

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 April 7th.

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.]

ACCC's 32nd Annual National Meeting: Strategies & Tools for Quality Care took place in Arlington, Virginia on March 14-17th. José Luis González, ANCO *Executive Director*, attended this meeting. Among the highlights were:

- Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D.,

**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 practice 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.

Director, National Cancer Institute, providing a vision of the future where the discovery, development, and delivery of cancer treatments is coordinated between all sites of service and where each cancer patient is enrolled in a personalized clinical trial.

- A discussion of the application of new and expensive technologies to improve the quality of cancer care where their short and long-term costs and/or efficiencies must be factored into any decision making regarding the adoption of these new technologies.
- Medicare's vision of quality care, evidence-based medicine, and pay-for-performance.
- An overview of how to identify the value of electronic medical records in the cancer care setting and how to implement EMRs.
- Preparing for natural and man-made disasters (i.e., lessons from Hurricane Katrina).

The *Office of Inspector General* (OIG) recently released a report challenging how CMS calculates ASP for multiple source Part B drugs. The report suggests that overpayment has exceeded underpayment for cancer drugs under the new system. CMS did not agree with the OIG's findings. The OIG's findings are likely to draw attention from Congress. ASCO is reviewing this report and will be communicating concerns about it to Congress and CMS.

ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2006* audioconference discusses the new Medicare PET registry, 2006 Oncology Demonstration Project updates, and Medicare Part D clarifications. Visit www.asco.org/marchaudiocall to listen to this audioconference and download the presentation and related background materials (also available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

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 at the specified addresses or via www.anco-online.org:

- The updated 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* for California is available at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/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 ending March 31st for physicians to reconsider their decisions in light of the revised 0 percent update. Changes made during this new enrollment period will be retroactive to January 1st.

- 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*) and additional information:

- ✓ ASCO's cross-reference sheet between the 2006 CPT codes and Medicare's 2005 G-codes.

- ✓ FAQs for 2006 drug administration.

- HCPCS code additions, changes, and deletions.

- 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. Information about 2Q06 ASPs and revisions to previous released quarterly ASPs is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/MM4319.pdf.

- 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* 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 Oncology Demonstration Project FAQs, Documentation and Coding Guidelines, Medlearn Matters Article Describing Coding and Billing Requirements, and Instructions to Carriers.

Medicare carriers should now be processing oncology demonstration project payments. If your practice is experiencing delays or problems with payments, please contact ANCO and/or ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 or practice@asco.org.

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.

ASCO's Legislative Conference takes place April 26-27th in Washington, D.C. This will be a valuable opportunity to interact directly with Congress and other national leaders responsible for policies that affect oncology. Visit www.asco.org/legislative_conference for more information and to register. Please let ANCO know if you intend to attend this conference.

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 at www.anco-online.org/mma.html 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*.

- ASCO's Medicare Part D Fact Sheet. 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.
- CMS's fact sheet for use in offices regarding the new transition policy, as well as the exceptions and appeals process, for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

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:

- CMA has sponsored a bill, authored by *Assembly Members Lieu and Nakanishi*, which would prohibit a physician from participating in an execution. The bill says a physician may not prescribe, administer, or supervise the administration of a medication or other substance that is part of the execution; monitor vital signs; attend or observe an execution; or, determine the point at which the inmate died. However, the bill would allow a physician to complete the death certificate, witness an execution in a nonprofessional capacity, and relieve the suffering of an inmate prior to the execution at the request of the inmate. The bill has not yet been heard in a legislative committee.

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.

Physician office laboratories (POLs) established on or after January 1st, 1996, must be either licensed by or registered with the California *Department of Health Services*, subjecting them to fees and regulations beyond those currently imposed under the Federal *Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments* (CLIA) program. Laboratories that perform only “waived” tests (classified by FDA or CDC to be so simple that there is little risk of error) and labs that perform only “provider-performed microscopy” tests will be exempt from the State licensure requirements, but will have to register with the State. Download DHS’s memorandum entitled *Clinical Laboratories Oversight Program* and FAQs at www.anco-online.org/advocacy.html or visit www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/lfsb/default.htm. Laboratories that are not in compliance will have their Federal CLIA laboratory certificates terminated. Without a CLIA certificate, laboratories will not be able to receive Medicare or Medicaid payments. CMA is currently sponsoring a bill (AB 2452) that would suspend State licensure/registration requirements until a Federal CLIA waiver is obtained. In the meantime, however, laboratories must comply with the new regulations.

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 also launched a unique case-based CME program entitled *Pain Management: A Case-Based CME Program for Physicians* on DVD that physicians can use to receive their State-mandated CME. Contact UCSD at (888) 229-6263 for more information.

NHIC/Medicare & DHS/MediCal

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

CMA recently learned that NHIC/Medicare has begun reprocessing Medicare claims paid under the old 2006 fee schedule. Physicians should not resubmit claims. NHIC/Medicare will automatically make retroactive payments for eligible claims. It may, however, take a few months to reprocess all the claims. The oldest claims will be processed first.

Beginning in April 2006, Medicare physicians will be given an opportunity to elect to participate in the ***Competitive Acquisition Program*** (CAP) on an annual basis on or after July 1st. Participating CAP providers will obtain Medicare Part B covered drugs from selected drug categories through the CAP. Physicians who elect to participate in CAP will continue to bill their local carrier for drug administration. NHIC/Medicare has posted an article on CAP at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/articles/capdrugbill_0306.htm.

Beginning June 1, 2006, the SPR received through the mail will no longer be available to providers/suppliers who also receive an ERA, whether the ERA is received directly or through a billing agent, clearing house, or other entity

representing a provider/supplier. In response to the provider/supplier communities continued need for SPRs, CMS has developed free software called *Medicare Remit Easy Print* (MREP) that gives providers/suppliers a tool to read and print a remittance advice (RA) from the HIPAA compliant Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (835) file. The MREP software was designed to incorporate new functionality to save providers/suppliers time and money. The paper output generated by MREP is similar to the SPR format. CMS has worked with other payers to insure their acceptance of the SPR generated by the MREP software for Coordination of Benefit claim submission. Please go to www.medicarenhic.com/edi/download/mrepsoftware_0306.htm for further information regarding MREP software.

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2006) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar06.pdf.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Medicare Advisory Forum* (MAF) teleconference took place on March 15th. While no oncology-specific agenda items were discussed, those items discussed most relevant to oncology were:

- Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) mass adjustments are beginning.
- Recent Webinars focused on the CCI edits and bundling modifiers.
- Publication of an article on duplicate claims submissions is forthcoming.

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

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*).

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 may be viewed at www.ugsmedicare.com/providers/lmrp/DraftIndex.asp. ANCO provided the following comments to UGS:

- Generally, it is ANCO's request that any Medicare Part A LCD for darbepoetin alfa be equivalent to the any corresponding Medicare Part B LCD or coverage policy. NHIC/Medicare's general LCD on erythropoetin covers darbepoetin and we would recommend that UGS adopt NHIC/Medicare's coverage criteria for darbepoetin. Our rationale is that NHIC/Medicare has already done the due diligence with regard to this agent, that NHIC/Medicare has not found any overutilization or inappropriate utilization for erythropoetin, and that it would be unfair to patients and an unreasonable burden on physicians to have two different coverage criteria cover a drug used by patients that might move between the two treatment settings.

- Specifically, the ANCO *Board* recommends:

1. Anemia of chronic disease should be listed as a covered diagnosis.
2. Anemia due to cancer (independent of treatment side effects of chemotherapy) should be listed as a covered diagnosis.
3. The need for the ferritin level to be maintained above 100mg/dl is unreasonable so long as the baseline ferritin levels do not suggest iron deficiency. Additional ferritin testing is not needed unless patients do not respond to darbepoetin and would add unnecessary additional cost without clinical significance.
4. Providers should not be faulted for dose adjustments that are less than 25%.
5. The initiation point of therapy should be Hb<12.
6. There is no clinical justification for requiring that chemotherapy must have been administered less than six months prior to initiation of erythropoetin therapy.

DHS/MediCal has approved coverage of bortezomib (.1mg; J9041) for the treatment of refractive multiple myeloma effective April 1st. J9041 is reimbursed when billed in conjunction

with ICD-9 codes 202.80 and 203.00 and CPT code 96408.

Private Payers

ANCO is aware of Blue Cross/Blue Shield claims processing problems and decreased reimbursement. The ANCO *Board of Directors* has decided to bring the claims processing problems to the attention of the *California Medical Association* for action in light of their previous successful efforts with regard to hassle factors, RICO litigation, and prompt pay regulation. In an e-mail to CMA, ANCO wrote:

...[ANCO and MOASC members have] recently brought numerous claims processing and reimbursement payer issues for oncology vis-a-vis Blue Cross/Blue Shield to our attention. Most of these issues can be put in the "hassle factor" category. The purpose of this e-mail is to bring these issues to the attention of the *California Medical Association*—given its interest in and actions regarding hassle factors, RICO settlement, and prompt pay regulation—and to ask what assistance CMA might offer ANCO in resolving these issues.

In summary, ANCO received input on the following **hassle factors in the processing of oncology claims**:

- frequent requests for medical records.
- repeated requests for medical records.
- delayed reimbursement due to multiple requests for medical records.
- requests for medical records for preauthorized services.
- denials for services that do not require preauthorization due to lack of preauthorization.
- refusal to provide required/requested preauthorization.
- contradictory information provided by customer service representatives.

In summary, ANCO received the following input on **reduced reimbursement**:

- reimbursement will change on May 1st.
- drugs are being reimbursed at ASP + 10%.
- specific fee schedules are not readily available.
- delayed adoption of CPT 2006.

However, ANCO and MOASC members must understand that, given anti-trust restrictions that govern what ANCO (and MOASC) can collectively do on behalf of its membership, ANCO cannot intervene on behalf of member practices with regard to individually contracted and negotiated reimbursement. Members are urged to carefully analyze any and all changes to their contractual reimbursement for professional services and drugs in the context of their current and projected practice costs.

EDUCATION

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

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., Amreen Husain, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Primo Lara, M.D.), *UC Los Angeles* (John Glaspy, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Hope Rugo, 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:

March 29th

Understanding New Concepts in Cancer: Targeted Treatments

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 1st-5th

97th Annual Meeting

American Association for Cancer Research

Washington, DC

April 2nd-5th

MGMA Administrators in Oncology & Hematology Conference

Medical Group Management Association

Las Vegas, NV

April 5th, May 10th

Living, Coping and Working with Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 7-12th

Wnt and beta-Catenin Signaling in Development and Disease

Keystone Symposia

Snowbird, UT

April 19th, May 17th

Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 27th

The Management of Rash and Dry Skin: How Cancer Treatments May Affect Your Skin

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 28-29th

Bridging the Gap in Pain Medicine: Effective, Practical and Integrative Approaches

Starfish Health Partners

& Continuing Education Alliance

Oakland

April 28th-May 1st

19th Annual Meeting

American Society of Pediatric

Hematology/Oncology

San Francisco

May 3rd-6th

22nd Annual Conference

Association of Oncology Social Workers

Minneapolis, MN

May 4-7th

31st Annual Congress

Oncology Nursing Society

Boston, MA

May 11th

Older People Living with Lung Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 24th

Update on Colon Cancer: Insights, Diagnosis, and Treatment

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

- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

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

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. 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 and value added services from a number of vendors, including:

- **Onmark, OTN's preferred group purchasing organization.** Contact Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com for more information.
- **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 ListServes for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information and has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

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

ION's meeting entitled *Survival of the Fittest in 2006* takes place on April 11th at 6PM at the Claremont Resort in Oakland. The program will cover Medicare 2006, 2007, and beyond as well

as private payers. Dinner is included in the program. Visit www.iononline.com to register.

NOA's *Educating Clinicians to Achieve Treatment Guideline Effectiveness (EDUCATE) Study* looks at how chemotherapy-induced anemia and neutropenia are managed in the community. With the 2006 changes to the Medicare *Oncology Demonstration Program*, adherence to treatment guidelines is of concern. The *EDUCATE Study* promotes evidence-based guidelines for red and white blood cell growth factors and will determine whether continuing education impacts adherence to guidelines and, ultimately, patient outcomes. Benefits of participating in the *EDUCATE Study* include:

- Opportunity to implement a standardized approach to supportive care management
- Continuing education credit
- Revenue (\$6,000 per prescriber plus \$1,000 for designating a practice *Champion*)

For more information or to download a pre-qualification form, visit www.noainc.com/noa/clinical-services/educate-study.aspx or contact Lyssa Friedman at lfriedman@noainc.com or (415) 526-8132.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on March 21st to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Clinical and professional education, and *Annual Meeting* plans for 2006.
- California Oncology Emergency Master Plan.
- Additional membership benefits and surveys.

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve

the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconferences** will take place on May 10th. 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):

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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
AstraZeneca*

Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals

Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology

Cephalon Oncology • Chiron Corporation

Clariant 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 *AstraZeneca*, *Clariant Diagnostics*, and *Pharmion* as new Corporate Members in 2006.

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

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

CaringBridge is a nonprofit organization providing the most widely used free online service connecting patients to friends and families during their challenging times. For additional information for you and your patients, visit www.caringbridge.com.

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 through 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. In addition, the ***Society's six-week educational grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one due to illness*** begins on Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30PM. For additional information and to register, please contact Beverly Miller at (707) 778-6242 x122 or bevmiller@comcast.net or Karen Greenwald at (707) 303-4800 x226 or greenwaldk@lls.org.

Membership Dues for 2006

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of March 6th. 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!