

ACCC Member's Perspective

Oncology Pharmacists Talk about Why They're Involved with ACCC

Ed Zagol, RPh, MS, Associate Director, Clinical Oncology, at The Jordan Hospital in Plymouth, Mass., has been an oncology pharmacist for more than 15 years and an ACCC member for 12 years. Oncology pharmacist Cheryl Hoechner, RPh, MS, BCOP, has been with the Tunnell Cancer Center, Beebe Medical Center in Lewes, Del., for 9 years, and previously was a clinical staff pharmacist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Shadyside Campus. For both pharmacists, ACCC membership has brought long-term value.

When he first learned about ACCC's multidisciplinary membership, Zagol "quickly understood the many benefits to both my oncology pharmacy practice and to the Cancer Center. ACCC membership has brought value to all groups within the Jordan Hospital Cancer Center, including Hematology, Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology, nursing, diagnostic radiology, and others." In particular, Zagol appreciates the depth of resources available to ACCC members at his cancer program. "We have all gained from *Oncology Issues*, ACCC's multidisciplinary publication; the members-only listserv; and Association meetings. Our practice is stronger, more data driven, and more financially sound due to our involvement with ACCC's various resources."

Cheryl Hoechner is not quite sure how long she's been an ACCC member, but "in retrospect," she says, "ACCC has been a partner in my efforts for most of my years at the Tunnell Cancer Center. In Pittsburgh, my oncology experience was completely inpatient. When I joined the pharmacy staff at Beebe Medical Center, I was introduced to the world of the outpatient cancer treat-

ment center. With so much to learn, my initial motivation for ACCC membership was to understand and apply CMS rules and regulations to the [outpatient] practice setting." Hoechner has found that her cancer program has benefited from her attendance at ACCC and OPEN (Oncology Pharmacy Education Network) meetings, receiving *Oncology Issues*, and participating in Association webinars. She also



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quality, safety, financial viability, and access to cancer care." Oncology pharmacists are an integral part of the multidisciplinary care team to provide quality, cost-effective cancer care and to ensure patient access to care. "As budget constraints continue, reimbursement becomes more challenging and cancer care becomes more expensive and complex, our partnership with ACCC becomes increasingly important," says Hoechner. "The advocacy and support from ACCC is a vital component to our current success and our future ability to provide care for our patients." ❏