

ACCC's 33rd Annual National Meeting

Kicking off the meeting March 28-31, in Baltimore, Md., Christian Downs, JD, MHA, announced that the gathering of more than 500 attendees was the largest meeting in the Association's 33 year history. Also at the start of the meeting, Downs and outgoing ACCC

President James C. Chingos, MD, CPE, presented ACCC's Annual Achievement Award and first annual David King Community Clinical Scientist Awards.

A former ACCC President, Dr. King spent his entire life caring for
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Armin Weinberg, PhD, delivered the opening keynote session.

Harmon J. Eyre, MD, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, (center) received ACCC's Annual Achievement Award for his long-standing advocacy, dedication, and commitment to promoting the goals of cancer prevention, early detection, and quality treatment. (Also pictured are James C. Chingos, MD, CPE, at left and Christian Downs, JD, MHA at right.)



ACCC's new president, Richard B. Reiling, MD, FACS, (right) presented outgoing President James C. Chingos, MD, CPE, with a plaque in honor of his years of outstanding leadership to the Association.



ACCC's 2007 David King Community Clinical Scientist Award recipients: (from left) Alan P. Lyss, MD, Missouri Baptist Cancer Center; Richard C. Frank, MD, Whittingham Cancer Center, Norwalk Hospital; and Stephen S. Grubbs, MD, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center.

individuals with cancer and advocating for access to quality care, while also championing the Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) and the value of clinical research in the community setting.

Access to Care

Armin Weinberg, PhD, professor of medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, and director of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center, delivered the Annual Meeting keynote address, "Access to Quality Care: Time to Make It a Reality for All?" Dr. Weinberg emphasized that "any serious discussion about access [to quality cancer care] must include [a discussion of] disparities."

Addressing the challenge of defining quality care, Weinberg noted that increasingly "the recipient of healthcare is going to be more and more engaged in this discussion of what *it* [quality care] is." Community cancer centers have a "unique" opportunity, said Weinberg, to "talk *with* [your community], and have your community talk with you so that, in your setting, you have the value of understanding of what *it*' is that they want from you and expect from you."

New Technology Panel

New technologies are offering significant advances for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and promise measurable benefits in patient outcomes and improved quality of care. While new technologies may hold great promise, some come with hefty price tags. A panel of experts explored how cancer programs should assess and plan strategically for the adoption and implementation of new technologies, including Genetic Testing in a High-Risk Hereditary Cancer Program; Computed Tomography and Image-Guided Radiosurgery; Virtual Airway Surgery; Computer Assisted

ACCC at the White House

On April 20, ACCC Executive Director Christian Downs, JD, MHA, witnessed the signing of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act by President Bush at the White House.

"Prevention, treatment, and survivorship are critical issues," said ACCC Executive Director, Christian Downs, JD, MHA. "ACCC looks forward to working with the current Administration on these important issues facing the oncology community."

Since its creation, the National



Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has conducted nearly 7 million cancer screenings, diagnosed thousands of cases of breast and cervical cancer, and helped educate women about the importance of early detection. It is expected that in 2007 this program will provide more than 700,000 screenings for low-income and uninsured women. ☺

Visual Enhancement; and CT Colonography.

Drug Safety

At a general session entitled, "Ensuring the Safety of Chemotherapy Drugs," attendees learned the extent of the drug counterfeiting problem and how oncology practices and cancer centers can help safeguard against the dangerous activity. Presenter Rolando DeCardenas, vice president of pharmaceutical distribution for US Oncology, explored drug pedigrees, establishing a given drug's chain of custody from the manufacturer to the point of dispensing.

At the same session, author of *Dangerous Doses* and investigative reporter Katherine Eban put a human face to the nation's problem with counterfeit drugs. "I spent... two-and-a-half years following the investigators who uncovered the counterfeits and the patients who received them. I met with the drug makers, distributors, and regulators, as well as those accused of criminal misconduct. ...everywhere I looked, dangerous public health implications had been veiled in secrecy," wrote Eban. She explored how counterfeiters can make their way through an often poorly regulated drug distribution system,



New technology session moderator Cliff Goodman, PhD, with panel. From left, Robert G. Resta, MA, MS; Thomas Bauer, MD; E. Brian Butler, MD; and Abraham H. Dachman, MD.

hurting unsuspecting patients who stake their lives on a drug's purity and effectiveness.

Building Trust

ACCC's conference ended on a high—and humorous—note, Saturday, March 31, when cancer center director Connie T. Bollin, MBA, RN, and community medical oncologist George Kovach, MD, participated in a point-counterpoint session modeled after the late Saturday Night Live skit. Conference attendees enjoyed the spirited dialogue about the benefits of and barriers to hospital/physician collaborations. Take-home message: building trust is key to a successful partnership between hospital- and office-based oncology programs. ☺