

ACCC Surveys Member Hospitals on Costs and Reimbursement of Cancer Drugs

To educate Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about the true costs of cancer drugs to hospitals, ACCC is working with Abt Associates to conduct a survey of its 650 member institutions. In July and August, ACCC's member institutions were asked to provide information about 1) invoice prices of cancer drugs, 2) invoice prices after any rebates, 3) charges for cancer drugs, and 4) volume of cancer drugs used. This information will be used to compile an analysis of the real costs of cancer drugs in the hospital setting. ACCC will use this study to support its efforts to cor-

rect 2002 Medicare payment rates and to ensure that, in 2003, Medicare adequately reimburses hospitals for cancer care, allowing Medicare beneficiaries to access the drugs they need. The study will be completed in September 2002.

REGIONAL ONCOLOGY REIMBURSEMENT SYMPOSIA

ACCC's series of Spring 2002 Regional Oncology Reimbursement Symposia ended on June 19 with a final regional meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pa. Open to all cancer care professionals, the regional meetings provided attendees with regulatory and legislative

updates related to cancer care delivery. More than 400 people attended the five regional sessions held in Des Moines, Ia.; St. Louis, Mo.; New Orleans, La.; Baltimore, Md.; and Pittsburgh, Pa. During the past 11 years, ACCC has hosted more than 130 Regional Oncology Symposia in conjunction with state medical oncology societies. 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. Five regional meetings will be held this fall and are tentatively being planned for Indiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, and Washington. ☐



At left, Joseph S. Bailes, M.D., F.A.C.P., past president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), exchanges some thoughts with ACCC President Edward L. Braud, M.D., at the 2002 ACCC Regional Oncology Reimbursement Symposium in New Orleans, La.



At left, Barbara Rogers, C.R.N.P., M.N., AOCN®, immediate past director-at-large of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and a presenter at the 2002 ACCC Regional Oncology Reimbursement Symposium in St. Louis, Mo., talks with Linda Gledhill, M.H.A., associate in ELM Services, Inc.'s Consulting Division.

ACCC'S WEB SITE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

In June 2002 ACCC was presented with the bronze award for editorial excellence on a web site from the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP). A panel of publication experts found ACCC's web site (www.accc-cancer.org) to be one of the best entries in terms of "well-written, complete, succinct, and logically organized

information." ACCC's Director of Communications, Don Jewler, accepted the award on behalf of the Association at an awards banquet in Washington, D.C. Currently, ACCC is in the planning and implementation stages of an "ACCC Members Only" section for the web site, which will feature discussion groups on topics of special interest, studies and benchmarking tools, a "Members on the Move" personnel



section, a reimbursement "tool box," and more. The new section of the web site will be launched early this fall. ☐

OTHER ACCC PROJECTS AND ACTIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ACCC Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations for the following 2003-2004 Board positions:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Five Board of Trustee members

The term of President-Elect is one year. The Secretary and Trustee positions are two-year terms. Although nominees are not required to be the voting representative, they must represent an ACCC active member institution or chapter.

Letters of nomination should be sent to the ACCC Executive Office. Letters should cite the nominee's name and his/her respective membership affiliation (institution/chapter), and include a copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae. Nominations must be received no later than November 29, 2002.

For more information about

the nomination process, contact Christian Downs at the ACCC Executive Office (as noted below).

CALL FOR AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Any delegate representative who would like to suggest a Bylaws change must inform the ACCC Executive Office of that intent no later than November 15, 2002, for consideration by the House of Delegates in March 2003. According to the ACCC Bylaws, "Bylaws may be amended by the vote or written assent of two-thirds of the delegate representatives voting. Written notice of proposed Bylaws amendments must be sent to voting members at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which they are to be acted on."

All suggested amendments should be sent to: ACCC, Attn: Christian Downs, 11600 Nebel Street, Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852 (phone: 301-984-9496, ext. 219; fax: 301-770-1949).

CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD

ACCC is soliciting nominations for its annual Clinical Research Award. This award will be presented to one or more individuals whose research has significantly and positively impacted the oncology patient, family, and/or community. A special award luncheon is held at ACCC's fall National Oncology Economics Conference to honor the award recipient(s), who will receive a cash award and a plaque commemorating the event.

To submit a nomination, please send a letter (minimum two paragraphs, maximum two pages), with your name and telephone number, stating why you believe the individual is qualified to receive this award. Submit nominations to the ACCC Executive Office, 11600 Nebel Street, Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852-2557, (fax: 301-770-1949) no later than November 29, 2002.