

➔ more online @
acc-cancer.org



2015 Financial Advocacy Survey

Read what more than 100 of your colleagues have to say about their financial advocacy service line—including the 5 most collected metrics—as well as training needs, salary ranges, and education levels for this fast-growing profession. acc-cancer.org/FAN.



Institute for the Future of Oncology White Paper

Read about 5 essential actions cancer programs can take today to help achieve a positive impact on patient care in today's integrated healthcare environment. acc-cancer.org/institute.



ACCC-FAN-app.org

Patient assistance programs, co-pay programs, travel and housing assistance, and more are now just a click away. Because the last concern your patients should have to worry about is how to pay for their cancer treatment. ACCC-FAN-app.org.



2015 ACCC Innovator Award Winners

Couldn't make it to the ACCC National Oncology Conference in October? Find out why more than 600 of your colleagues attended this hugely successful meeting by watching these short videos that highlight the 2015 award-winning programs. acc-cancer.org/innovator.

Oncology Issues is published bimonthly at the Association of Community Cancer Centers, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. Copyright ©2015. Association of Community Cancer Centers. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing. Editorial correspondence, changes of address, manuscripts, and letters to the editor should be addressed to: Managing Editor, Oncology Issues, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852-2557. Author's instructions available at acc-cancer.org.

Articles, editorials, letters to the editor, and other contributed materials represent the opinions of the authors and do not represent the opinions of the Association of Community Cancer Centers or the institution with which the author is affiliated unless the contrary is specified.

Basic rate: \$55 per year for healthcare providers, plus \$4.99 for shipping. ACCC membership dues pay for general, delegate, and chapter member subscriptions. Back issues available for \$12.50 per copy, prepaid. Bulk rates available upon request.

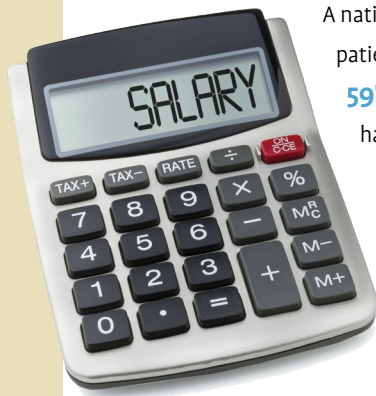
Send correspondence, display advertising, insertion orders, printing materials to Mal Milburn, Oncology Issues, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. Questions for general information may be directed to 301-984-5704.

Please send address changes to Association of Community Cancer Centers, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852.

For permission to photocopy or use material electronically from Oncology Issues, ISSN#1046-3356, please access copyright.com or contact the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. (CCC) 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-750-8400. CCC is a not-for-profit organization that provides licenses and registration for a variety of users.

fast

Most Cancer Patients Want to Stay On the Job—Despite Workplace Challenges



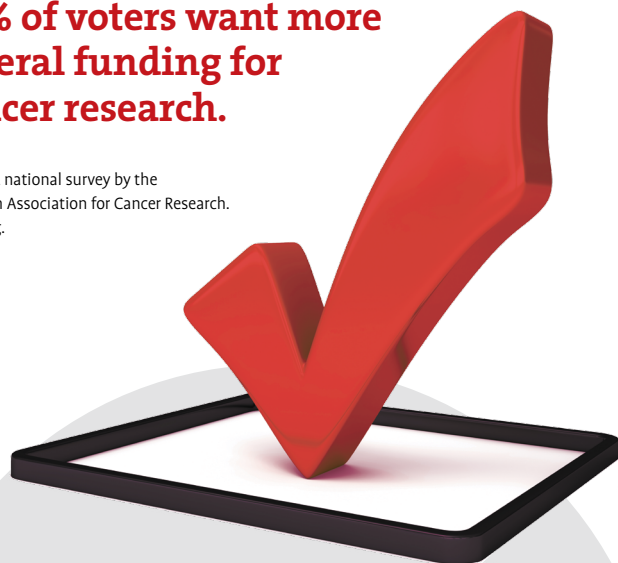
A national study finds that **73%** of cancer patients and survivors want to work—although **59%** who worked through treatment felt they had no choice. Other survey findings:

- **73%** of employed survivors reported that working during treatment helped them cope.
- **68%** of employed survivors said their primary reason for continuing to work during treatment was financial concerns.
- More employed women (**39%**) than men (**30%**) reported their work negatively impacted their treatment; however, more women (**78%**) than men (**66%**) felt working during treatment helped them cope with their cancer.
- Of those who are working and who underwent treatment, more women (**63%**) faced challenges than men (**50%**), and were more likely (**20%**) to work a reduced schedule (**13%**).

Source: Cancer and Careers. Harris Poll Survey. cancerandcareers.org.

74% of voters want more federal funding for cancer research.

Source: A national survey by the American Association for Cancer Research. AACR.org.



facts



Healing Hands

A 2014 study of patients with AML who received **50** minutes of Swedish massage **3** times per week for **7** weeks, found all participants experienced stress reduction, increased comfort, and relaxation.¹

A recent meta-analysis of nearly **600** cancer patients found massage therapy significantly reduced pain compared to the conventional standard-of-care alone, and was particularly effective in eradicating surgery-related pain.²



Sources: ¹Taylor AG, et al. Gentle massage improves disease- and treatment-related symptoms in patients with acute myelogenous leukemia. *J Clin Trials*. 2014;4:1000161. ²Lee SH, et al. Meta-analysis of massage therapy on cancer pain. *Integr Cancer Ther*. 2015;14(4):297-304.

RAC Appeals

- Hospitals have appealed **49%** of RAC denials through June 2015, and have won **64%** of the appeals that have completed the process.
- In **89%** of RAC denials appealed to the administrative law judge (ALJ) level, the judges have taken more than the 90-day statutory limit to render a decision.
- **44%** of all RAC appeals are still working their way through the five-level appeals process.

Source: American Hospital Association. Exploring the Impact of the RAC Program on Hospitals Nationwide: Results of AHA RACTRAC Survey, 2nd Quarter 2015. aha.org/advocacy-issues/rac/ractrac.shtml.

What Our Cancer Patients are Saying

- **62%** of cancer patients say that having a specific individual coordinate their care is important; however, only **32%** experienced this type of coordination while undergoing treatment.
- Among patients who currently have coordinated care, the majority (**74%**) were “completely satisfied,” with their care, suggesting a direct correlation between the delivery of coordinated care and the overall patient experience.
- Less than half of patients (**46%**) and caregivers (**49%**) understand terms such as genomic testing, immunotherapy, precision cancer treatment, and molecular testing. Even fewer know the benefits, suggesting there is a lack of clear and important communication between care teams, patients, and caregivers.
- Nearly **40%** of cancer patients seek a second opinion, and these are typically younger patients. This finding suggests that younger cancer patients, in general, take a more proactive role in their treatment decisions.

Source: 2015 The Cancer Experience: A National Study of Patients and Caregivers. Cancer Treatment Centers of America. cancercenter.com.

