

# Readiness is All

BY MARK S. SOBERMAN, MD, MBA, FACS



losing out in 2017, uncertainty continues to cloud the healthcare reform picture. As oncology moves along the challenging path ahead into value-based care

and reimbursement models, there is one certainty: the future is coming at us fast.

In some respects, the future is already with us—whether it's mentoring the next generation of oncology care providers or staying current on the latest advances in new and emerging disciplines—such as chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and how it works.

My president's theme, Envisioning Next Gen Multidisciplinary Cancer Care, is a case in point. I chose this theme not only because I believe "readiness is all" in meeting our communities' future cancer care needs, but also because of the relentless deluge of information coming at us daily in science, medicine, and technology. "Readiness," I believe, requires us to pause occasionally, gain our bearings, and take time to really see the change occurring around us. In fact, those of you who took a "pause" to attend the recent ACCC National Oncology Conference in Nashville heard firsthand how some aspects of next generation cancer care are already happening—whether it's advances in leveraging technology for data collection and analysis to improve care quality, using patient feedback to re-design process, or participating in value-based pilot projects.

During the President's Theme panel discussion at the National Oncology Conference, we heard from five cancer programs that have developed patient-centered initiatives that bring providers together to improve care—breaking down the traditional siloed-by-specialty care delivery process.

Panelist Laurie Fitzgerald, MSN, RN, described how the Kaufman Cancer Center developed its cardio-oncology program to meet the needs of cancer patients with

existing cardiac comorbidities or at high-risk of developing these.


Marco Ruiz, MD, MPH, FACP, FISDA, shared how Memorial Cancer Center, Memorial Health Care partnered with Moffitt Cancer Center to create a dedicated HIV-Oncology Clinic to improve access for this underserved patient population in the community.

Joy Nakhla, BSN, RN, OCN, from St. Joseph Hospital—The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment, talked about fostering collaboration between St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, Calif., and St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, Calif., to create a combined neuro-oncology program that includes monthly joint neuro-oncology cancer conferences via high-resolution video-conferencing. Attendance has doubled at this monthly conference, with 68 total patient cases presented in 2016.

Janine Overcash, PhD, CNP, FAANP, The Ohio State University, College of Nursing, described the role of an ambulatory geriatric oncology program, bringing together oncology providers and experts in aging to care for the older adult cancer patient, a population that is expected to increase significantly over the next decade.

Paul Baron, MD, FACS, Roper St. Francis Healthcare, detailed how an onco-plastic surgery program brings together breast cancer surgery with plastic and reconstructive surgery techniques for breast conservation surgery that combines cancer control, optimal outcomes, and patient satisfaction.

Each of these programs has envisioned next generation cancer care and brought that vision to life. Each of these initiatives grew in response to patients' needs and a drive to re-imagine care processes to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

Access the September/October 2016 *Oncology Issues* to learn more about the onco-plastic surgery program at Roper St. Francis Healthcare. In the coming months, look for articles on the remaining four programs. Readiness is all. 

## Coming in Your 2018 ONCOLOGY ISSUES

- ▶ Aligning Cancer Center Community Needs with Your Network Community Needs Assessment
- ▶ Oncology Rehabilitation Clinical Residency for Physical and Occupational Therapists
- ▶ Improving Outcomes & QOL for Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer
- ▶ Life with Cancer: A Comprehensive, Holistic, Patient-Centered Approach to Cancer Management
- ▶ How Robust Integrative & Complementary Services Brought an Entire Cancer Program Together: The Wellstar Cancer Network Experience
- ▶ One Community Cancer Center Shares Skin Cancer Prevention Initiatives for the Whole Family
- ▶ Leveraging Online Learning Opportunities & Videos to Improve Patient Education
- ▶ Improving Cancer Screening & Treatment through a Focused Prostate Evaluation Program
- ▶ Development & Implementation of a Supportive Oncodermatology Clinic
- ▶ A Comprehensive, Life-Long Management Program for Hereditary and Other High-Risk Patients
- ▶ An Acuity Tool to Optimize Nurse Navigation Caseloads
- ▶ Wheels Up: Bringing Lung Cancer Education and Screening to Rural Patients
- ▶ A Perfect Fit: Mentoring Experienced RNs to Meet Oncology Clinic Demand
- ▶ Geriatric Oncology Ambulatory Care Clinics