



Association of Community Cancer Centers

## ONCOLOGY ISSUES

The Journal of the  
Association of Community Cancer Centers

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*Oncology Issues* serves the multidisciplinary specialty of oncology care and cancer program management.

Archived editions of *Oncology Issues* are available to members at: [mynetwork.accc-cancer.org](http://mynetwork.accc-cancer.org).

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

# At ACCC—Content is King

BY CHRISTIAN DOWNS, JD, MHA



In January 2018, *Oncology Issues* will transition to a peer-reviewed journal under Taylor & Francis, increasing the visibility and reach of ACCC content. This offers our members more control over what's published in their journal by volunteering as peer reviewers. Interested? Simply go to [accc-cancer.org/peer-review](http://accc-cancer.org/peer-review) and fill out our short form. We look forward to working with you during this exciting time of transition and change.

On the subject of change: one thing that won't be changing is our unique content. *Oncology Issues* is one of the only non-clinical oncology journals and the only one that provides content for the entire multidisciplinary cancer care team, and we will continue this legacy under Taylor & Francis. One need look no further than this issue to experience the diversity and depth of our content.

Our cover article, "A Student Volunteer Program Takes Patient Satisfaction to the Next Level," offers a replicable (and cost-effective) model for extending your workforce using student interns—a strategy that benefits many members of the multidisciplinary cancer care team, including nurses, social workers, and administrators.

Next, we profile the Defeat GBM Research Collaborative, aimed at improving treatment of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). Just as the collaborative is harnessing "the input and buy-in of many of the top minds in neuro-oncology—serving as a 'collective brain'—in the quest to overcome one of cancer's most challenging puzzles," ACCC continuously leverages the shared knowledge of its membership to improve care delivery and the patient experience.

On that note, in "The Role of the Oral Oncology Nurse Navigator," two ACCC member programs—one an oncology practice, the other a hospital-based cancer program—illustrate how navigation services can improve care coordination, as well as provider and patient satisfaction. Similarly,

"Painting a Brighter World in Cancer Care" shows how patients, caregivers, and providers can come together through art.

In closing this column, I want to draw your attention to two articles that address critical issues facing community oncology.

The first is the explosion in clinical data. We have yet to figure out how to manage these data in an effective manner for a busy community-based program. To make this even more challenging, the future will require clinicians to not only synthesize and process reams of clinical data, but also to integrate economic and outcomes-oriented information into a treatment plan.

So how does *Oncology Issues*—a non-clinical journal—help? One example is our "Best of ASCO" article, where Cary A. Present, a distinguished past president of ACCC, provides an overview of the research that may change how you practice oncology today and in the future. Written in clear, succinct language and organized by disease type, this information is accessible to the entire multidisciplinary cancer care team. We hear anecdotally how our members appreciate this curated information. In the future, we are going to need more—and frankly more sophisticated—means of synthesizing clinical information for the cancer care team.

A second major issue facing community oncology in the next decade is how to best leverage—and pay for—new technology. In this issue, we highlight one of many ACCC education programs in "Virtual Molecular Tumor Boards." This webinar series offers practical strategies for integrating "virtual" tumor boards and current trends in use of technology to advance patient care, including ongoing molecular testing issues in lung cancer.

Beyond the pages of this journal, one of our most important member resources is coming up right around the corner, Oct. 18-20, in Nashville, Tenn. Attend the 34th ACCC National Oncology Conference, and I guarantee you'll come away rejuvenated, re-energized, and ready to put the knowledge you've gained to work at your cancer program or practice. Register today at [accc-cancer.org/OncologyConference](http://accc-cancer.org/OncologyConference).