

COMMITTEE BRIEFS...

Administrators Special Interest

Group

Claudia Lee

Chairperson

The fastest growing ACCC specialty group, the Administrators Special Interest Group continues to develop a national network of cancer program administrators who share ideas on cancer program development.

To better understand the growing complexity of demands on cancer program administrators, the SIG will be developing a national survey to identify the issues facing cancer program administrators. The survey will be mailed to all ACCC Delegate member institutions.

The purpose of the survey will be to describe the roles and responsibilities of the cancer program administrator with emphasis on: program development; organizational structure; medical leadership; reimbursement practices; clinical/basic research; strategic planning; marketing; and obstacles to success.

A first draft will be ready for review at the next Administrators SIG meeting, which will be held during the 1987 Fall Leadership Conference in Chicago. If you are interested in helping develop the survey, please contact Claudia Lee at (213) 595-2822.

Ad Hoc Committee on Standards

Linda O'Halloran, R.N., M.S.

Chairperson

The standards for cancer programs that were approved by the House of Delegates in March have been distributed to the ACCC membership. However, the standards' process is ongoing. The committee will meet again at the ACCC 1987 Fall Leadership Conference in Chicago on September 30th beginning at 4:00 p.m. The agenda includes review of two new standards -- Education and Cancer Data System -- and, a discussion on the development of a self-assessment tool for programs to examine their ability to meet the standards as accepted. Interested members are welcome to attend the next committee meeting.

Marketing and Strategic Planning

Robert H. Angeloni, M.P.A.

Chairperson

As a way to gain new membership, efforts are underway to identify the states that presently have funded cancer programs, and those planning cancer programs. The committee will be contacting each state's Health Department to determine the number of its existing cancer programs, the number of planned cancer programs, and information on funding sources, types of funding initiatives, and other key information. ■

ACCC LAUNCHES CCOP INITIATIVE ON THE HILL

Concerned over the lack of adequate funding for the second round of CCOPs, ACCC has taken the initiative to secure additional funding from Congress.

This fiscal year, NCI has dug deep to find \$11.5 million, funding a total of 50 programs. However, just to match 1982's operating level and pick-up 12 good programs, an extra \$9.5 million must be appropriated for FY 1988. Moreover, to protect CCOP dollars in the future, a total of \$21 million is needed.

Dr. Lloyd Everson, chairperson of the ACCC CCOP Special Interest Group, recently sent a letter to all funded and unfunded CCOP principal investigators asking them and their staffs to write their Congressmen to request support for \$21 million to be earmarked (\$11.5 million in current funding and \$9.5 million in new

funding) for CCOPs within the National Cancer Institute budget. Eventually, ACCC hopes to secure a separate line item for CCOPs.

To help launch a CCOP initiative on the Hill and to give ACCC a permanent presence on the Hill, ACCC has hired a new staff member, Sandy Casey, to drum-up support. Ms. Casey served as an intern to Senator Sam Nunn and was a staff assistant to the Democratic Chief Counsel to the Senate Committee on Small Business. More recently, she was a legislative assistant to Senator Alan Dixon.

In his letter to the CCOP principal investigators, Everson urged CCOPs to personalize their letters to their Congressmen and let them know "the number of people treated through your CCOP, who could not readily get this

level of care without travel or major problems...and stress how a smaller program will eventually mean the possible loss of a critical mass."

Over the past four years, 60 communities with over 200 hospitals have been able to bring research to their home towns. Not only has the availability of clinical research to patients increased, but the large numbers of patients available through these community programs to the national cooperative research groups has allowed important research questions to be addressed and answered far more quickly than the pre-CCOP era.

The Senate Appropriations Committee reviews the health budgets. The process for earmarking funds begins immediately after Labor Day. ■