

# action



## Meet ACCC's New President

In March 2012 George Kovach, MD, became President of the Association of Community Cancer Centers. Dr. Kovach is the medical director of the Genesis Cancer Center, Davenport, Iowa. He was a founding member of the Iowa Oncology Society and served as president (1995-1997 and 1999-2002) and vice president (1997-1999). Dr. Kovach has served as treasurer for ACCC and co-chair of ACCC's sub-committee on reimbursement.

**OI.** *Tell us about your career in oncology, your present position, and how you first became involved with ACCC?*

**Kovach.** I began my practice in Flint, Michigan, in 1977 as a solo practitioner working with the Hurley Medical Center cancer program. Hurley Medical Center—an early member of ACCC—was my introduction to the Association. During the first years, I focused primarily on building the practice. Initially a mixed practice, it evolved to focus only on hematology and oncology.

Hospital competition created an opportunity at St. Josephs Hospital (now Genesys). So, in 1980 I moved my practice there and began to develop its cancer program, introducing clinical trials through affiliations with NSABP and SWOG.

In 1985 an opportunity to develop a community cancer program in Davenport, Iowa, became available. While I had accomplished my goals in Flint, competition was impeding progress and program growth. I would use lessons learned from that experience elsewhere in my career. ACCC membership was integral to the development of the Davenport cancer program, helping to make the program what it is today.

**OI.** *What role do you see ACCC playing in meeting the challenges facing the oncology community today?*

**Kovach.** ACCC has a unique position in the oncology community in that the Association represents all the clinical disciplines and the administrative branches, thus giving the organization the complete picture of cancer care. ACCC is in the position to influence the understanding of comprehensive cancer care to the public, third-party payers, and policy makers. We can raise awareness that a focus on cost of treatment alone without regard to the quality of that treatment would be disastrous. Quality is a commonly used term in healthcare legislation; however, its definition is often ambiguous and requires clarity. ACCC can provide that clarity.

**OI.** *What do you see as the most significant challenges facing oncology today?*

**Kovach.** I believe the critical challenge is oncology's loss of voice in the determination and delivery of appropriate care to third-party private and public payers—driven primarily by cost, the increasing price and availability of drugs, and care rationing.

Through my 30-plus years of practice, a voice at the table has allowed us to continue to deliver the necessary care our patients deserve. Losing effective input serves none—especially not our patients. Participation in organizations like ACCC


allows the medical community to influence healthcare delivery and must be encouraged and expanded.

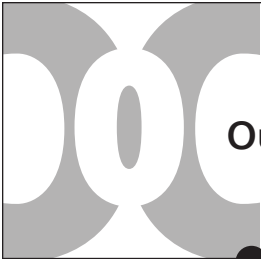
**OI.** *What would you like to accomplish during your term?*

**Kovach.** As healthcare reform takes center stage this year, ACCC must continue to define quality cancer care and be a strong national advocate with a seat at the discussion table, and represent the needs and goals of the multidisciplinary cancer care team. My goal is to permanently insert ACCC in policy development to define and validate value (quality and cost) in cancer care, and to ensure patients receive the right treatment at the right time. This will require:

- Advocacy & Activism
- Collection & Collation of clinical pathways and guidelines, as well as best practices
- Collaboration & Coordination with the oncology community
- Communication with policy makers and the public.

ACCC's education programs contain the elements needed for defining quality and the minimum standard of care, and should be used in developing healthcare coverage. My primary goals as ACCC President 2012-2013 are to:

- Define "Quality" and "Value" with real-world clinical examples.
- Identify the key stakeholders defining quality and value in order to bring ACCC's positions to them.
- Identify and engage policy makers whose interests are consistent with our objectives and work with them in developing a coherent and effective healthcare reform platform.
- Coordinate ACCC recommendations with NCCN, ASCO, ONS, ACCC membership, and other stakeholders.
- Canvas ACCC membership for their input in improving value by cutting waste and duplication. 



# Outstanding teamwork = An award-winning cancer program

These are the characteristics of award-winning cancer programs:

- Commission on Cancer accreditation
- Commitment to excellence
- Dedication to patient-centered cancer care

## Congratulations to the 2011 Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients

VIEW THE RECIPIENT LIST ONLINE AT  
[www.facs.org/cancer/coc/outstandingachievement2011list.html](http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/outstandingachievement2011list.html)



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## SAVE THE DATES!

Free to ACCC Members! ACCC Regional  
Oncology Economic & Management Meetings

Mid-Atlantic Regional | June 19, 2012

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel &  
Conference Center | Rockville, Maryland

Western Regional | June 27, 2012

(co-hosted by the Association of  
Northern California Oncologists)  
Doubletree by Hilton Berkeley Marina  
Berkeley, California



Learn more and register at: [www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/meetings-regionalMeetings.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/meetings-regionalMeetings.asp)



## ACCC Blackboard

### Community Clinical Perspectives

A Joint ACCC and Medscape Project, this online education initiative offers a community provider perspective about emerging data and treatment strategies presented at scientific meetings, such as those of ASCO and ASH.

### Peer-Based Strategies in Preventing Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting CME/CE

The goal of this activity is to provide education on the prevention and management of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in patients with cancer. Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Assess patients' level of risk for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting on the basis of the emetogenicity of the chemotherapy regimen and other risk factors
2. Compare and contrast the roles of the 5-hydroxytryptamine type 3 (5-HT<sub>3</sub>) antagonists, neurokinin 1 (NK-1) antagonists, and dexamethasone in the prevention of nausea and vomiting

3. Review the indications for the inclusion of an NK-1 antagonist in an antiemesis regimen according to evidence-based guidelines.

Faculty: Mark G. Kris, MD, and Stephen A. Mayer, MD, PhD.  
This activity is intended for oncologists, oncology nurses, and pharmacists.

- Physicians—maximum of 0.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>™</sup>
- Nurses—0.50 *ANCC Contact Hour(s)* (0.5 contact hours are in the area of pharmacology)
- Pharmacists—0.50 *Knowledge-based ACPE* (0.050 CEUs).

Supported by an independent educational grant from Eisai.



Learn more and register at: [www.accc-cancer.org/education/education-CCP.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/education/education-CCP.asp).

## SAVE THIS DATE, TOO!

ACCC 29th National Oncology Conference  
October 3–6, 2012

Grand Hyatt San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas



Learn more and register at:  
[www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/NOC2012.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/NOC2012.asp)

## New Resources!

### NCCCP Monograph

In 2011 *Oncology Issues* highlighted the experiences of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) sites in the meeting the program's goals during the initial three-year pilot phase. Now the article series is compiled in one online monograph, available on ACCC's website at: [www.accc-cancer.org/NCCCP](http://www.accc-cancer.org/NCCCP). Learn how NCCCP sites have improved multidisciplinary cancer care, expanded research, integrated information technology, and more.

### ACCC's 2012 Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide

This publication is now available only to ACCC Members. To access the online edition, ACCC members will need to log in to the Members-only section of ACCC's website. Click on Member Resources and find the *2012 Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide*. This year, we are also making a PDF of the publication available to ACCC Cancer Program Members. Save it. Click on hot links directly to patient assistance programs. Use it every day. To get your PDF today, email Tonieh Hansford at: [thansford@accc-cancer.org](mailto:thansford@accc-cancer.org).



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