



Association of Community Cancer Centers

ONCOLOGY ISSUES

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FROM THE EDITOR.....

Together We Are Stronger: Redux

BY JENNIE R. CREWS, MD, MMM, FACP



The title of my final ACCC President's Message column, which ran in the March–April 2017 *Oncology Issues*, was “Together We Are Stronger.” As I begin my two-year term as the first Editor-in-Chief of this now peer-reviewed journal, I'd like to revisit these important words.

Together We Are Stronger. The statement is brief but powerful. It's a message that resonates with the multidisciplinary membership of ACCC—so much so that the association adopted these words for its new membership retention and recruitment campaign (accc-cancer.org/TogetherWeAreStronger).

Together We Are Stronger. These words are central to the newly redesigned ACCC website, which launches this month. Key to this effort was to tailor content and make it more accessible—whether you are a physician, nurse, administrator, pharmacist, social worker, financial advocate, or any other member of the multidisciplinary cancer care team.

Together We Are Stronger. In addition to an association that serves all members of the cancer care team, ACCC is an organization that reaches across all care settings—hospital-based cancer programs, oncology practices, and freestanding cancer centers. Whether you care for patients at a large, urban, academic medical center or in a small, rural, two-person physician practice, ACCC has the tools and resources you need to thrive—

not just survive—our tumultuous healthcare environment.

Together We Are Stronger. Our members' commitment to *Oncology Issues* is unsurpassed—more than 250 individuals answered the call to volunteer as peer reviewers for this journal. Now is the time for ACCC to take its member-driven content and share it with the larger oncology community. To lead, by example, and show why cancer programs and practices unfamiliar with the ACCC can benefit from our education and advocacy efforts. To connect with colleagues and peers and share how their programs and practices will be strengthened by ACCC membership. To leverage our combined expertise to the benefit of all cancer patients.

Together We Are Stronger. Despite setbacks on Capitol Hill to reform what many consider a broken healthcare system, our voices are more powerful together—even as we are challenged by misguided payer policies that seek to control how we practice medicine and are faced with drug and treatment costs that skyrocket faster than our ability to pay for them. At the end of the day, our goal is simple and shared: to care for our patients.

Together We Are Stronger. But perhaps the most important meaning of this statement is the fact that ACCC members live and breathe these words. From the ACCC Innovator Award Program to attendance at the association's two national meetings to advisory committee participation on ACCC education projects to the very pages of this journal, our members are eager to share their strategies and successes so that others may achieve similar success in improving cancer care delivery.

Together We Are Stronger.