

Al B. Benson III, MD, FACP, Becomes ACCC President

Al B. Benson III, MD, FACP, became ACCC President at the Association's 36th Annual National Meeting on March 19, 2010. Dr. Benson is a professor of medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Ill. He is also associate director for clinical investigations, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, at Northwestern University.



"I am honored to serve as President of the Association of Community Cancer Centers," said Dr. Benson. "During my year as ACCC President, I hope to give voice to the importance of putting comparative effectiveness research and evidence-based medicine into practice."

Dr. Benson has served on ACCC's Board of Directors since 2003 and has been active on ACCC's Strategic Planning Committee, Editorial Committee, New Technology Committee, Corporate Development Committee, Awards Committee, Bylaws Committee, Program Committee, and Membership Committee.

Dr. Benson was an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Illinois and co-medical director for the National Public Health Service in Champaign, Ill. He then served as a clinical oncology fellow at the University of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center, where he received an American Cancer Society Fellowship Award, prior to joining the faculty at Northwestern.

Dr. Benson's research is primarily in the areas of gastrointestinal cancer clinical trials, cancer clinical trials, biologic therapies, Phase I cancer

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David R. Hunt, MD, FACS, Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services, discussed ONC's mandate, "meaningful use," and the opportunities health IT may provide to improve the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. "At ONC the overriding question is really can we use information technology as a vehicle to change our culture and perhaps our methods in 21st Century American healthcare? In short, as clinicians, there's a lot of work to be done," he said.



ACCC Executive Director Christian Downs, JD, MHA, (left) and then ACCC President Luana R. Lamkin, RN, MPH, (center) with Carl J. Minniti, Jr., MD, (right) recipient of ACCC's David King Community Clinical Scientist Award. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Minniti said, "...we in the community are the front lines of cancer care. And clinical research can and should be an important part of that front line."



(Left to right) Jeff Allen, PhD; Al B. Benson III, MD, FACP; and H. Kim Lysterly, MD; participated in a panel discussion on comparativeness effectiveness. Read a summary on ACCC's website www.accc-cancer.org.

clinical trials, and cancer guideline development. He has authored or co-authored numerous reports, reviews, and book chapters focusing on these topics. His research in biologics, cancer therapy, and cancer prevention has been awarded funding from a variety of sources including the NIH. Dr. Benson has been honored with a number of awards, including most recently the ASCO Statesman Award and the Woman's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Compassionate Care Award.

Dr. Benson has served on a number of committees for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and is currently a member of the Task Force on Quality of Cancer Care, and the co-chair of ASCO's Colorectal Cancer Surveillance Guidelines Panel, the Stage II Colon Cancer Guidelines Panel, and the RFA for colorectal cancer liver metastases panel. He is also the chair of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Gastrointestinal and Data Monitoring Committees. In addition, he is a member of several medical societies, and serves as past-president of the Illinois Medical Oncology Society, past-president of the International Society of GI Oncology, and is a member and immediate past-chair of the board of directors of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). He was recently appointed as a Scientific Advisory Board member of both the Patient Advocacy Foundation and the National Patient Advocacy Foundation.

He earned his medical degree at the State University of New York at



Barbara Hoffman, JD, (left) with then ACCC President Luana R. Lamkin, RN, MPH, at the Friday, March 19 Award Luncheon. A founding chair of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Ms. Hoffman received ACCC's Annual Achievement Award in recognition of her advocacy efforts on behalf of cancer survivorship services and education.

Buffalo, following which he completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals.

ACCC to Study Challenges in Treating Small-Population Cancers in the Community Setting

ACCC has launched a ground-breaking program to provide community-based cancer care providers the tools they need to improve the quality of care for patients with small-population cancers, such as

chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).

“Caring for patients with less common cancers presents unique challenges for community-based cancer care providers,” said ACCC President Al B. Benson III, MD, FACP. “Physicians treating small-population cancers have limited time and resources to incorporate emerging clinical data into practice. Other health professionals, including nurses, social workers, and pharmacists, see these diseases less frequently and need information to better support the physician and the patient.”

ACCC surveys revealed that

PHOTOGRAPHS/JAMES TKATCH

many community-based cancer care providers see a relatively high number of patients with breast, lung, colon, or prostate cancer. Practice patterns are relatively well-established for these cancers and resources are available for both providers and patients. Patients with a small-population cancer, however, usually are underserved or elderly and may not have the resources or desire to be treated far away from their homes.

ACCC's first objective will be to raise awareness among the public and healthcare providers about the challenges presented by small-population cancers, and the need to assess barriers to treatment and best practices within the community setting. Barriers include limited physician and cancer team knowledge of emerging data, difficulties in incorporating new clinical information into practice, and inadequate managerial and administrative processes in treating small-

Save the Dates

Free Regional Oncology Economic and Management Symposia

Kansas City, Missouri
Hilton Kansas City Airport
Co-host: The Missouri Oncology Society
May 27, 2010

Richmond, Virginia
The Westin Richmond
Co-host: The Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists
June 17, 2010

Seattle, Washington
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Co-host: Washington State Medical Oncology Society
June 24, 2010

Save this Date, too!

ACCC's 27th National Oncology Economics Conference
September 29 - October 2, 2010
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch

population cancers like CML.

ACCC will launch a comprehensive online resource that will include community-provider-specific information about how to design a program to best serve patients with small-population cancers, as well as clinical news and non-clinical

resources for specific small-population cancers. Project results will be presented at ACCC meetings and in its journal, *Oncology Issues*.

The project is made possible by an educational grant from Novartis Oncology and will take about two years to complete. ☐

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