

# 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 January 20<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, 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.]

**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):

- The 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee*

**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 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.

**Schedule** for California is available at [www.medicarenhic.com/cal\\_prov/fee\\_sched.shtml#60](http://www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml#60). The fee schedule continues to reflect a 4.4% reduction pending *Congressional* action. *Congress* adjourned before coming to any agreement about the *Budget Reconciliation Act*, which included a fix to the scheduled cut of 4.4% for all physicians. As a result, the cut became effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Physicians filing claims this month will see the 4.4% cut to services until *Congress* reconvenes and addresses this issue.

- **2006 drug administration CPT codes** are available on the *American Medical Association* website ([www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html); select *What's New*). ASCO's cross-reference sheet between the 2006 CPT codes, Medicare's 2005 G-codes, and the 2005 CPT codes for drug administration is available at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006\\_CODING\\_CROSS\\_REFERENCE\\_SHEET\\_final.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006_CODING_CROSS_REFERENCE_SHEET_final.pdf). There is no grace period on the use of 2006 CPT codes—they are effective and must be used as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. This, and ASCO's FAQs for 2006 Drug Administration, is also available via [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

- **HCPCS code additions, changes, and deletions** are accessible via CMS at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html). Among the changes are HCPCS codes for darbepoetin alfa and epoetin alfa.

- **2006 drug reimbursement remains at ASP plus 6%. 1Q06 Average Sales Prices (ASP) may be downloaded** at [www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/02\\_aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/02_aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage).

- **The *Competitive Acquisition Program* (CAP) will be implemented on July 1<sup>st</sup>.** CMS anticipates that the physician election process will take place in early to mid-Spring 2006 (i.e., April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>).

- Regarding the **2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program***, visit [www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org) for the following resources:

- ✓ ASCO's 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program* Fact Sheet

- ✓ ASCO's 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program* G Codes

- ✓ ASCO's How to Determine the Impact of the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program* on Your Practice

- ✓ ASCO's FAQs on the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program* (updated January 5<sup>th</sup>)

- ✓ ASCO's Disease-Specific Documentation Templates

- ✓ ASCO Treatment Guidelines

- ✓ NCCN Treatment Guidelines

- ✓ CMS's Documentation and Coding Guidelines

- ✓ CMS's Medlearn Matters Article Describing Coding and Billing Requirements

- ✓ CMS Instructions to Carriers

CMS's Fact Sheet is available at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006\\_Chemo\\_Demo\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006_Chemo_Demo_Factsheet.pdf). ASCO will launch a dedicated webpage at [www.asco.org/2006demo](http://www.asco.org/2006demo) on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

- **ASCO will hold a national audio conference on Medicare 2006 on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM Pacific Time to address the many Medicare changes taking place in 2006, including implementation of the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program*, revised CPT codes for drug administration, and the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit.** To register or for more information, visit [www.asco.org/2006\\_audiocall](http://www.asco.org/2006_audiocall) or e-mail [ASCOaudioconference@asco.org](mailto:ASCOaudioconference@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. And, **join ASCO's Grassroots Advocacy Network** at [www.asco.org/grassroots\\_survey](http://www.asco.org/grassroots_survey).

**Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) coverage is effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.** Medicare beneficiaries who are interested in obtaining more information about enrollment, coverage, and more details should contact 800-Medicare (or 800-633-4227), the *Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program* (HICAP) at (800) 434-0222, or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Additional resources for healthcare professionals are available at [new.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnProducts/23\\_DrugCoverage.asp](http://new.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnProducts/23_DrugCoverage.asp)

**ACCC's Medicare Part D presentation** is available at [www.accc-cancer.org/edu/whitfieldpresentation.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/edu/whitfieldpresentation.pdf). **ACCC's *Choosing Directions: Oncology Reimbursement at the Crossroads*** explores what Medicare Part D and the 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* means for oncology practices. These webcasts continue through January 17<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.accc-cancer.org/EDU/edu\\_webeducation.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/EDU/edu_webeducation.asp) for additional information, dates/times, and to register. You can download this presentation, and the Bayer/Onyx presentation entitled *Demystify Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefits* at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html). **ASCO's Medicare Part D Fact Sheet** is available at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/fact\\_sheet\\_medicare\\_part\\_d11-21-05.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/fact_sheet_medicare_part_d11-21-05.pdf) (or via [www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org)).

### **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.]

ANCO and MOASC have formed the ***California Oncology Political Action Committee*** or CalCancerPAC. ANCO launched fund-raising efforts for CalCancerPAC in December with its membership dues renewal. CalCancerPAC's goal will be to support candidates sensitive to the needs of oncologists and their patients in California.

### **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 advises ANCO that the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Program* is only open to hematologists and oncologists. It is not open to internists.** Some ANCO members may be classified in the NHIC/Medicare system as internists and may have their 2006 claims for the *Oncology Demonstration Program* denied. Physicians may contact NHIC/Medicare Customer Service at (877) 527-6613 to determine how they are classified. Internists may change their specialty by completing the applicable sections of Form 855I. Please be advised that it may take up to 60 days for any changes to be implemented. Verify your NHIC/Medicare specialty classification today!

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2005) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_dec05.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec05.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 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*).

## **EDUCATION**

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

### ***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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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. Meeting

announcements and registration forms were mailed in late December. Visit [www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html) for more information and to download the meeting announcement and registration form.

### **Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2006**

ANCO's annual Medicare update programs will take place from January 24-26<sup>th</sup> in San José, Fresno, and San Francisco, respectively. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., and Patricia Falconer, M.B.A., will present the latest information on changes in general Medicare reimbursement and Medicare reimbursement for oncology. The speakers will describe these changes as well as provide information on how to analyze their impact on your oncology practice.

Visit [www.anco-online.org/medicareupdate2006.html](http://www.anco-online.org/medicareupdate2006.html) for more information and to download a registration form.

### **Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients—A Patient Education Program**

ANCO is joining the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* (among others) to bring this year's groundbreaking information from the *American Society of Hematology (ASH) 2005 Annual Meeting* to patients and their caregivers. This free program at the *Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel* in San Francisco takes place on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and includes breakfast and lunch. The faculty includes experts from *University of California, San Francisco, Stanford University, Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center, and California Cancer Care*. For more information please contact Jeremiah Larsen at (866) 450-0669 or visit [www.LLS.org/sf/ash](http://www.LLS.org/sf/ash). Please note that this is a patient education program and that ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2005* for healthcare professionals will take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (see below).

### **ASCO's 2006 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium**

ASCO's 2006 *Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Therapy of GI Cancers* will be held January 26-28<sup>th</sup>, in San Francisco. In addition to ASCO, the *Symposium* is sponsored by the *American Gastroenterological Association*, the *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*, and the *Society of Surgical Oncology*. The 2006 *Symposium* will offer educational sessions and abstract presentations focused on a different gastrointestinal disease site, with a day each devoted to esophageal and stomach cancers (Day 1); pancreatic, small bowel and hepatobiliary cancers (Day 2); and colon and rectal cancers (Day 3). General sessions

throughout the meeting will focus on prevention, screening, diagnosis; multidisciplinary treatment; translational research; and current controversies in the field. Visit [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006\\_GI\\_Program\\_Announcement\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/2006_GI_Program_Announcement_FINAL.pdf) for more information and to register.

### **SAVE THE DATE ASH Highlights 2005**

ANCO's annual *ASH Highlights 2005* will take place on Wednesday evening, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Steven Coutre, M.D., Peter Greenberg, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Joseph Tuscano, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Charles Linker, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be moderated by Steven Coutre, M.D., *Stanford*, and accredited by ASCO. Meeting announcements and registration forms will be mailed in late January.

ANCO thanks

*AMGEN, APP/Abraxis Oncology,  
AstraZeneca,  
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals,  
Genentech BioOncology, Genomic Health,  
Lilly Oncology, MGI Pharma  
Novartis Oncology,  
Onmark/Oncology Therapeutics Network,  
Ortho Biotech, Pfizer Oncology,  
Roche Oncology, and Sanofi Aventis Oncology*

for supporting clinical and professional education.

### **ASCO's Prostate Cancer Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach**

ASCO's *Prostate Cancer Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach* will be held February 24-26<sup>th</sup>, 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. Visit [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/Prostate\\_Program\\_Announcement\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/Prostate_Program_Announcement_FINAL.pdf) for more information and to register.

### **Additional Education Meetings**

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Advances in the Understanding and Treatment of Melanoma*

Keystone Symposia  
Santa Fe, NM

January 24-27<sup>th</sup>  
*Medicine Meets Virtual Reality*  
Aligned Management Associates  
Long Beach

January 27<sup>th</sup>  
*Progress in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*  
CancerCare  
Telephone Education Workshop

January 29<sup>th</sup>-February 4<sup>th</sup>  
*MindBodySpirit Medicine: The Professional Training Program*  
Center for Mind-Body Medicine & University of Minnesota  
Berkeley

February 8-10<sup>th</sup>  
*Community Oncology Conference*  
Washington, DC

February 14-19<sup>th</sup>  
*Cancer and Kinases: Lessons from the Clinic*  
Keystone Symposia  
Santa Fe, NM

February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>  
*26<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Hematology & Oncology Conference*  
Scripps Cancer Center  
San Diego

March 4<sup>th</sup>  
*5<sup>th</sup> Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Conference: Breast Cancer—Real Questions, Real Answers*  
Allison Taylor Holbrooks Breast Cancer Research Fund & Northern California Cancer Center  
San Francisco

March 5-9<sup>th</sup>  
*Spring Conference*  
California Hospice Foundation  
Berkeley

March 6-10<sup>th</sup>  
*Molecular Targets for Cancer Prevention*  
Keystone Symposia  
Tahoe City

March 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
*37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Palm Springs

March 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
*59<sup>th</sup> Annual SSO Cancer Symposium*  
Society of Surgical Oncology  
San Diego

March 27<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Stem Cells*  
Keystone Symposia  
Whistler, BC

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).]

### **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, 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 and Medicare & Quality Care 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.

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial to the practicing oncologist. The *Board* constantly identifies, reviews, and approves of additional membership benefits. In addition to the benefits derived from its advocacy, educational, and information dissemination activities, ANCO members also benefit from group purchasing activities from a number of vendors. In this vein:

- **ANCO is pleased to introduce *Oncology Therapeutic Network's* preferred group purchasing organization, *Onmark*, to its members.** *Onmark* shares OTN's longstanding commitment to extend and enhance the lives of cancer patients and provide the support community oncology practices need to prosper.

- **ANCO added *Oncology Pharmaceutical Services* (OPS) to the list of preferred vendors for products and services to the membership in late 2005.** An introduction to OPS was FAXed to all member practices in early September 2005. Additional information was included in the 2006 membership renewal mailing. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or [sean.taylor@usoncology.com](mailto:sean.taylor@usoncology.com) for more information.

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

NOA has launched the *Educating Clinicians to Achieve Treatment Guideline Effectiveness (EDUCATE) Study*. This *Study* will evaluate whether education improves adherence to evidence-based treatment guidelines and whether clinical patient outcomes are improved. For more information about the EDUCATE study, visit [www.noainc.com/noa/clinical-services/educate-study.aspx](http://www.noainc.com/noa/clinical-services/educate-study.aspx) or call (866) 466-2462.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### *Annual Election Results*

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for the indicated terms):

Norman Cohen, M.D. (Oakland, 2008)  
John A. Keech, Jr., D.O. (Chico, 2008)  
Daniel P. Mirda, M.D. (Napa, 2008)  
Roger Shiffman, M.D. (Monterey, 2008)

Drs. Bohannon (San Francisco, 2006), Fisher (Stanford, 2007), Hardy (Ukiah, 2006), Hufford (San Francisco, 2007), Keiser (Santa Rosa, 2006), Miller (Sacramento, 2007), Patel (Antioch, 2006), and Yu (Sunnyvale, 2007) continue on the *Board*. ANCO salutes Drs. Adler, Alexander, and Kramer for their service to the *Association*.

### *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 meeting** will take place on January 20<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*

John A. Keech, Jr., D.O., ANCO *Board Member*, and past ANCO *President* and past *Chair*, ASCO *Clinical Practice Committee*, has been nominated to the ASCO *Board of*

*Directors*. ANCO urges you to vote for Dr. Keech during the ASCO *Board* election.

*The ANCO Directory of Members & Membership Information 2005* was published and mailed in June 2005 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):

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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  
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Cephalon Oncology • Chiron Corporation  
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OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology  
Pharmion • Roche Oncology  
Sanofi Aventis Oncology  
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen  
Wyeth Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Pharmion* as a new Corporate Member in 2006.

**AMGEN is supporting *Incorporating New Concepts in the Adjuvant Therapy of Breast Cancer into Your Practice***, a series of audio conferences featuring Larry Norton, M.D. The audio conferences commence on January 18<sup>th</sup> and are being offered on various dates/times through February 16<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.larrynortoncme.com](http://www.larrynortoncme.com) for additional information and to register.

**Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals announced that the FDA has approved Nexavar (sorafenib) tablets for the treatment of patients**

with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC), or kidney cancer.

**Genentech BioOncology is supporting *Understanding Community Oncology Coding Guidelines for Optimal Patient Care***, a series of web conferences designed for oncology practice administrators and community oncologists featuring Risë Cleland and Michele Weiss. The web conferences commence on January 17<sup>th</sup> and are being offered on various dates/times through February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Visit [www.cmesignup.com/coding2006](http://www.cmesignup.com/coding2006) for additional information and to register.

**MGI Pharma's Aloxi (palonosetron; J2469, 25mcg) is covered for acute and delayed emesis due to emetogenic chemotherapy by DHS/MediCal effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.** Aloxi may be combined with aprepitant and dexamethasone for maximal patient benefit for both acute and delayed emesis due to highly emetogenic chemotherapy. Providers should use the same billable units (10 per vial) that Medicare Part B uses. The incorrect CPT code (96408) has been downloaded into the DHS/MediCal system. The DHS/MediCal *Medical Director* advises providers to use this code until the correct code is updated in the system. Visit [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/bulletins/gm/gm20051201.pdf](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/bulletins/gm/gm20051201.pdf) for additional information or call the Aloxi Hotline at (866) 302-5694.

**Pharmion's Vidaza has been assigned a permanent J code (J9025) effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### ***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](http://cancer.stanfordhospital.com/newsEvents/events/default)

- [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 **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Cancer Update** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 13-15<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06003](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06003) for more information.

The **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado** will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* from March 10-12<sup>th</sup>. Tumor boards on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecological, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; and, supportive and palliative care will be presented by faculty from *Stanford, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. Registration and case submission materials can be downloaded from [www.anco-online.org/education.html](http://www.anco-online.org/education.html) or obtained from Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or [schafer@stanford.edu](mailto:schafer@stanford.edu).

### ***Membership Dues for 2006***

**Membership renewal notices for 2006 were mailed to all members the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Return your 2006 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory 2006*.** Be sure to 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!**