physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives last June. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2005.

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

## ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

### Deb Shearer

Mt. Diablo Regional Cancer Center  
2571 Park Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520  
Telephone: (925) 674-2100  
FAX: (925) 689-5135  
[debbshearer01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbshearer01@sbcglobal.net)

## DRUG REIMBURSEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### MGI Pharma

#### *Aloxi Alliance Program*

(866) 30-ALOXI;

#### *Aloxi*

Coverage, coding, and reimbursement information; payer research and insurance verification; problem claims assistance; and, patient assistance program.

### 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  
AstraZeneca • Bayer Biologicals  
Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cell Therapeutics • Chiron Corporation  
Genentech BioOncology  
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health  
GlaxoSmithKline  
International Oncology Network  
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants  
Ligand Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology  
Matrix Oncology • MedImmune Oncology  
MGI Pharma • Millennium  
National Oncology Alliance  
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply  
Oncology Therapeutics Network  
Oncotech • Ortho Biotech  
OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology*

*Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology  
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen  
US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology*

**MGI Pharma reports that Aloxi's (J2469) billing unit is 25mcg and that it has a fixed .25mg dose.** Therefore, all Aloxi claims should be for 10 units.

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](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf).

**MGI Pharma has made a donation the Patient Access Network Foundation (PANF).** 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. To be eligible for assistance, patients must meet certain financial, insurance, and medical criteria. Patients or providers can contact PANF directly at (866) 316-PANF (7263) or visit [www.patientaccessnetwork.org](http://www.patientaccessnetwork.org) for more information.

**Second notices of Corporate Membership renewal were mailed in early March 2005. Return your 2005 Corporate Membership dues to ANCO at your earliest convenience.** ANCO members are also encouraged to provide the names of organizations that are not currently Corporate Members to the ANCO office.

### 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*

**ANCO members can obtain information about our Institutional Member's clinical trials at [www.anco-online.org/trials.html](http://www.anco-online.org/trials.html).** 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/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/) where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.



The *National Cancer Institute* (NCI) has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit patients available from (800) 4-CANCER or [www.cancer.gov/publications](http://www.cancer.gov/publications). It is also **building a website for people who are seeking information on cancer risk**. The website is in the early stages of development and NCI wants to test it with individuals who meet specific criteria (i.e., no previous history of cancer, over 40 years of age, English speaking, able to use a Windows-based computer, access to the Internet). Please refer eligible individuals to the NCI at (888) 249-0029.

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)

UCSF's *1st International Symposium on Cancer Metastasis and the Lymphovascular System* takes place in San Francisco on April 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Visit [cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MSU05002](http://cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MSU05002) for more information.

UCSF's *Pain Management and End-of-Life Care* takes place in San Francisco on June 9-10<sup>th</sup>. This course is designed for all physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who care for patients in pain or with life-threatening illness. It meets California's requirement that physicians take 12 hours of CME in pain and palliative care. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=DMM05513](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=DMM05513) for more information.

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). In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California and Hawaii. Visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm) for additional information.

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

[education/index.html](http://education/index.html) for more information.

### *Publications, Services, & Surveys*

ANCO will repeat its **MMA Impact Survey** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2005. Data collected will be compared with that collected in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2004. Please be sure to complete and return the ANCO MMA Impact Survey upon its receipt.

Every two years

ANCO will conduct its biennial **Practice Staff Salary Survey** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2005. 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.

### *Membership Dues for 2005*

**Second notices of membership renewal were mailed in early March 2005.** Return your 2005 membership dues to ANCO at your earliest convenience and renew your membership for 2005 as soon as possible. Be sure to take advantage of dues discounts and provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1<sup>st</sup> will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, will no longer be eligible for participation in ANCO's discounted pharmaceutical pricing programs, or receive any other ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

**A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!**