

Winners Announced in ACCC's New Contest



ACCC's Editorial Committee has selected the winners for its 2003 Best Member Newsletter Contest. *Horizons*, a publication of the Saint Barnabas Medical Center (Livingston, N.J.), won in the category of a newsletter produced out of house. *Here at Harrington*, a publication of The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center (Amarillo, Tex.), won in the category of newsletter produced in-house.

Honorable mentions were given to the following member publications:

- *Cancer Update* a newsletter by the Christiana Care Health System (Newark, Del.)
- *Caring Connection* a newsletter by The Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers (Elk Grove Village, Ill.)
- *Moments in Tyme* a newsletter by Cookeville Regional Cancer Center (Cookeville, Tenn.)
- *Reflections* a newsletter of the Marsha and Jimmy Gibbs Cancer Center (Spartanburg, S.C.).

ACCC's Editorial Committee, which judged the entries at ACCC's 29th National Annual Meeting in March 2003, was impressed by the quality and diversity of member publications and hopes to have even more submissions for next year's contest.

Calling All Cancer Patient Educators

If you spend any time educating cancer patients, the Patient and Family Education Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) would like to hear from you.

NCI and ACCC are reaching out to the cancer patient education community and developing strategies for communicating with them. In turn, patient educators may benefit from the opportunity to network with professionals across the country working in similar roles.

Historically, NCI has reached out to the patient education community through its Cancer Patient Education Network (CPEN), which is composed of patient education leaders in NCI-designated cancer centers. Currently, CPEN membership provides benefits such as networking via a Listserv, a web site, and an annual meeting. NCI invites CPEN members to communicate their cancer patient education needs, review and pilot test materials, and generally offer a real-life perspective on the work they do.

NCI is working with ACCC to broaden its network to include representatives from all sorts of cancer centers, clinics, and private practices. If you spend any of your time educating cancer patients, contact NCI at: educresnci@mail.nih.gov.



Patient education and NCI

Send an e-mail with your name, title, workplace, address, phone number, and e-mail address. In the subject line of your e-mail please insert "ACCC Patient Education Partnership."

ACCC's New Premium Services Package

In July 2003 ACCC introduced a new program to help educate practices and insurers about oncology-specific reimbursement issues, such as off-label drug indications and office management issues.

ACCC's new package of Premium Services is comprised of three major components: an oncology advisory panel, reimbursement education services, and a one-day reimbursement education seminar.

The Oncology Advisory Panel. With support from ACCC, the state oncology society will establish an Oncology Advisory Panel to work with the payers in its state on specific payer issues and develop a process for approvals for additional drug indication requests.

The Oncology Advisory Panel will consist of three oncologists, one of whom will be a member of the Carrier Advisory Committee to Medicare. The Advisory Panel will review requests from practices on appropriate use of drugs for off-label indications.

If the state society's Advisory Panel accepts the request, based on "Standards of Care," the state society will forward the request to primary payers within the state, who will in turn review the request. If approved by the payer, the state society's membership offices will immediately be notified.

Reimbursement Education Service. The new Premium Services package will allow ACCC to offer a state-specific Reimbursement Education Service that will provide physician and practice staff with

state-specific information. The state society, through ACCC, will establish and update a listing of decisions for most major payers in each of the key states. Questions will be answered online for state society members. Links will be available to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Local Medical Review Policy (LMRP) sites.

Reimbursement Educational Seminar. The Premium Services package will offer a training program focused on reimbursement and management of the oncology physician practice. The one-day seminar

for ACCC State Society Member practices includes an Oncology Reimbursement Program that addresses practical billing issues, with special focus on payer-specific problems and state concerns, and a Management Program that is directed to the needs of the practice managers and physicians related to daily operations and regulations.

“By the end of this summer, the majority of our 11 managed state societies will have their Advisory Panel in place and active,” said Christian Downs, ACCC’s deputy executive director. Moreover, “11 state societies will have their web

site hotline activated, and most will have their reimbursement meeting scheduled.”

ACCC pioneered the off-label issue, passing legislation in 39 states to cover Medicare and Medicaid patients. ACCC’s activities with the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and the American Hospital Formulary Service (AHFS) have supported a process that continues to speed off-label reviews and then rapidly distribute the results through ACCC’s compendia, off-label alerts, and a nationally licensed online database of indications. ❏

ACCC Sponsors Innovative Seminar for Nurse Leaders

Reigniting the Spirit: Creating the Conditions for Caring, a new program specifically for oncology nurse leaders, was held June 19-20, 2003 in Charlotte, N.C.

Attendees came from ACCC-member institutions as well as from the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). The meeting facilitator Mary Koloroutis, from Creative Health Care Management, described a transformational leadership cycle and guided the group in discussions of the different steps in the process.

Attendees performed self-assessments at various key points and discussed these in small groups. Concepts included modeling authenticity, leaving a

legacy every day, and appreciative inquiry. Storytelling, humor, and varied group exchanges kept everyone focused and positive. ❏



(left) Sharing ideas on how to implement aspects of the program at their cancer centers are: Kathryn Kubert, R.N., OCN®, M.A.M., nurse manager, Bryan LGH Medical Center, Lincoln, Nebr.; Colleen Corish, R.N., M.N., OCN®, clinical director, Oncology/Medical Surgical Services, Medical University of South Carolina, Mount Pleasant, S.C.; and Barbara Zimmer, M.S.N., C.N.A., nurse manager, New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.



At a small group session, nurse participants exchange ideas on how to best implement aspects of the program at their cancer centers.



Shown here are the 20 nurses plus a few other attendees who participated in the seminar *Reigniting the Spirit: Creating the Conditions for Caring* held in June in Charlotte, N.C.