

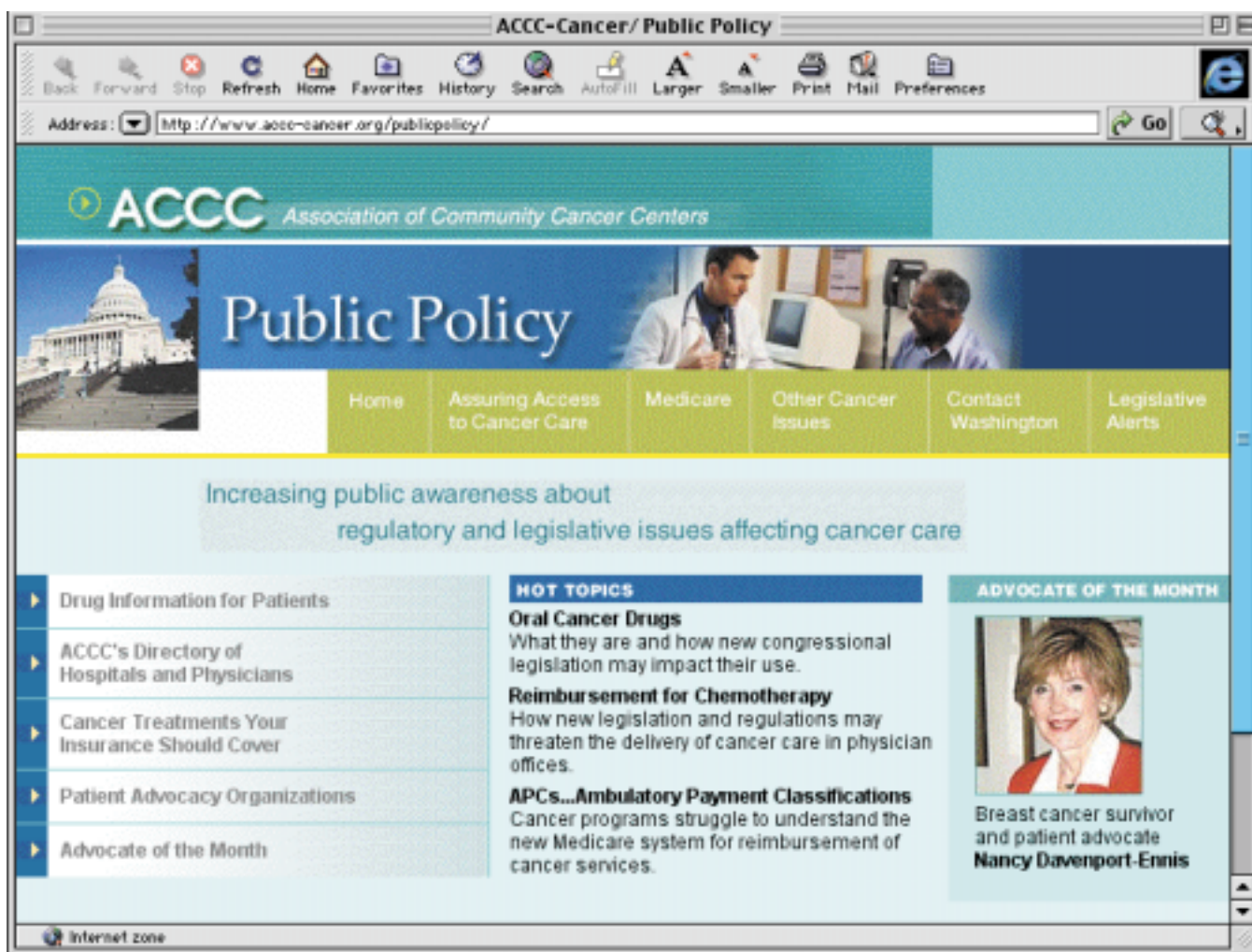
## A New Public Policy Web Site...

# Just for You and Your Patients

**ACCC** recently launched an online public policy area on its web site to increase public and professional awareness about regulatory/legislative issues affecting reimbursement for cancer patients. Especially designed for patients, the new public policy area is accessible from ACCC's home page. Special thanks to Roche for its sponsorship of this new project.

Features on the public policy area include:

- Regularly updated articles on oral drug reimbursement
- Regularly updated articles on national policies affecting cancer care
- Background articles on important issues affecting Medicare reimbursement for providers
- A sophisticated "Contact Congress" section in which patients and professionals can locate their legislators and send them e-mails as important issues arise that impact cancer care delivery
- Legislative Alerts
- A "Patient Advocate of the Month" profile
- Links to patient advocacy organizations



- Links to ACCC's *USP-DI Online Drug Information* for patients and ACCC's directory of hospitals and physicians.

ACCC continues to lead efforts aimed at assuring that cancer programs are adequately funded. The Association has taken the lead in responding to congressional attempts to reduce payments for hospital outpatient cancer drugs. The new public policy web site will allow ACCC to raise public and professional awareness about key issues and champion the importance of access to cancer specialists, appropriate cancer therapies, and the critical need for investigational trials.

[www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org), the interactive arm of the ACCC, provides the information that oncology professionals and cancer patients need to keep abreast of the rapidly changing world of cancer care. [www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org) has become a major destination for physicians, cancer patients, and their families. The web site provides monthly off-label approval information and the most extensive resource of hospitals and cancer centers in the United States. Patients, family members, and consumers visit the site to locate community cancer programs in their home state and news that will assist them in their battle with cancer. The American Cancer Society, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Cancersource.com, all refer patients to ACCC's web site to find cancer programs. The web sites of nine state oncology societies are also hosted within ACCC's web site. More than 40,000 unique visitors are coming to ACCC's web site each month. ☐

## Regional Meetings Span the Country

Over the past 10 years, ACCC has hosted more than 100 Regional Oncology Symposia in conjunction with state medical oncology societies. Six meetings were held in Fall 2001:

Albany, N.Y., Oct. 30  
Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 1  
Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 28  
Chicago, Ill., Nov. 29  
Houston, Tex., Dec. 18  
Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 19

These meetings have now become a tradition and are highly sought by state medical oncology societies, which use them as a core for annual society meeting activities. At each ACCC Regional Oncology Symposium, a number of sessions are held in an intense half-day format designed for medical and radiation oncologists, hospital cancer program administrators, practice managers, oncology nurses, and oncology social workers.

ACCC Regional Oncology Symposia help promote development of state medical oncology societies, particularly by stimulating relationships between the society and local insurers. The meetings have increased the



*Patricia F. Jassak, director-at-large for the Oncology Nursing Society, presented at ACCC's Regional Oncology Symposium held in Chicago on Nov. 29, 2001.*



*Shown here with Illinois Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood are (from left) Alexander Hantel, M.D., secretary/treasurer; Steven J. Leibach, M.D., vice president; and Al B. Benson, III, M.D., president of the Illinois Medical Oncology Society. Lieutenant Governor Wood spoke at a dinner for the state society held after the Regional Oncology Symposium.*

knowledge base and expertise of attendees about how to influence legislative and regulatory issues at the state and national levels. Meeting topics include the impact of ambulatory payment classifications on hospital cancer programs, attempts to lower reimbursement in private practice, and how to manage a practice or hospital for better financial results.

Look for more FREE symposia across the country coming in Spring 2002. ☐