



The Future of ACCC: Where are We Headed?

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Future of ACCC: Where Are We Headed?



Where is the ACCC going? Which road should it take to get there?

The health care environment for hospitals, physicians, nurses, and patients continues to present a challenging set of problems and opportunities. At times, these concerns and issues, with their multiple impacts and potential solutions, seem conflicting and bewildering. National health care programs, reimbursement, quality of care, clinical guidelines, community cancer center development, expensive new technology, comprehensive cancer care, cancer research—these are just a few of the myriad of concerns that were dealt with at the recent ACCC Fall Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA.

One of the challenges facing ACCC is addressing the phenomenal growth that the Association has experienced in the past few years—growth not only in new members, but in the varied groups that constitute a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care. The growth in numbers and leadership by our constituent members, including cancer program administrators, physicians, and nurses, have contributed to the increasing presence and representation of the ACCC in addressing these health care issues.

But where is ACCC going? Any growing organization must constantly re-address the fundamental questions of: What is our vision? What are our goals? In other words, "If you do not know where you are going, it makes little difference what path you take." This year, ACCC has embarked on a strategic planning process.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning and the ACCC board began this process in April with a survey of our membership. The response to that survey was representative of the various disciplines and interests within our organization. In general, the survey emphasized many of the fundamental strengths of the ACCC, such as community cancer center development and multidisciplinary cancer care. However, at the same time, our members and ACCC's leadership indicated the need for incorporating many of the issues that challenge us in cancer care today. Some of these issues are of increasing daily impact on our cancer programs and practices: patient access to care, the cost-effective delivery of care, comprehensive care that includes prevention and early detection, declining funding for cancer research, and how to affect the political process on both the federal and state level.

As the ACCC board examines the recommendations from the strategic planning committee and how they will impact our mission statement and goals for the next year, we can all be proud and thankful of the efforts that membership and ACCC leadership have devoted to this extremely important task. Without the willing, thoughtful, and sensitive input from our colleagues in hospital administration, private practice, and oncology nursing, this planning process would be impossible to undertake.

So, where is ACCC going? Our organization will be going in the direction that membership wishes it to go. We will always be at the leading edge of representing the multidisciplinary needs of cancer patients. How we utilize the depth of talent and expertise in our membership to affect these needs is the challenge for ACCC. As always, the strength of ACCC has been and will be the varied, multidisciplinary interests of the many different constituencies within the organization.

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