

## ACCC Offers “Staying Alive” Course for Practices

In Jan. 2005, ACCC launched its new free course *Staying Alive in 2005: Hands-on Strategies for Office-based Oncology Practices*. Designed for physicians, practice managers, and coders/billers, the three-hour program provides information on adjusting to ASP and understanding its implications, coping with the new G-codes, ways to improve practice efficiencies, reimbursement in 2006 and much more. The following *Staying Alive in 2005* sessions are still available:

March 15	Seattle, Wash.
March 16	San Francisco, Calif.
March 22	Milwaukee, Wisc.
March 23	Chicago, Ill.
March 24	Indianapolis, Ind.
March 29	Memphis, Tenn.
March 30	St. Louis, Mo.
April 5	Dallas, Tex.
April 6	Houston, Tex.
April 7	New Orleans, La.

To learn more or to register, go to ACCC’s Center for Provider Education at [www.accc-cancer.org/education/](http://www.accc-cancer.org/education/).

### ACCC 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents’ Retreat

On Jan. 28 and 29, ACCC hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Oncology Presidents’ Retreat in Washington, D.C.

The retreat brought together 38 presidents of state cancer societies for discussions and presentations focused on delivery of “Quality Cancer Care in the Community Setting.” The meeting updated state presidents on the current issues affecting the quality cancer care as the implementation of MMA unrolls, and offered perspectives on how the cancer community will be working to continue to define, measure, and assess quality care and ensure access to quality care in the community setting.

Keynote speaker Rodger Winn, MD, director, Quality of Cancer Care Measures Project, National

Quality Forum, talked about challenges both in defining and measuring quality care, and emphasized that “we must instill a culture of quality in oncology.”

Edward Braud, MD, chair of ACCC’s Legislative Affairs Committee provided a brief legislative update, as did Joseph S. Bailes, MD, co-chair of ASCO’s public policy committee. Dean Gesme, MD, chair of ASCO’s clinical practice committee, spoke on community-based delivery of cancer care to Medicare patients.

The speakers emphasized the importance of participation in Medicare’s one-year demonstration project on cancer symptom management to help accrue data in support of recognizing the administrative services involved in delivering chemotherapy.

Conference attendees also heard about important changes underway affecting drug compendia resources that provide information critical to determining off-label indications for anticancer drugs.

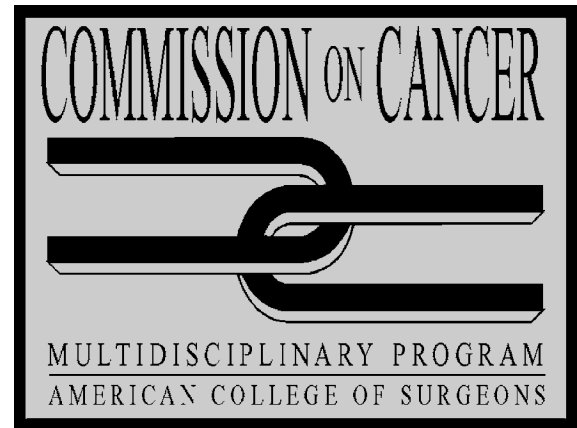
An update on the Medicare Oral Drug Replacement Demonstration project was provided by Sharon Cardinale, outreach coordinator for TrailBlazer Health, which is administering the demo project for CMS. As of Jan. 25, 2005, 18,966 patients had enrolled in the Oral Drug Demo project, Ms. Cardinale said. The one-year program, will continue to process applications as long as slots are available or until Dec. 31, 2005, Ms. Cardinale said. For additional information, contact Ms. Cardinale at 410.683.2810 or *outreach.mrdd@trailblazerhealth.com*. ☎

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