

The Oncology Community Met Us in St. Louis!

More than 500 meeting attendees gathered in St. Louis for the Association of Community Cancer Centers 23rd National Oncology Economics Conference. Sessions included evolving coverage policies that affect the delivery of quality cancer care, as well as practical strategies for expanding patient access to new technologies. Policy experts examined how hospitals have been affected by the implementation of Medicare's new 2006 payment methodology and provided a look ahead to 2007. Looming on the horizon are proposed steep reductions in reimbursements for imaging services, from 30 to 50 percent, and a proposed drop in drug reimbursement from ASP+6 percent to ASP+5 percent for hospital outpatient departments. Oncology private practices are facing their own problems with the Medicare system: inadequate reimbursement for drug administration costs. Meeting presentations are available online at www.accc-cancer.org.



Thomas Gallo, MS, cancer program administrator at the Virginia Cancer Institute in Richmond, Va., addressed attendees at a special pre-conference session for new administrators.



On Friday, Sept. 15, ACCC's Clinical Research Award was presented to Lodovico Balducci, MD (left, in photo, shown with ACCC President James C. Chingos, MD, CPE, and ACCC Executive Director Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA). Dr. Balducci is professor of Medicine and Oncology, University of South Florida College of Medicine, and chief of the Division of Geriatric Oncology, Senior Adult Oncology Program, at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla. He currently leads one of the three existing geriatric oncology programs in the country and the world.



Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN, (pictured at left) was honored with ACCC's Progress Award. Moore is chief executive officer of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the ONS Foundation, the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation, and Oncology Education Services, Inc. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. Moore served as one of the first oncology clinical nurse specialists in the nation at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh. Later, she blended clinical practice with research as the first coordinator of the Brain Tumor Study Group. At the same time, Moore was a volunteer and pivotal leader in the development of the Oncology Nursing Society. In 1975, she joined 250 nursing peers as an ONS founding member. (Also pictured ACCC Treasurer Brenda K. Gordon, RN, MS, OCN, and ACCC Executive Director Christian Downs, JD, MHA.)

Instant Polls at www.accc-cancer.org

What is your greatest concern regarding your ability to provide quality cancer care?

