

Changing With the Times

by Patti A. Jamieson-Baker, MSSW, MBA

At a recent ACCC Board meeting, as I listened to all the different programs and services being planned and offered by the Association, I was amazed at how we have grown and changed in the past five years. ACCC has always been known for its public policy and advocacy activities, but in recent years the Association has developed an increasingly comprehensive range of services to meet the changing needs of our membership.

Five years ago, ACCC sponsored two national meetings and a handful of regional meetings. In 2004 the Association continues to hold its two large annual meetings, but it has also added eight smaller regional meetings to the calendar. These regional meetings, which range in size from 30 to more than 150 attendees, are often held in conjunction with ACCC's 27 state oncology society members. Through these regional meetings, ACCC is able to educate oncologists at the state level on new and changing reimbursement, legislative, and programmatic issues.

ACCC has also developed the Center for Provider Education, which offers innovative, continuing medical education-accredited seminars for the oncology team in both the hospital and physician practice setting. In recent months, the Center for Provider Education has presented a course directed at hospital pharmacists and financial officers on *Practical Economics: Making Rational Drug Purchasing Decisions for the Hospital Outpatient Setting* in more than 15 cities.

This year, the Center is also providing a course on *Life in the New Medicare Era: Coding, Billing, and Management for Medical Oncology*



Practices. Held in almost 20 locations around the country, this course offers education and training for practice managers, physician-owners, coders, and billers. In an effort to save travel costs for its member institutions, ACCC is turning to Web-based courses. Five webcasts of the *Life in the New Medicare Era* have been scheduled so far.

To date, more than 50 community cancer centers have participated in ACCC's Center for Provider Education programs.

This year, ACCC also launched the Oncology Pharmacy

Education Network (OPEN) to serve the unique needs of oncology pharmacists. From an e-mail newsletter to a series of OPEN regional meetings, ACCC is continually reaching out to this underserved population.

ACCC also conducts several annual surveys, which community cancer centers can use to benchmark their programs and services against those of other cancer programs. These include ACCC's *Cancer Program Administrator Survey*, ACCC's *2004 Breast Care Survey*, and ACCC's *Medical Director Survey*. The results of these comprehensive surveys are posted on the Association's web site and are available to ACCC members for planning and informational purposes.

In 2005 physician practices must deal with a new reimbursement methodology—averages sales price (ASP). And, in 2006, ASP will be arriving at hospitals. ACCC will continue not only to monitor the effect of ASP on quality cancer care, but also to offer its members advocacy, education, and vital resources for the entire oncology team. ☐

Coming in Your 2004 Oncology Issues

- ◆ Understanding and Negotiating Pricing with Your Pharmaceutical Representatives
- ◆ Developing and Implementing a Cancer Genetics Risk Assessment Program
- ◆ Measuring Physician Productivity
- ◆ Two Model Cancer Programs for Underserved Cancer Patients
- ◆ Tips for Improving Your Revenue Capture

