

ACCC Member's Perspective

Cancer Program Administrators Talk about Why They're Involved with ACCC

Matt Sherer, MBA, MHA, is administrative director of the John B. Amos Cancer Center at The Medical Center, Inc., which is part of the Columbus Regional Healthcare System, in Columbus, Ga. With five years experience in the oncology field, Matt has been an active ACCC member serving as ACCC Delegate Representative for both his current and previous cancer center. "I wanted to continue to learn about the oncology service line. ACCC provides with me resources and contacts that I could reach out to with questions and ideas. As Delegate Rep, any information I learn from ACCC I can share with the rest of our team to ensure we are providing the best possible care to our patients and community."

James Whiting, MHSA, vice president for Oncology Services at Moses Cone Health System, has 29 years experience in the healthcare field, and has spent the last four years focused on oncology. Working with John Feldmann, MD, Medical Director of the Moses Cone Regional Cancer Center, he had firsthand knowledge of the benefits of ACCC

membership, as Dr. Feldmann is a past ACCC President. Whiting is also a regular reader of *Oncology Issues*. "I find the articles relevant and I like the fact that they are operationally oriented but also new program and new idea oriented."

For Matt Sherer an important benefit of ACCC membership has been the networking opportunities.



James Whiting



Matt Sherer

"I've been able to create a network of colleagues who are willing to share their experiences, ideas—and even their mistakes and lessons learned—on how to make things work." As an active participant on ACCC's members-only listserv, Matt says, "I've used the listserv to help with countless questions. Also, as I've learned from others—either through networking or the listserv—I'm very willing to share my knowledge as well. In my opinion, the listserv is one of the top three reasons to be an ACCC member."

Both administrators have found ACCC's meetings a valuable resource, although Whiting admits he was skeptical at first. When the first national meeting he attended, for hospital-based programs, focused largely on potential regulation changes and policy, he was disappointed. Offered the chance to provide feedback on the meeting, he and several others responded with suggestions. The next meeting he attended "was what I had hoped it would be. It was focused on practical programmatic information on survivorship programs, managing research departments, the use of nurse navigators, and discussions regarding multispecialty treatment planning. The more I got involved, the more valuable I realized it was, particularly because the attendance was multidisciplinary. Having all those people together...everyone is open to talking to each other about their program and new ideas."

Taking their ACCC membership to the next level, Matt Sherer serves on the Association's Editorial Committee and *Oncology Issues* Editorial Board, and James Whiting is a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee. "Once I realized the breadth of the organization, I really had a desire to be more involved," said Whiting. ☐