

The Value Of ACCC Membership



Are you an ACCC member? If not, look what you're missing:

- Free educational courses and webcasts
- Valuable marketing tools for your program or practice
- Free reimbursement information tailored to your needs
- Plus, new in 2005—ACCC's Mentoring Program

ACCC leadership is committed to introducing its members to the many benefits and educational programs the Association offers, including the opportunity to build professional networking relationships. So in 2005, ACCC launched a unique mentoring program. The program matches ACCC leadership—Board and Membership Committee members—with professionals from new ACCC-member institutions and practices.

Our goal is simple: to offer guidance and assistance to new members as they traverse the challenging and complex oncology field. In addition, ACCC's *Mentoring Program* allows members to share and exchange information on reimbursement issues, best practices, patient care, and much more.

If your institution is new to ACCC and would like to participate in ACCC's *Mentoring Program*, call Membership Services at: 301.984.9496, ext. 226 or email: echoa@accc-cancer.org.

Learn more about joining the Association of Community Cancer Centers by visiting www.accc-cancer.org and clicking on the Membership section.

PHOTOGRAPH/GETTY IMAGES

Is This “The Big One”?

by Christian Downs, JD, MHA

For many Americans, those three little words have come to symbolize an earthquake that will eventually topple California into the ocean. Now I hope that never happens. In fact, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, “the big one” is just an urban legend. Instead, we're more likely to see Los Angeles and San Francisco as next-door neighbors—in about 15 million years. But it is safe to say that California will continue to be rocked by seismic activity. And so will our healthcare system.

In 2006, the healthcare community is going to experience some rather “seismic” shifts in the way it delivers cancer care. In fact, these radical changes are already underway: new technologies and oral anticancer drugs, new hospital/physician relationships, new payment policies, and new reimbursement restraints.

Ask anyone in the oncology community the question: *Are earth-shaking changes to hospital-based cancer care taking place?* And you will hear a resounding—*Yes!* And yet, ask your hospital CEO or CFO the same question—chances are you won't hear the same answer.

So where does that leave the nation's community cancer centers? Quite frankly, it leaves us all with a lot of questions. *Is ASP + 6 percent an adequate reimbursement amount for the cancer drugs my hospital purchases? Will the 2 percent add-on cover my pharmacy and drug handling costs? Can my hospital afford to invest in new, cutting-edge treatments, such as TomoTherapy and IGRT? What impact will CMS' quality of care initiatives have on my cancer service line?*

To help your hospital's top leadership team answer these and other questions, ACCC is hosting its 1st Annual Hospital Summit, *Seismic Shifts in the Cancer Service Line: Strategies to Thrive*, November 3-4, in Washington, D.C. This two-day workshop is aimed specifically at hospital chief executive officers and chief financial officers, vice presidents of oncology services, oncology pharmacy leaders, program administrators, and any others responsible for your cancer service line. A key Hospital Summit goal is surprisingly simple—to facilitate discussions between

hospital CEOs/CFOs and their cancer service line leaders. In addition, attendees will gain critical knowledge about the dramatic changes in store for the cancer service line and develop practical, real-life strategies for ensuring that your oncology program stays viable.

Here's how ACCC's unique meeting will work. On day one of

the meeting learn what dramatic changes lie ahead.

On day two your team will apply this knowledge in expert-led, small group meetings. In these interactive sessions, facilitators will guide your team and 1) explain the implications of the changes for your specific hospital and 2) help you develop a concrete response.

Let me leave you with two final questions. First, is 2006 “the big one” for the oncology community? While we may not yet be able to answer that question definitively, my second question is more basic. Can your cancer care team afford not to attend ACCC's 1st Annual Hospital Summit?

I don't think so. ☹

