Information Overload?

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We in the health-care field are living in the era of information explosion. (Fun fact: the number of articles published to PubMed in the past year was 1,278,412!) This information overload is even more evident in the field of oncology, which requires rapid dissemination of research results and the need to incorporate new treatments and technologies into our care repertoire as quickly as possible to ensure that our patients have access to cutting-edge treatments. With this rapidly increasing deluge of information, we are challenged to keep ourselves and our patients from drowning in data. The promise of computer learning to help manage big data is on the horizon, but for today, we must rely on other strategies and tactics to educate ourselves and our patients. Thankfully, solutions exist to help:

- Easy access to online resources offer "just in time" learning. ACCC has a host of online resources, including its Financial Advocacy Boot Camp, a dynamic online curriculum to address the growing issue of financial toxicity (accc-cancer.org/FANBootCamp), and Immuno-Oncology Fundamentals eLearning Modules, an online, on-demand program to improve your knowledge of the ongoing developments in cancer immunotherapies with effective practice solutions (accc-cancer.org/IOFundamentals).
- Evidence-based guidelines and clinical pathways are available to help us standardize cancer treatment.
- Widespread adoption of personal technology devices and portals puts information at patients' fingertips and provides a convenient platform for patients to share information about their condition to us. These and other forms of telehealth allow providers to communicate with each other and with patients over vast distances and outside of standard office hours.
- Finally, more traditional forms of education such as live CME, in-services, and face-to-face patient education remain important tools in the arsenal of a busy cancer care provider.

At the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, we use both traditional and nontraditional strategies to deliver education to oncology providers and patients. The Alliance sponsors large seminars that attract professionals from across the nation. We also reach out to community cancer programs through our Affiliate Network to provide shadowing opportunities, provider CME, and online webinars for nursing CE.

The Seattle Cancer Care Alliance has also developed its own clinical pathways and is innovating to bring patients Caresi, a smartphone app and web-based tool that allows patients to receive information, record symptoms, and communicate with their healthcare team.

In this edition of *Oncology Issues*, you can read how two cancer programs creatively tackled the information explosion to the benefit of providers and patients alike. In "An Inpatient and Outpatient Nursing Collaborative Improves the Patient Experience," Christine Shike tells the story of how concerns about patient education, patient hand-off, and the predischarge process brought nurses together to standardize patient information and education and improve the knowledge and skills of nursing staff. In a second article, "Tailoring Education for the Oncology Patient," Kristin Shea Donahue and Anne Marie Fraley Rainey share how feedback from patients and families at their cancer program was key to improving and growing patient education across multiple platforms and using a variety of evidence-based education methods.

Though information overload is a reality for all of us in the oncology community, we can choose to be a part of the solution. If your cancer program or practice has developed an innovative, effective way to manage data, train staff, and educate patients, share your successes—and the challenges behind those successes—by writing an article for *Oncology Issues*, presenting at the 2019 ACCC National Meeting and Cancer Center Business Summit, or posting to ACCC's online discussion forum, ACCCExchange. Together we can work to turn our information overload into an information smorgasbord. **OI**