

## Meet ACCC's New President

# E. Strode Weaver,

FACHE, MBA, MHSA

**I**ncoming ACCC President E. Strode Weaver, FACHE, MBA, MHSA, has nearly 28 years of healthcare management experience. Currently, Mr. Weaver is executive director of oncology services at an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver, Colo. Previously, he served as administrative director of the Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle, Wash.; director of the Multi-Care health system in Tacoma Wash.; division administrator at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Wash.; and associate administrator of Flagstaff Medical Center in Flagstaff, Ariz. Mr. Weaver holds an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, a Master of Business Administration from UCLA, and a Master of Health Services Administration from Arizona State University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Weaver attended his first ACCC meeting in 1992, and in the years since has filled many roles as chairman of the Program, Strategic Planning, and Advocacy Committees, Board of Trustees member, and secretary.

Mr. Weaver has been married to his spouse, Judy, for over 35 years and has three grown children and two grandchildren.

*Welcome. As incoming ACCC President, please tell us what you would like to accomplish during your term?*

The first priority will be to continue the growth and success that ACCC has enjoyed over its more than 30 years of existence. We continue to face a number of challenges in the policy and reimbursement arenas, as well as the ongoing need to provide our membership with the information and education to support their delivery of quality cancer care in their organizations and communities.

*What do you see as the most significant challenges facing oncology in 2005?*

A great deal of uncertainty exists within the cancer community as to how federal government initiatives in the policy and reimbursement arenas may change the way that cancer care is delivered. The challenge for the Association is to keep its membership current on these issues and provide them a voice in the determination as to how the future may unfold.

*How can the oncology community work to face and overcome these challenges?*

The first response needs to be to stay informed and engaged on the issues. The second might be to add public comment when policies and proposals are put forward for public debate. And third, those in leadership positions must understand *how* their organizations are faring in the current climate and respond to the changes in positive ways to continue providing access to excellent care for their cancer patients.



*What do you see as ACCC's role in facing these challenges?*

Communication and information for the membership are the key first steps. Providing specialty education opportunities is what adds extra depth and potentially assists ACCC members in facing these challenges. And finally, providing an effective voice—one that is supported by credible information and data from ACCC membership—to the national policy leadership will be a key role.

*Given the ever-changing nature of oncology reimbursement, what advice/perspective can you share with the Association membership?*

On reimbursement, the first challenge always is to understand how you are currently doing with the financial performance of your operation and then from there to be able to analyze and respond to any changes that may be coming out over a period of time. Good information on how an organization is currently performing is the key starting point for responding as change occurs. ☐