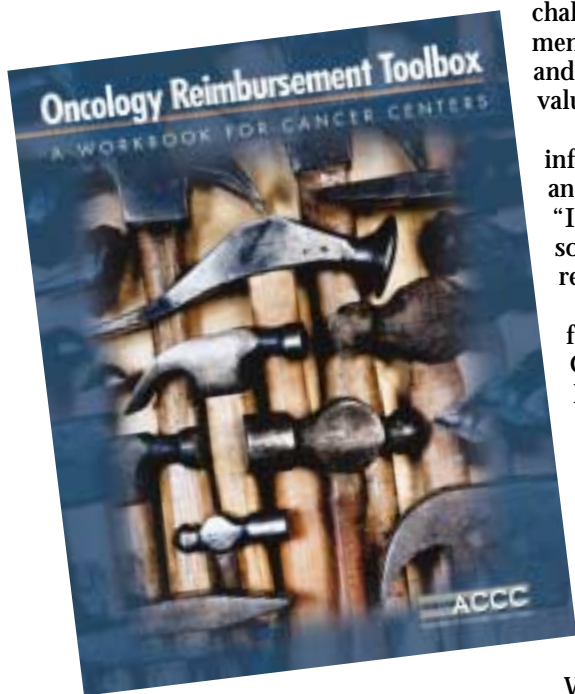


ACCC-Member Institutions Attend Free Seminars



ACCC's Cancer Program Improvement Project hosted 25 half-day seminars across the country from July through December 2002. These complimentary seminars gave attendees the training and tools necessary to ensure the future viability of their cancer programs. Topics included:

- An overview of the financial and managerial issues involved in cancer program management
- Examples of model programs, what makes them successful and how they achieve financial and managerial success
- An innovative toolkit for solving financial and management challenges at the cancer center



- Access to ACCC's Center for Provider Education web site, a live, interactive resource for seminar participants.

Underwritten by an educational grant from Amgen, Inc., the program was developed in July 2002. All ACCC-member institutions were offered the opportunity to host one of the 25 half-day seminars. With more than 200 responses, training sessions were scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and were held in Fla., Iowa, Ill., Ind., La., Minn., Mo., N.C., N.Y., Pa., S.C., S. Dak., Va., Wash., Washington, D.C., and Wisc.

Speaking to groups of 10 to 40 attendees, Mary Lou Bowers, M.B.A., vice president of ELM Services, Inc., shared more than three decades of experience as a health care administrator and specialist in reimbursement issues. Members of the oncology team challenged by inadequate drug payments, a complex payment system, and staffing issues recognized the value of this free training

"The discussions were so informative," wrote one attendee, an administrative office manager. "It was refreshing to listen to someone who actually 'speaks our reimbursement language.'"

A project of ACCC's Center for Provider Education, the Cancer Program Improvement Project was a team-building, multidisciplinary event that helped health care systems understand that no position or department within their system exists in a vacuum. For hospitals to be successful, departments must work together to maximize reimbursement and ensure quality care.

With the use of unrestricted

educational grants, ACCC's Center for Provider Education can provide essential financial and program management training to ACCC-member institutions free of charge. The Cancer Program Improvement Project is envisioned to be the first in a continuing series of workshops. Consideration is being given to offering training on topics such as coding and collecting co-payments. Read *Oncology Issues* to learn about future opportunities from ACCC's Center for Provider Education.

ACCC's Fall 2002 Regional Symposia

ACCC's Fall 2002 Regional Oncology Reimbursement Symposia were held in five states in November and December:

November 7, 2002

Indianapolis, Ind.
Co-hosted by the Indiana Medical Oncology Society

November 12, 2002

New Brunswick, N.J.
Co-hosted by the Oncology Society of New Jersey

November 19, 2002

Seattle, Wash.
Co-hosted by the Washington State Medical Oncology Society

November 21, 2002

Omaha, Nebr.
Co-hosted by the Nebraska Oncology Society

December 5, 2002

New York, N.Y.
Co-hosted by New York State of Medical Oncologists and Hematologists

continued on page 44



ACCC Members Only

We appreciate your support of ACCC—and we are always seeking ways to add value to your membership—which is why we are proud to announce the highly anticipated arrival of the Members-Only section of our web site! ACCC members will receive *exclusive* access to a variety of special members-only features on the site:

- Match your patients with the right clinical trials.
- Log on to the *Center for Provider Education* to ensure your financial viability.
- Find position descriptions to help fill your organization's needs.
- Compare your organization to your peers with key benchmarking tools, such as monographs and salary surveys.
- See what your peers around the country are doing with the *Members on the Move* section.
- Join timely, informative and lively discussion groups.
- Receive discounts...and much much more!

- ✓ Please visit www.accc-cancer.org
- ✓ Click on the *Members-Only* button to log on today!



The ACCC Members-Only web site—your premier source for information for the oncology team!

continued from page 42

ACCC's free regional meetings help the multidisciplinary oncology team, in both hospital and physician office settings, understand the complexities of today's oncology reimbursement arena. Last fall's regional symposia provided information about the latest regulatory and legislative updates that apply to cancer delivery, training on the ambulatory payment classification (APC) billing process, budgeting and marketing



Robert Kruczynski of Langhorne, Pa., and Linda DeAngelis of Trenton, N.J., attend ACCC's regional Symposia in New Brunswick, N.J., on November 12, 2002.

analyses, and clarification of HIPAA compliance. Attendees had the opportunity to network with other professionals in the oncology field and participate in a question and answer session on billing and coding concerns.

Over the past 11 years, ACCC has hosted more than 125 of these Regional Oncology Symposia in conjunction with state medical oncology societies. Highly regarded and well attended by oncology professionals, these symposia have become the core component for annual state oncology society meeting activities. ☐

ACCC Sponsors Contest for Member Institutions

For the first time, ACCC will give achievement awards for "Best Newsletter" to two of its member institutions in 2003. Entrees will be divided into two categories—newsletters that are produced in-house and newsletters that are produced by a designer/design firm. One winner will be selected in each category. A third winner in the category of "Best Online Newsletter" will also be awarded if enough entries are received.

Winners will receive a plaque and be featured in the November/December 2003 *Oncology Issues*, and on ACCC's web site at www.accc-cancer.org.

To enter the contest, members must send five copies of a single issue of their newsletter (published in 2002), along with a letter

identifying a contact person at their institution to: ACCC, Attn: Managing Editor, 11600 Nebel Street, Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. Organizations entering the category for online newsletter must send an e-mail to: mmarino@accc-cancer.org, providing the link to the newsletter and the contact person at the institution.

To be eligible for entry, all information must arrive at ACCC by March 15, 2003. Questions about the award can be sent to mmarino@accc-cancer.org.

Staff and members of the Editorial Board of *Oncology Issues* will review the entries and select the category winners. The awards will be announced at ACCC's 20th National Oncology Economics Conference in fall 2003. ☐