

## The Value Of ACCC Membership



### Is Your Hospital or Practice a Member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers?

If not, join today and start receiving our outstanding membership benefits:

- Up-to-date public policy and advocacy issues affecting the oncology community. ACCC members receive timely legislative updates and email alerts.
- In-depth financial and programmatic information. ACCC members enjoy the Association's bimonthly journal, *Oncology Issues*, special supplements, and ACCC's quarterly *Compendia-Based Drug Bulletin*.
- Opportunities to increase your cancer program's visibility and presence on the web and in print. ACCC member institutions and group practices are listed on ACCC's award-winning website, with a direct link to the program's website. Additionally, one ACCC member is profiled in each issue of the journal, and all profiles are available on ACCC's website.
- ACCC's Members-only website. Members have full online access to *Oncology Issues* and its special supplements; detailed job descriptions and salary information; benchmarking tools; and online reimbursement assistance.
- Discount registration for ACCC's annual meetings. Each year, ACCC hosts a national meeting and an economics conference.
- Free educational and training sessions. For example, the "Cancer Program Improvement Project" for hospitals and "Choosing Directions" and regional reimbursement symposia for practices.

PHOTOGRAPH/GETTY IMAGES

## Are You an ACCC Member?

by Christian Downs, JD, MHA

This September at ACCC's annual oncology economics meeting in Portland, Ore., an attendee came up to me to express his appreciation for the program. He went on to talk about how much he valued the Association and the importance of ACCC membership. After sharing a few stories and realizing we had some mutual friends in common, I promised to follow up with some material about office-based cancer programs. Imagine my surprise when I looked in our membership directory a few days later and saw that his institution was, in fact, *not* a member.

Now this gentleman did not tell me he was a member to get something for "free." Instead, he is just another in a fairly long line of individuals who truly believe their institutions are ACCC members. In fact, most of these institutions either never joined or have allowed their membership to lapse.

Let me pause for a second and ask...*Is your hospital or practice a member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers? No?* Then take a minute to read the box to the left, which highlights just a few of ACCC's membership benefits.

And now you can take advantage of ACCC's streamlined membership process—the initial application can be completed in just a few minutes.

If your hospital or practice is *not* currently an ACCC member, I urge you to log onto the Association's website at [www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org),

click on the appropriate membership application, and download the one-page initial form.

If you *think* your hospital or practice is a member or you are uncertain of your membership status, please go to [www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org) and click on the "Find a Cancer Center" link. If your hospital or practice is not listed, chances are great that you are *not* an ACCC member. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 301.984.9496.

Finally, for those of you whose ACCC membership has lapsed, *now* is the time to come back.

These are critical times for the oncology community. It is absolutely essential for you to have a voice in discussing and shaping the vital policy and regulatory issues that will affect your program and patients now and for the years to come.

If your cancer program is going to continue delivering quality cancer care, you will need the

educational information and resources ACCC is providing to its members—oftentimes free of charge. Don't miss the opportunity to join the premier education and advocacy organization for the entire multidisciplinary cancer team.

As for the meeting attendee from Portland? I called him and let him know his institution was *not* an ACCC member. But rest assured, his institution *will* be a member by our annual meeting in March 2006. ☐

