

action

ACCC Welcomes Its Newest Members

Maryland Oncology Hematology

Columbia, Md.
Delegate Rep: Mary Beth Zaber
Website: marylandoncology.com

Doctors Community Hospital, Doctors Regional Cancer Center

Lanham, Md.
Delegate Rep: Jack Nyiri, MA
Website: dchweb.org/node/1560/

Columbia Memorial Hospital-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative

Astoria, Ore.
Delegate Rep: Christopher Laman, PharmD
Website: columbiamemorial.org

Making Our Voices Heard: ACCC Capitol Hill Day 2019

The future of healthcare is at a crossroads. In the past year, the Trump administration and Congress have made several proposals to address the rising costs of healthcare and drugs that have the potential to dramatically affect the landscape of cancer care. Now more than ever, the voices of professionals on the front lines of cancer care are crucial to shaping the direction of future legislation.

Capitol Hill Day, Mar. 20, was the first opportunity for ACCC members to meet with the 116th Congress, a diverse legislative class featuring more than 100 newly elected representatives and 10 senators. ACCC members arrived determined and ready to provide members of Congress with specific policy asks to address gaps in coverage for cancer care:

- H.R. 1730/S.741, the Cancer Drug Parity Act, requires any health plan that covers chemotherapy to provide coverage for oral chemotherapy drugs at the same out-of-pocket cost as intravenous chemotherapy drugs. Originally introduced in 2017, the bill has gained traction in the House and has been reintroduced in both houses; ACCC members urged legislators to co-sponsor and champion this legislation, which is crucial to patient access to oral therapies.
- H.R. 913, the Clinical Treatment Act, would guarantee coverage of routine participation costs in approved clinical trials for Medicaid enrollees with life-threatening conditions. Medicaid insures nearly one-fifth of the U.S. population and is the only major payer not required by federal law to provide coverage of the routine care costs of participation in an approved clinical trial for this patient population. ACCC Capitol Hill Day advocates asked their senators to support introduction of this legislation and their representatives to sign on as co-sponsors.
- ACCC recently responded to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee's Request for Information on the most pressing issues with the rising cost of healthcare and drugs. Our response was shared with every office visited on Capitol Hill Day—and many more in brief office drop-ins—and positions ACCC and its membership as a key resource for lawmakers as they prioritize legislation during the 116th Congress.

As in the past year, ACCC members were engaged and empowered by their Capitol Hill Day visits. “Representing ACCC on Capitol Hill allowed for my voice as a genetic counselor—caring for oncology patients daily—to be heard,” says Carolyn Haskins, MS, CGC, of Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla. “Additionally, I gained tremendous insight into the ever-evolving landscape of oncology care.”

Highlights of the ACCC 45th Annual Meeting & Cancer Center Business Summit, March 20-22, Washington, D.C.



At ACCC Capitol Hill Day, March 20, cancer care professionals from around the country gathered in the halls of Congress to promote meaningful, effective policy reforms. In more than 65 meetings with representatives, senators, and legislative staff, ACCC members advocated for oral parity and early phase clinical trial access and shared what they believe to be the most pressing issues facing cancer care professionals today.



On the first day of the conference, March 21, the kickoff general session featured healthcare futurist Joe Flowers, who outlined a healthcare landscape of streamlined patient-provider communication, true interoperability, and consumer-directed care. Flower invited attendees to envision how we can discard what is broken in healthcare—and retain what works—to benefit the health and well-being of patients.



More than 800 attendees came to the Renaissance Washington, D.C., Downtown hotel to learn about obstacles to optimal cancer care delivery, strategies and solutions for overcoming them, and the ever-changing healthcare landscape.



At the Exhibit Hall, more than 70 meeting sponsors and exhibitors showcased their pharmacological, technological, and clinical innovations to meeting attendees.



Attendees were encouraged to discuss their programs, projects, and methods with each other, providing a unique opportunity to share expertise across departmental and specialty lines.



ACCC was proud to showcase our education projects, which fill crucial gaps in cancer care education and provide learners with unique learning opportunities. The “Early Integration of Pathology into the Cancer Service Line” session featured information gathered from the Integration of Pathology with the Cancer Care Team project. Speakers, left to right: S. Michelle Shiller, DO, Baylor Scott & White Health; Carolyn Haskins, MS, CGC, Moffitt Cancer Center; and Nicole Braccio, PharmD, National Patient Advocate Foundation.



After general sessions, attendees separated into four unique learning tracks for smaller breakout sessions. The “NextGen Practice Management” panel in the business track included Michael L. Blau, Foley & Lardner LLP; Marcus Neubauer, MD, McKesson Specialty Health & The US Oncology Network; Brad Prechtel, MBA, American Oncology Network, and Erich A. Mounce, MSHA, OneOncology.



At the ACCC House of Delegates, March 22, Ali McBride, PharmD, MS, BCOP (left) was sworn in as ACCC president, succeeding Immediate Past President Thomas A. Gallo, MS, MDA (right). Between them: Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, BCD, ACCC secretary.



On the final day of the conference, attendees heard from Joanie Mayer Hope, MD, a gynecologic oncologist who uses the power of music to raise awareness about gynecologic cancers. Dr. Mayer Hope encouraged care team members to bridge their artistic and medicinal creativity and premiered her music video Any Mountain—a hip-hop journey through ovarian cancer—to a standing ovation from the packed ballroom.



Friday afternoon, attendees broke out into four Deep Dive Workshops—uniquely interactive, bidirectional learning opportunities that allowed participants to drill down deep into crucial issues like patient education and engagement, immunoncology, and strategic alignment. At the Clinician Resiliency and Workforce Issues workshop, Kathleen LaRaia, MS, Munson Healthcare (left), and Linda Bosserman, MD, FACP, FASCO, City of Hope (right), conducted a group activity to identify personal and organizational barriers and opportunities for alleviating cancer team burnout.