

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 10th.

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 are resources available to practices:

- The updated 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* for California is available at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/

**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.

fee_sched.shtml#60. As a result of the *Deficit Reduction Act*, and the revision to the 2006 physician update, CMS is **offering a second enrollment period** for physicians to reconsider their decisions in light of the revised 0 percent update. The second enrollment period began on February 15th and will run for 45 days.

- **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*). ASCO's cross-reference sheet between the 2006 CPT codes, Medicare's 2005 G-codes, and the 2005 CPT codes for drug administration and *FAQs for 2006 Drug Administration*, are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html.

- **HCPCS code additions, changes, and deletions** are accessible via CMS at www.anco-online.org/mma.html.

- **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.

- Regarding the **2006 Oncology Demonstration Project**, visit www.anco-online.org/mma.html for the following resources:

- ✓ ASCO's 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* Fact Sheet, FAQs, G Codes, and How to Determine the Impact of the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* on Your Practice.

- ✓ ASCO's Disease-Specific Documentation Templates (with additional documentation templates from Florida posted on *ANCO News On-Line* on January 31st).

- ✓ ASCO's new webpage dedicated to the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* is at www.asco.org/2006demo.

- ✓ ASCO & NCCN Treatment Guidelines.

- ✓ CMS's Documentation and Coding Guidelines, Medlearn Matters Article

Describing Coding and Billing Requirements, and Instructions to Carriers.

All ANCO member practices are invited and encouraged to participate in the **ASCO/AOHA Support Services Study**. It is critical that as many practices as possible participate in this *Study* that:

- Will be used to help ensure proper reimbursement for supportive services and potentially contribute to the development of new billing codes related to these services. Participation in this *Study* by as many practices as possible is essential.

- Does not request any detailed financial data. The only financial information that is requested is a breakdown of payer mix.

- Will keep practice data completely confidential.

- Will take some time to complete. Practices who need help or have questions along the way should feel free to call Stephanie Cameron at the *Lewin Group*.

The deadline for submitting data is March 17th. Download the *Study* cover letter and questionnaire at www.anco-online.org/news/C2014088334/E20060217134708/index.html. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bela Sastry at ASCO (703-299-1050, sastryb@asco.org) or Stephanie Cameron (at (703-269-5754, stephanie.cameron@lewin.com)).

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.

ASCO's Legislative Conference takes place April 26-27th in Washington, D.C. This will be a valuable opportunity to interact directly from *Congress* and other national leaders responsible for policies that affect oncology. Visit www.asco.org/legislative_conference for more

information and to register.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) coverage was effective January 1st. 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. The following resources may also be helpful to member practices:

- ACCC's Medicare Part D presentation, *Choosing Directions: Oncology Reimbursement at the Crossroads*, and the Bayer/Onyx presentation entitled *Demystify Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefits* are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html.
- ASCO's Medicare Part D Fact Sheet is available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html. Please contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 or publicpolicy@asco.org to share your experience with Medicare Part D.

In the previous issue of the *ANCO FAX News*, it was reported that according to a **summary of CMS's Open Door Forum on MedicareRx** prepared by the *Lash Group Healthcare Consultants* (an ANCO Corporate Member), it is CMS policy that:

- Part D plans cannot pay for drugs covered by Part B.

Actually, PDPs may list Part B drugs. Therefore, some drugs may be paid for by either Part D or Part B, depending on the site of acquisition and administration.

ASCO and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) recently announced the **formation of the Cancer Quality Alliance**, a forum for diverse stakeholders in the cancer community whose mission is to improve the quality of care provided to people with cancer. Leaders from ASCO and NCCS will co-chair the *Alliance* which will work to foster collaboration among organizations in the cancer community that are committed to

cancer care quality improvement and seek to eliminate unnecessary duplication.

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:

- In 2003, *Governor* Gray Davis's administration authored and signed a bill that reduced MediCal provider rates by 5%. After legal attempts to reverse the rate cut failed, SB912 was introduced this year in the *California Legislature*. SB912, sponsored by CMA and supported by ANCO, permanently eliminated the rate cut. The bill received bi-partisan support in the *Senate* and *Assembly*, was signed by *Governor* Schwarzenegger, and contained an urgency clause that allows it to go into effect immediately.

AB651 (California's Compassionate Choices Act) is modeled on the Oregon law that legalized physician-assisted suicide. Last year, ANCO led the opposition to this legislation. ANCO recently sent a survey and background material to all physician members asking:

- Do you personally support AB651?
___ Yes ___ No ___ Not sure
- Shall ANCO
___ support ___ oppose
AB651?
- If passed, would you assist a patient commit suicide?
___ Yes ___ No ___ Not sure

Please return your Survey as soon as possible.

ANCO and MOASC have formed the **California Oncology Political Action Committee** or CalCancerPAC. ANCO launched fund-raising efforts for CalCancerPAC in December 2005 with its

membership dues renewal. CalCancerPAC's goal is to support candidates sensitive to the needs of oncologists and their patients in California.

CMA is cosponsoring the *Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's* conference entitled *Physicians Adopting Computer Technology* on March 25th at the *San Francisco Airport Marriot*. Attendees will receive step-by-step guidance on selecting and implementing electronic medical records. Visit www.calphys.org/html/cc057.asp for more information.

CMA's *32nd Annual Legislative Leadership Conference* is April 4th at the *Sheraton Grand Hotel* in Sacramento. This conference provides physicians with a unique opportunity to learn about issues that affect the practice of medicine in California. As always, the day's schedule includes time for physicians to meet face to face with their legislators for frank discussions of state and local health care issues. ANCO is a cosponsor of this *Conference*. Please contact the ANCO office for additional information.

CMA's *9th Annual California Health Care Leadership Academy: Reengineering Health Care—Meeting Future Expectations Without Breaking the Bank* takes place May 5-7th at the *Esmeralda Resort and Spa* in Indian Wells. This conference is the premiere health policy and leadership training event for physicians who need to keep abreast of trends in the health care marketplace. Visit www.cmanet.org/leadership for more information and to register.

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 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.

The *California HealthCare Foundation* (CHCF) and CMA have collaborated to offer clinicians a significant discount on a Palm[®] Z22 handheld computer and Epocrates Rx Pro[®] premium software bundle (priced at \$99, a discount of nearly 40%) that will allow them to easily find the latest information on Medicare Part D prescription drug programs. The Palm Z22 can be used by physicians to select appropriate medicines from the varied and multiple formularies, check for drug interactions, and find drug alternatives. This offer, which is being made through *PDA Verticals*, is available through the end of May 2006. For more information visit www.pdamd.com/caoffer or call (800) 462-0388.

CMA's all new 2006 *California Physician's Legal Handbook* is even more comprehensive than prior editions and extensively indexed by subject, law, website, form, and court case. Available in six-volume print or CD-ROM versions, the *Handbook* answers the legal questions most frequently asked by physicians. It includes practical summaries of California and Federal laws as well as sample forms and letters. Order online via the CMA Bookstore at www.cmanet.org or via the attached flyer.

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 2006) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar06.pdf. Among the items most relevant to oncology are:

- 2006 Oncology Demonstration Project

ANCO, MOASC, and NHIC/Medicare met and teleconferenced on Tuesday, February 21st. Among the highlights of this meeting were:

- NHIC/Medicare will submit a proposal in September 2006 to become the *Medicare Administrative Contractor* (MAC) for California, Hawaii, and Nevada beginning in September 2007.

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*).

DHS/MediCal has approved coverage of bevacizumab (100mg; S0116) for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer and non-small cell, non-squamous lung cancer. S0116 is reimbursed when billed in conjunction with ICD-9 codes 153.0-154.8 or 162.2-162.9. When billed for the treatment of colorectal cancer, document "metastatic colorectal cancer" in box 19.

United Government Services (UGS), the Medicare Part A fiscal intermediary for California, has formulated a new draft Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for darbepoetin alfa. The draft LCD is open for comment through March 17th. It may be viewed at www.ugsmedicare.com/providers/lmrp/DraftIndex.asp.

EDUCATION

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

ASH Highlights 2005

ANCO's annual *ASH Highlights 2005* took place on Wednesday evening, February 22nd at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Steven E. Coutr , M.D., Peter L. Greenberg, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Joseph M. Tuscano, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Charles Linker, M.D.) reviewed the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting* before an audience of approximately 80 physicians, nurses, and others. This meeting was moderated by Steven E. Coutr , M.D., *Stanford*, and accredited

by ASCO. Download the presentations at www.anco-online.org/ash.html.

5th Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference: Breast Cancer—Real Questions, Real Answers

ANCO is pleased to partner with the *Allison Taylor Holbrooks Breast Cancer Research Fund* and the *Northern California Cancer Center on Breast Cancer—Real Questions, Real Answers*. This year's program takes place at the *Golden Gate Club* (The Presidio) in San Francisco on March 4th. Speakers will present new and practical information about living with a diagnosis of breast cancer. For additional information or to

register, visit www.nccc.org.

ACCC's 32nd Annual National Meeting: Strategies & Tools for Quality Care

ACCC's 32nd Annual National Meeting: *Strategies & Tools For Quality Care* takes place March 14-17th at the *Crystal Gateway Marriott* in Arlington, Virginia. This meeting will examine the challenges ahead for hospital cancer programs and oncology

practices. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/MEET/meet_annual.asp for additional information and to register.

ASCO's Oncology Communications Workshop

ASCO's *Oncology Communications Workshop* takes place April 6-8th at the *Renaissance Harborplace Hotel*, in Baltimore, Maryland. Through small, interactive group sessions, the *Oncology Communication Workshop* will provide practical experience and techniques that will enable participants to improve their daily practices. Attendees apply new strategies directly and immediately through expert-guided role-

ANCO thanks

*Berlex Laboratories, biogenIDEC,
Cephalon Oncology, Genentech BioOncology,
GlaxoSmithKline,
International Oncology Network/
Oncology Supply
Millennium, Novartis Oncology,
Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics,
Schering Plough Oncology,
and
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services*

for supporting clinical and professional education.

playing scenarios. Attendance is limited to 100 participants. Visit www.asco.org/commworkshop for more information and to register.

SAVE THE DATE

ANCO/NOA ASCO Highlights 2006

ANCO's annual *ASCO Highlights 2006*, this year in collaboration with the *National Oncology Alliance*, will take place on Saturday morning, July 22nd at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. *Program Chairs* are Lawrence Einhorn, M.D., *Indiana University*, and Margaret Tempero, M.D., *UC San Francisco*. Faculty from *Indiana University* (Lawrence Einhorn, M.D.), *Stanford University* (George Fisher, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Primo Lara, M.D.), *UC San Francisco* (Hope Rugo, M.D.), and *UC Los Angeles* (John Glaspy, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at June's *ASCO Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be accredited by *Indiana University*. Meeting announcements and registration forms will be mailed in late May.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

February 28th
Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML): Update from the ASH Annual Meeting

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

March 6-8th
Spring Conference
California Hospice Foundation
Berkeley

March 6-10th
Molecular Targets for Cancer Prevention
Keystone Symposia
Tahoe City

March 15th, April 19th, May 17th
Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

March 22nd-26th
37th Annual Meeting
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Palm Springs

March 23rd-26th
59th Annual SSO Cancer Symposium
Society of Surgical Oncology
San Diego

March 27th-April 1st
Stem Cells
Keystone Symposia
Whistler, BC

March 29th
Understanding New Concepts in Cancer: Targeted Treatments
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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 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 are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO's e-News and Medicare & Quality Care Alerts/Updates

- 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.

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, including:

- *OTN's preferred group purchasing organization, Onmark*, that shares OTN's longstanding commitment to extend and enhance the lives of cancer patients and provide the support community oncology practices need to prosper.
- *Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)*, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or 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.

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.

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.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANCO Awarded State/Regional Affiliate Grant by ASCO

ANCO has been awarded an ASCO State/Regional Affiliate Grant to develop a *California Oncology Emergency Master Plan*. In light of the impact of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita on Gulf Coast oncologists and people with cancer, and California's imminent seismic risk, ANCO proposes to develop a *California Oncology Emergency Master Plan* that will identify and address the potential needs of oncologists and people living with cancer on a local or regional scale. The goal of the *Plan* will be to ensure the continuity of care for people living with cancer.

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on March 7th. 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 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):

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

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lynn_henderson9696@yahoo.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 Oncology • Chiron Corporation
Clarient Diagnostics • 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 Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply
OTN • Onmark
Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics
OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology
Pharmion • Roche Oncology
Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen
Wyeth Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Clarient Diagnostics* and *Pharmion* as new Corporate Members 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. These audio conferences are being offered on various dates/times through March 17th. Visit www.larrynortoncme.com for additional information and to register.

Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals is repeating its Medicare Part D web/audio conference programs starting on February 28th through March 16th. A registration form is available from the ANCO office.

Genentech BioOncology's ASCO 2005: Paradigm Shift in Breast Cancer Treatment is now available via CD-ROM or on-demand webcast at www.projectsinknowledge.com/breastca-update.

Pfizer Oncology reports that the FDA approved **Sutent** (sunitinib), a new targeted anti-cancer treatment for patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) after disease progression on or intolerance to imatinib, and advanced renal cell carcinoma. Sutent is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor working through multiple targets to deprive the tumor cells of the blood and nutrients needed to grow. Download the FDA's approval announcement at www.anco-online.org/FDASutent.pdf. Visit www.sutent.com for complete information.

Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Institutional Members** for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

For information on **continuing medical education meetings being organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

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

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

UCSF's ***Pain Management and End-of-Life Care*** takes place in San Francisco on June 4-5th. (This program will be repeated on November 16-17th.) 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=MDM06P26 for more information.

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.

Patient News

Caring Kids, a support group for children ages 6-13 years old who have a relative with cancer, is a **program of the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society***. The group will meet weekly between March 6th and April 24th at UCSF Medical Center. For additional information and to register, please contact Jim Peterson at (415) 971-5281 or james.peterson@ucsfmedctr.org.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

The January/February (Vol. 21, No. 1) issue of ACCC's ***Oncology Issues*** features articles on electronic medical records, off-label indications, Part B and Part D drug reimbursement, and a reimbursement outlook for 2006. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/ONIS/onis_archives.asp to view these articles.

The January (Vol. 2, Issue 1) issue of ASCO's ***Journal of Oncology Practice*** features articles on the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI), copayment assistance programs, the safe administration of oral chemotherapy, and a profile in success interview with ANCO member, L. Wayne Keiser, M.D. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Membership Dues for 2006

Membership renewal notices for 2006 were mailed to all members the week of December 5th, 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 1st 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!