

ACCC—Your contact point for peer-to-peer connections

Uncertain healthcare reform.
Increased regulations.
Tight budgets.
Too many concerns and questions to be on your own.
Where should you turn for support and answers?

Association of Community Cancer Centers



Connect with your colleagues in 900 hospitals and more than 1,200 private practices. Ask questions, share information, and take advantage of opportunities to network.

ACCCEXchange. More than 1,000 ACCC members discuss hot topics and share innovative ideas on ACCC's listserve.

ACCCBuzz. Blog posts from ACCC leaders on timely topics of concern to you and your cancer program at <http://acccbuzz.wordpress.com>.

Facebook & LinkedIn. Social media is a great way to interact and exchange ideas. Our Facebook Fanpage and LinkedIn group are growing. Join us today.

www.accc-cancer.org



From First Brick to Survivorship

by Christian Downs, JD, MHA

If your program is a member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), then you have demonstrated a commitment to treating the “whole” cancer patient. Everything you do is viewed through the prism of quality care for the patient and his or her family.



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management can improve care for this patient population. As the leading education and advocacy organization for the cancer care team, everything ACCC does is viewed through the prism of helping our members provide that quality of care. From laying the first brick of your new cancer center to creating a survivorship program that will follow your patients long after they leave your program—our goal is to serve you and your patients along the entire continuum.

A prime example of our commitment can be found in this edition of *Oncology Issues*. In “Cancer Center Construction—An Administrator’s Perspective,” Amanda Henson shares firsthand peer-to-peer lessons she learned during the construction of her new cancer center. For example, recognizing the importance of keeping her staff positive and engaged during the construction process, she conducted hard hat tours as the cancer center was being built—a practical and no-cost strategy that any cancer center could adopt. Henson also talks about hiring the “right” architect and listening to key stakeholders, including our most important stakeholders—our patients. These themes are carried through in Michael Puksza’s article, “Infusion of Evidence: Balancing Patient Desires with Environmental Evidence.” His architectural firm is conducting a study that seeks to identify patient preferences on infusion center design and whether or not the physical environment impacts patient well-being.

Safety is one of the pillars of qual-

ity care. While the majority of medical errors are preventable, they occur in even the best cancer centers. In “Anthracycline Extravasation: Reducing Risk and Improving Quality in the Community Setting,” Lisa Ashworth shares practical risk-reduction strategies and shows how evidence-based management can improve care for this patient population.

So the patient is in your well-designed cancer program, receiving top quality care, now what? In “Cancer Patient Navigation: Where Do We Go From Here?” Ashley Varner and Pam Murph discuss three major cancer patient navigation programs, the advantages and challenges patient navigation programs face, and questions to help assess what type of patient navigation program—if any—would be useful at *your* program.

When patients have been navigated successfully through treatment and are ready to leave your cancer center, what happens next? In “Delivering Effective and Meaningful Survivorship Care” Anita Chatigny and John S. Macdonald discuss survivorship care delivery models, including available support resources.

Of course this issue is loaded with other great information for your entire cancer care team. And if you want to experience a “live action” version of the information and knowledge ACCC packs into every edition of *Oncology Issues*, then plan to attend the 27th National Oncology Economics Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, in Saint Louis. This meeting has comprehensive, peer-to-peer education where you can learn best practices from cancer programs across the country. From laying the first brick to developing a long-term survivorship plan, ACCC supports your team and your cancer program every step of the way. 📍

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