

Sharing our Strengths

by Thomas Whittaker, MD, FACP

ACCC is a remarkable organization representing institutions, providers, and cancer care teams who deliver the best of care across the continuum from prevention to diagnosis and treatment to survivorship. Our membership is broad and includes all disciplines of cancer care.



Reflective of the Association's broad membership and its educational mission, we are pleased to present the *2011 ACCC Innovator Awards*. The Innovator Awards were established to recognize ACCC member programs that have created pioneering initiatives, tools, and replicable models that can benefit our entire membership. In a call to members to present their innovative practices and programs for award consideration, we received an outstanding response from across the country. Fourteen programs were selected to receive an ACCC Innovator Award and to present during ACCC's 28th National Oncology Conference in Seattle, Oct. 19-22.

The range of initiatives developed by these ACCC member programs showcases the breadth of programmatic innovation and creativity underway at community cancer centers across the nation. These include:

- ◆ The Patient Passport
- ◆ Virtual Communications Within and Beyond the Cancer Program
- ◆ Teaching Your Staff Lean Six Sigma Principles
- ◆ Leveraging Information Technology to Enhance the Patient Experience
- ◆ How to Assess Capital Needs—Objectively
- ◆ Navigating for Improved Outcomes
- ◆ Changing the Paradigm of Care Delivery for Survivors in the Community
- ◆ A Short Case Study on Academic

Medicine Joint Strategic Planning

- ◆ Nip It in the Butt: Breathing in the Truth about Tobacco
- ◆ Oncology-Related Fertility Needs in the Community Setting
- ◆ A Pharmacist-Run Oral Chemotherapy Program: An Economic and Clinical Opportunity.

An important strength of ACCC is the diversity of our unique membership—physicians, non-physician practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, office managers, social workers, radiation therapists, registrars, dietitians, navigators, financial counselors, billers and coders, and more. Through the Innovator Award winning programs, we are offering a glimpse of our members' abilities to touch all aspects of cancer care, as well as an exceptional opportunity to learn from our network of member institutions and programs. Enjoy and learn from these programs this year, and begin planning to present and share your own unique program for the *2012 ACCC Innovator Awards* in Texas.

As our country debates debt ceilings and budget cuts, I encourage you to recognize the value in attending ACCC's National Oncology Conference, not only for the Innovator Awards but also for the presentations, informational sessions, and networking that afford opportunities to connect with your peers and learn ways to improve your cancer care and cancer care program. Delivering the best care in an ever-changing financial and scientific environment requires continual learning. Take advantage of ACCC as your valued resource for both the education and advocacy needs of your entire cancer care team. 📞

Coming in Your 2011 Oncology Issues

- ◆ Developing a Stellar Oncology Homecare Program
- ◆ Using Your Cancer Registry to Aid in ACoS and NAPBC Accreditation
- ◆ Partnering to Provide Inpatient and Outpatient Palliative Care
- ◆ Palliative Care in the Hospital
- ◆ Future Trends in Cancer Care Delivery
- ◆ The Value of Dedicated Financial Coordinators
- ◆ What is Causing the Oncology Drug Shortages and What Can Community Cancer Centers Do?
- ◆ Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Patient Navigation Services
- ◆ HITECT and HIPAA: Is Your Cancer Center Still HIPAA Compliant?
- ◆ Clinical Trials and Research in a Community Setting
- ◆ A Day in the Life of a Patient Navigator

Don't Miss Out!

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