

ACCC—A “How-to” Association

by Thomas Whittaker, MD, FACP

The pressure is on! How can we continue to maintain and improve the quality of care we deliver in an era of decreasing reimbursement, declining workforce availability, and burgeoning patient numbers? ACCC has a strong commitment to helping members with information and resources to improve access to cancer care for all. We are a “how to” organization.

Feature articles in this *Oncology Issues* share a common theme of reaching out to ensure access to high-quality care for all patients, including those with less prevalent cancers and those who are underserved.

In this issue is an overview of ACCC's educational project “Treating Small-Population Cancers in the Community Setting,” which has been initiated with a focus on chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). The project identifies barriers to and provides resources for treating less prevalent cancers, including podcasts, an effective practices webinar, and ACCC's newly launched Community Resource Centers (CRCs) on MyNetwork.

Also in this issue is a report by the NCCCP's Disparities Subcommittee. The subcommittee is working to ensure that the issue of disparities is addressed across all NCCCP pillars and reports on specific efforts related to navigation, data tracking, community outreach, and screening. Quality and access are the underlying themes.

In today's challenging healthcare environment, as we strive to find “how to” solutions, ACCC is a vital “how to” resource. In addition to the “Treating Small-Population Cancers” project, recent educational projects include “Dispensing Pharmacy: An

Option for Physician Practices,” “Cancer Care Trends in Community Cancer Centers,” “Cancer Care Patient Navigation,” and “Transitions Between Care Settings.” Just

launched are two new educational projects: “The Financial Information and Learning Network,” which seeks to provide information and education to members who deal directly with patients on complex financial issues surrounding their cancer diagnosis, and “Establishing and Improving Cancer Nutrition Programs in the Community Cancer

Center,” which will provide members with practical resources and revised *Cancer Program Guidelines* for better awareness of how proper nutrition supports improved patient care. This list is a sample of the educational offerings, tools, and resources available on ACCC's website at: www.accc-cancer.org.

Supporting the “how to” of the organization is the exceptional advocacy work ACCC does on Capitol Hill, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and in assisting with our local grassroots efforts. We all need a champion fighting the fight to preserve quality of care and maintain adequate reimbursement to deliver that care. Whether it is a day of advocacy on Capitol Hill or participating in a grassroots legislative initiative, these staff-guided and membership-driven advocacy efforts do have impact and will continue to be vital in shaping our future models of cancer care.

As we continue to face pressures and challenges to our ability to deliver the highest-quality cancer care, ACCC will continue to be the “how to” resource for maintaining the quality and access to that care. 📞



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