



## The Value of ACCC Membership

Here are just a few of ACCC's accomplishments this past year...

✓ **Advocacy Efforts Pay off for Hospitals and Practices**

Legislative successes include maintaining drug reimbursement at ASP+6 percent; increasing payments for drug administration; and getting separate payments for subsequent hours of drug administration.

✓ **ACCC's Survey on Hospital Outpatient Department Drug Reimbursement**

Survey results were submitted to CMS and Congress and were instrumental in staving off reductions in drug payments for hospitals and practices.

✓ **Updated and Improved Cancer Program Guidelines**

Now available on ACCC's website, new features include: an extensive revision to the Pharmacy Services section; the addition of an Integrative Medicine section; and an improved reference section.

✓ **ACCC's Hospital Pharmacy Survey**

Survey data help ACCC educate CMS and Congress on the current state of pharmacy practice, including the need for additional payments for drug handling and preparation. Survey results also provide ACCC members with important benchmarking data.

**Join today!**  
[www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org)

## The Cancer Experience

by Christian Downs, JD, MHA

If you look at the “cancer experience” in a linear model, it may look something like this: prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Much has been made about the first three points on the model—and rightfully so. Over the past five years, emphasis on cancer prevention has exploded with not only awareness, but also dollars put into prevention research.

Diagnosis has also improved. Not only are providers better at staging the disease, they have gotten better at determining the type of cancer a patient has earlier in the disease process. Over the last 25 years, the advances in cancer therapy and treatment have been nothing short of remarkable. Credit goes to our researchers, as well as our community-based providers and, most importantly, to those brave cancer patients participating in clinical trials.

The successes we have reaped in the first three elements of our model—prevention, diagnosis, and treatment—have brought about a corresponding increase in cancer survivors. These survivors are not simply “walking away” from their “cancer experience.” Instead, they are choosing to participate in survivorship groups, they are looking for additional resources, and they are becoming more informed about their disease and what to expect in the future.

Going forward, a major emphasis for ACCC will be to help its members with the fourth point of the cancer experience: survivorship. In the coming months, we will incorporate survivorship issues from the provider's perspective into ACCC's 24<sup>th</sup> National Oncology Economics Conference in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 3-6, 2007 and at ACCC's annual

meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, April 2-5, 2008. ACCC is also in the process of developing a web-based educational program that will incorporate model survivorship elements

into ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines*.

But hold on! You don't have to wait for these meetings and programs to start developing or improving your own survivorship program. This issue of *Oncology Issues* is full of great information that you can modify and use in your own cancer centers today. For example,

“Survivorship Education for Quality Cancer Care” highlights the City of Hope National Medical Center's model survivorship education program. In 2006 this program trained two-person interdisciplinary teams from 52 institutions. Sound interesting? Be sure to contact authors Marcia Grant and Denice Economou to participate in the 2008 conference.

Next we profile two model programs. First up is the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center, which has developed an innovative three-part approach: a survivorship journal, an educational seminar series, and a Survivorship Multidisciplinary Center. The second survivorship program is at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. Partnering with the Lance Armstrong Foundation has allowed this NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center to bring survivorship resources to its community affiliates.

ACCC members have invested great energy, time, resources, and expertise into building multidisciplinary programs that address cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. And these efforts have paid off for our cancer patients. Now let's also focus on developing comprehensive cancer survivorship programs. ☐



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