

Step into the Future

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The future of oncology care looks to be a frightening, challenging, and exciting time. The treatments, diagnostics, technology, and overall management

of cancer patients have evolved with lightning speed in the last 10 years. It was not that long ago that 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, methotrexate, doxorubicin, paclitaxel, and cisplatin were the backbones of cancer chemotherapeutic regimens. Now we have monoclonal antibodies, radio-immunotherapy, and targeted oral agents, and most recently we have seen the birth of immuno-oncology and anti-PD-1 monoclonal antibodies. These advances have occurred in conjunction with improvements in surgical and radiotherapeutic techniques. Diagnostic tools and technology used to predict individual patient responses are outpacing our healthcare system's ability to incorporate them in a standardized fashion.

Not only do we face these challenges in care delivery, but we have to navigate the tumultuous waters of Meaningful Use, the high cost of new agents and their financial toxicity to our patients, increased administrative burdens from payers and government, the Affordable Care Act, and the development of new payment models.

Finally, there has been a headwind of practice and system consolidation that has changed the dynamics of healthcare.

Not for the faint of heart to be sure, but those of us who live and work in the world of oncology have always faced an ever-changing landscape and adapted to the challenges put before us. Bring oncology providers a problem and we will find a solution!


Innovation is all around us. New care models, such as the COME HOME community oncology medical home model, have demonstrated ways to deliver efficient cancer care and reduce costs. CMS has launched a new Oncology Care Model that may change the way care is monitored and reimbursed. EHRs and practice management systems

continue to evolve. Payers have engaged providers to pilot new ways to standardize and reimburse for the care and services we deliver. ASCO is developing CancerLinQ, which will aggregate and analyze a massive network of real-world cancer care data to provide real-time quality feedback to providers, feed personalized insights to physicians, and uncover patterns that can improve care.

The Oncology Medical Home is a concept of multidisciplinary care that is about delivering, ensuring, and measuring quality cancer care, and I have selected it as my presidential theme. Some of the key aspects of the Oncology Medical Home model are:

- Cancer care that is coordinated with the entire focus on patients and their entire medical condition
- Cancer care that uses evidence-based medicine to produce quality outcomes
- Cancer care that is accessible and efficient
- Cancer care that is delivered in a patient-centric, caring environment that optimizes patient satisfaction
- Cancer care that is continuously improved by measuring and benchmarking results against other programs so that best practices in care delivery continue to improve.

This theme builds on the last two ACCC presidential themes—the multidisciplinary team and patient-centered quality and care.

Cancer care in 2015 and beyond requires a multidisciplinary, motivated, and well educated workforce to deliver efficient, cost-effective services that produce quality, value, and safety for our patients. These goals require a platform such as the one that ACCC has developed to help its members stay abreast of recent changes and advocate for those things critical to our mission. Finally, these goals can only be achieved by a dedicated membership that embraces and spreads the words and actions of change. I am privileged to help you and your cancer program step into the future of oncology care. 

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