

# 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 21<sup>st</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 are resources available to practices at the specified addresses or via [www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org):

- The *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2006* audioconference discusses the

**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.

new Medicare PET registry, 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* updates, and Medicare Part D clarifications and is available at [www.asco.org/marchaudiocall](http://www.asco.org/marchaudiocall).

- The updated 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee 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).

- **2006 drug administration CPT codes** (available at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html](http://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%. 2Q06 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).

- **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.

- ✓ ASCO's new webpage dedicated to the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* is at [www.asco.org/2006demo](http://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](mailto:practice@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.

**ASCO's *Legislative Conference*, originally scheduled for April 26-27<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C., has been postponed for later in 2006 due to last minute changes in the schedules of senior *Administration* officials and *Members of Congress* and the probability of increased legislative activity in the Fall.**

**Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) coverage was 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). The following resources at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://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](mailto: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:

- ANCO supports AB2631 as a way to address delays at the *Department of Health Services* in publishing coverage policy for new anti-cancer drugs. In many instances, DHS/MediCal beneficiaries with cancer have not had access to new anti-cancer drugs for 18-24 months since FDA approval. AB2631 gives DHS a 60-day deadline to publish their coverage policy. If this deadline is not met, then FDA labeled indications become DHS default coverage policy. AB2631 was heard in the *Assembly Health Committee* and passed without a 'No' vote.

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's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual California Health Care Leadership Academy: Reengineering Health Care—Meeting Future Expectations Without Breaking the Bank** takes place May 5-7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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. Visit [www.cmanet.org/painmanagementfiles/Brochure.pdf](http://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.

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. For more information visit [www.pdamd.com/caoffer](http://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](http://www.cmanet.org).

## **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, 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://www.medicarenhic.com/providers/articles/capdrugbill_0306.htm).

**CMS, the CERT contractor, and NHIC/Medicare are all focusing audits and educational efforts on improper claims submission, but especially on those providers whose claims are denied as duplicates.** Duplicate claim denials are their number one claim submission error. For additional information on duplicate claims, visit [www.medicarenhic.com/cal\\_prov/articles/dupdenial\\_0306.htm](http://www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/articles/dupdenial_0306.htm).

**Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.medicarenhic.com/edi/download/mrepsoftware_0306.htm) for further information regarding MREP software.

**Health care providers are required by law to apply for a *National Provider Identifier* (NPI).** For complete information, visit

[www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand). Physicians who are covered by HIPAA will need these standard unique identifiers to submit HIPAA-compliant claims; physicians who are not covered by HIPAA do not have to obtain NPIs, but may do so if they wish. NPIs will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. NPI's are being implemented as follows:

- Beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup> and through October 1<sup>st</sup>, systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number or an NPI as long as it is accompanied by an existing legacy Medicare number.

Form CMS-1500 (12-90) is being revised to accommodate the reporting of the NPI. Form CMS-1500 (08-05) will be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, but will not be mandated for use until February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. There will be a dual acceptability period of the current and the revised forms. To learn more about the revised form, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R899CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R899CP.pdf).

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2006) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_mar06.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar06.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*).

### *Private Payers*

**ANCO teleconferenced with CMA about the BC/BS claims processing and reimbursement issues** and they offered the following advise to ANCO members.

CMA's new publication, *Taking Charge*, is now available and is free to CMA members for download. The hardcopy (available for a nominal charge) includes a CD with both CMA's *Center for Economic Services* and *Legal Center's* toolkit designed to empower physicians by providing them with tools for assessing existing payor contracts, preparing for contract negotiation, and identifying contract terms that pose potential problems.

With regard to **preauthorization problems** (e.g., 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), all practices should request copies of BC/BS current payment policies in advance so that they are in compliance. Ask for the payment policies by procedure code (CPT) and drug (J-code). There may have been changes since January 1<sup>st</sup>, so request these now. CMA's *Taking Charge* provides a sample letter for requesting these policies.

With regard to requests for **medical records problems** (e.g., frequent requests for medical records, repeated requests for medical records, delayed reimbursement due to multiple requests for medical records), if a procedure/drug is preauthorized and medical records are requested, physicians should consider submitting the requested records via certified mail return receipt requested. If a subsequent request is made for the same medical records, then send the proof of delivery. Practices are under no obligation to repetitively submit requested records. Repeated requests for medical records are considered onerous by the *Department of Managed Health Care* (DMHC) and should be reported via their website at [www.dmhc.ca.gov](http://www.dmhc.ca.gov) (select Submit a Provider Complaint). In order to utilize the DMHC complaint portal, physicians must have accessed the dispute resolution process with the payor by submitting a written appeal and allowing 45 working days for a response.

Requests for medical records do NOT restart the claims processing clock. The payer must still comply with California's prompt pay regulations (30 days for PPOs, and 45 days for HMOs). CMA's On-Call Document #0124 discusses what physicians can do when they do not receive timely payment of claims from health insurers and managed care plans and also provides a sample appeal letter. CMA On-Call Documents can be located on the members only site at [www.cmanet.org/logon/index.cfm?physician=1](http://www.cmanet.org/logon/index.cfm?physician=1).

Another option for contracting physicians may be to request a **meet and confer**. A meet and confer consists of the requesting physician and the reviewing physician meeting to discuss the issue

at hand. This step is generally taken when attempts to appeal a claim (in writing) have been unsuccessful. A request for a meet and confer should be done in writing. Physicians should refer to their contract for specifics on how to request a meet and confer.

Unfortunately, Blue Card programs (out of state underwritten plans) are not legally required to follow California prompt pay laws. However, CMA is interested in knowing about claims processing issues associated with Blue Card programs.

CMA members may contact the *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911 for additional assistance. If your physician is not a CMA member, then join to take advantage of these services. Please keep ANCO informed and updated on your communications with CMA on these issues.

To access the CMA's *Center for Economic Services* (where *Taking Charge* is located), physicians will want to log on to the members only site at [www.cmanet.org/logon/index.cfm?physician=1](http://www.cmanet.org/logon/index.cfm?physician=1) and select Physician Advocacy, then select Reimbursement Advocacy, and then select Taking Charge. You will also find instructions on filing a complaint with the DMHC, payor profiles (including lists of Medical Directors), etc.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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:

April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>

*Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 26-28<sup>th</sup>

*Today's Education, Tomorrow's Quality Care:  
7<sup>th</sup> Clinical Team Conference and Scientific  
Symposium*

National Hospice and Palliative Care  
Organization  
San Diego

April 27<sup>th</sup>

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

Telephone Education Workshop

April 28-29<sup>th</sup>

*Bridging the Gap in Pain Medicine: Effective,  
Practical and Integrative Approaches*  
Starfish Health Partners  
& Continuing Education Alliance  
Oakland

April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>

*19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*  
American Society of Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology  
San Francisco

May 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

*22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference*  
Association of Oncology Social Workers  
Minneapolis, MN

May 4-7<sup>th</sup>

*31<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress*  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Boston, MA

May 10<sup>th</sup>

*Living, Coping and Working with Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 11<sup>th</sup>

*Older People Living with Lung Cancer*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Colon Cancer: Insights, Diagnosis, and  
Treatment*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

*2006 Annual Meeting*  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Atlanta, GA

June 10-16<sup>th</sup>

*Food As Medicine*  
Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Georgetown  
University, & University of Minnesota  
Baltimore, MD

June 14<sup>th</sup>

*Living with Lung Cancer*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 16-17<sup>th</sup>

*Best of ASCO*  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Beverly Hills

June 24-25<sup>th</sup>

*Essentials of Pain Medicine: What You Need to  
Know on the Front Line of Medicine*  
American Academy of Pain Medicine  
Newport Beach

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](http://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](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. 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](mailto: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](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)* 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.iononline.com) to register.

**NOA has been acquired by McKesson Specialty, a business unit of McKesson Corporation.** NOA serves over 4,000 oncology physicians in 1,500 oncology practices across the United States. In

addition, NOA has clinical and business tools that help practices manage purchasing, enhance efficiency and improve the quality of patient care.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconferences** will take place on May 10<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

*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.

### 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.

**Lilly Oncology will host an educational teleconference entitled *Update in Metastatic Breast Cancer*** with Hope Rugo, M.D., *Director of Breast Medical Oncology Clinical Trials* at the *University of California, San Francisco, Comprehensive Cancer Center* on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:15PM. The toll-free number to participate is (866) 208-4429; the access code is 6434034.

### 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](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrence/Confrence.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrence/Confrence.htm)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date](http://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 4-5<sup>th</sup>. (This program will be repeated on November 16-17<sup>th</sup>.) This course is designed for all physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who care for patients in pain or with life-threatening illness. It meets California's

requirement that physicians take 12 hours of CME in pain and palliative care. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM06P26](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM06P26) for more information.

UCD's *7th Annual Advances in Oncology* takes place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The *8th Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference* takes place in San Francisco on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07004](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07004) for more information.

UCD's online CME pain management courses are now available at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm). In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California. Visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm) for additional information.

### *Clinical Trial News*

ANCO members can obtain information about Institutional Member's clinical trials at [www.anco-online.org/trials.html](http://www.anco-online.org/trials.html).

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

Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials** at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical\\_trials/bigc/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/) where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.

The *National Cancer Institute (NCI)* also has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit

patients. It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or [www.cancer.gov/publications](http://www.cancer.gov/publications).

### *Patient News*

ASCO, in association with *People Living With Cancer (PLWC)*, has prepared and published several *Guides to Cancer*. These *Guides* provide information for patients on breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Communications and Patient Information Department* at (703) 519-2927 or [contactus@plwc.org](mailto:contactus@plwc.org).

*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 24<sup>th</sup> at UCSF Medical Center. For additional information and to register, please contact Jim Peterson at (415) 971-5281 or [james.peterson@ucsfmedctr.org](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. For additional information and to register, please contact Beverly Miller at (707) 778-6242 x122 or [bevmiller@comcast.net](mailto:bevmiller@comcast.net) or Karen Greenwald at (707) 303-4800 x226 or [greenwaldk@lls.org](mailto:greenwaldk@lls.org).

The *HealthWell Foundation*, a non-profit, charitable organization, provides financial assistance to eligible patients to cover certain out-of-pocket health care costs, including coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles; health insurance premiums; and, the Medicare "donut hole" coverage gap. The *HealthWell Foundation* offers assistance in several disease areas, including the following that may be of interest to oncology providers and case managers:

- Chemotherapy induced anemia
- Chemotherapy induced neutropenia
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes

Applications are available online at [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org) or by calling (800) 675-8416.

The *Patient Access Network Foundation (PANF)* is a non-profit organization dedicated to

**improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment.**

The PAF *Co-Pay Relief Program* (CPR) currently provides financial assistance to eligible patients who are being treated for breast, colon, lung and/or prostate cancers, lymphoma, macular degeneration, and secondary issues as a result of chemotherapy treatment. Patients must financially and medically qualify to access co-payment assistance. Patients and physicians can contact the PAF CPR at (866) 512-3861 to initiate a request for assistance or request additional information, or visit [www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org) or [www.patientadvocate.org](http://www.patientadvocate.org).

**PhRMA has printed a directory of patient assistance programs offered by its member companies that provide free or reduced price medicine to people in need.** Download this directory at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf).

***Publications, Services, & Surveys***

ANCO and *Sullivan/Luallin Healthcare Consulting* have cooperated on *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* for the past several years. Another *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be offered in 2006. In addition, ANCO and *Sullivan/Luallin* will be offering a *Referring Physician Satisfaction Survey* for your benefit. For both *Surveys*, ANCO is using its negotiating leverage to offer you expert and reliable *Surveys* at steep discounts. ANCO will fund the set-up fee so that members may participate at discounted per physician rates. Watch for these *Survey* offers in April.

**Caring4cancer.com is a portal with all the specific coding and billing information a busy oncology practice manager needs.** It includes cancer-specific Medicare regulations, forms, coding education pieces, and a subscription to a free newsletter from Bobbi Buell. Visit [www.caring4cancer.com](http://www.caring4cancer.com) and select *Practice Management*.

***Membership Dues for 2006***

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. 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!**