

Key Areas of Interest Going Into 2021

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ACCC members enter 2021 with much to consider—both professionally and personally. Fortunately, we are a resilient and committed group. With the enormous pressures of

COVID-19, the ever-increasing complexity of oncology care, and the persistent social factors that lead to medical injustice, it is difficult to think about tackling even one more job. Yet, we must, we can, and we do. Today I want to mention four specific areas that all cancer programs need to be watching, thinking about, and preparing for.


Geriatric Care. We are seeing two important trends that impact oncology care: more people living into their 80s and beyond and more cases of cancer in people considered “old” and “very old.” In the U.S., the number of new cancer cases is expected to go from approximately 1.8 million in 2020 to more than 2.4 million in 2040, primarily due to rising numbers and proportion of people over age 65. ACCC is preparing our members to better serve older adults with cancer and their families with important resources that are ready for implementation at your programs now. Start with ACCC’s evidence-based online gap assessment tool to see how your program aligns with guidelines and best practices. Read the customized report with specific suggestions for improvement. Then leverage ACCC’s detailed, how-to guide to help implement these improvements at your program. Learn more at acc-cancer.org/geriatric.

Survivorship. Another welcome trend is the increase in cancer survivorship due to decades of research and cancer clinical trials. ACCC members and our patients owe a debt of gratitude and respect to patient and physician pioneers who participated in these cancer treatment studies. Currently 5 percent of the U.S. population are cancer survivors. This number is estimated to be 15 percent by the end of this decade. Clearly, we all need to be planning for and providing survivorship care in conjunction with our referring and primary care provider partners.

ACCC has resources to help, including our Survivorship in the Era of Immuno-Oncology webinar lecture series, where experts discuss the unique survivorship needs of IO patients, including improving care coordination and communication within the multidisciplinary team and how to ensure patients’ psychosocial and physical well-being. The lectures identify actionable steps that address the survivorship needs of this patient population.

Oncology Nutrition. The burgeoning science in oncology nutrition represents another opportunity to better serve our patients with cancer. New areas of oncology nutrition study that have direct applicability to patients include nutritional epigenomics, sarcopenia, and inflammatory biomarkers. All patients at diagnosis of cancer should be screened for nutritional needs—regardless of baseline weight or dietary history. Nutrition-related assessments and multimodal nutrition interventions are available. Year after year, *Oncology Issues* has included articles on the importance of nutrition services and highlighted the role of dietitians in improving the quality of life of cancer patients. Recent ACCC Innovator Award winners showcased the power of nutrition services, including “Partnering to Address Food Insecurity” and “Telehealth Technology Connects Patients with Nutrition Services.” If you do not have a dietitian solely dedicated to your cancer program, share ACCC’s “The Business Case for Hiring a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist” with your c-Suite today (acc-cancer.org/home/learn/management-operations/hiring-new-staff).

Research and Clinical Trials. Our patients with cancer depend on us to provide them with the latest advances in care. It is, therefore, our responsibility to make cancer treatment trials available to patients at the front line—in their own communities, where they live, work, and receive their cancer care. ACCC, in partnership with ASCO, has embarked on a national project to create opportunities for many more patients to have access to cancer treatment trials, particularly Black, ethnic minority, and other underserved people. Please read the ACCC Research Review e-newsletter (acc-cancer.org/research-review) and watch for updates in forthcoming ACCC communications.

As we head into 2021, ACCC thanks you for your membership, for participating in our education programs, and for partnering with us to ensure quality—and equitable—cancer care to all. 

Coming in Your 2021 ONCOLOGY ISSUES

- ▶ Maine Cancer Genomics Initiative: A Model for Translational Outreach
- ▶ Remote Work Program for Hospital-Based Cancer Registrars
- ▶ Use of Pharmacy Informatics to Standardize Pharmacist Review of Oral Oncolytic Medications for Hospitalized Patients
- ▶ Medication Transitions in Hematologic Malignancy Patients at a Safety Net Hospital
- ▶ An Investigation of Self-Determined Work Motivation Among Young Adult Central Nervous System Cancer Survivors
- ▶ Transportation: A Holistic Approach to a Systemic Problem
- ▶ Tailoring Distress Screening in Oncology Populations: Timing Distress Screening in Surgically Resectable Esophageal Cancer
- ▶ Leveraging a 3D Lung Nodule Educational Tool to Reduce Patient Distress
- ▶ Utilizing Technology to Identify Patient Co-morbidities and Reduce Hospital and ED Admissions
- ▶ Onboarding Experienced Non-oncology Nurses to Address Staffing Shortages: Miami Cancer Institute’s Oncology Training Academy
- ▶ Improve Oral Oncolytic Workflow and Reduce Treatment Delays with a Pharmacist Collaborative Practice Agreement
- ▶ Reducing Readmissions After Chemotherapy with Predictive Modeling of Risk Factors