



A September to Remember

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To enhance communications between ACCC leadership and membership, this column presents excerpts from ACCC board meetings as they occur.

■ **Strategic Planning.** The Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning, chaired by Albert B. Einstein, Jr., M.D., presented the board with revised three-year goals and new annual objectives for the 1993-94 fiscal year. After board input and pending board approval at the January meeting, the committee will distribute the document to all ACCC members for comment prior to its adoption. (The projected distribution date for membership is February 17, 1993, with a deadline for comments of March 10, 1993.)

■ **Standards.** Connie Henke Yarbrow, R.N., B.S.N., Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Standards, presented the first draft of updated standards that were originally adopted in 1987. The committee will complete a second draft, present it to the board for review, and then distribute it to a sampling of the membership for comment. The committee expects to have a final draft ready for board approval in March. The document will then be distributed to membership.

■ **Financials.** The Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 1992 was presented to the board by Treasurer Carl G. Kardinal, M.D. ACCC had an excess of revenue versus expenses of \$32,559; an accumulated debt carried over from the 1992 Fiscal Year of \$15,747 resulted in a fund balance of \$16,812. An additional \$12,327 was added to the Association's reserves.

■ **Chapters.** The Oncology Providers Network of Atlanta received preliminary approval as a chapter member of ACCC, contingent upon its successful recruitment of dues-paying members. The group is composed of cancer program administrators and office practice managers in the state of Alabama. Mary Kitchens, B.S.N., M.H.A., Chair of the ACCC Administrator SIG and President-Elect of the potential chapter, reported that 35 individuals have been actively involved since the organization's inception. Venty W. Butts, Administrator of the Alabama Oncology Hematology Associates, P.C., Montgomery, is the current President. ¶



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As expected, Illinois Governor James Edgar signed into law Senate Bill 1533 on September 1, 1992! The Illinois off-label bill had been sent to the Governor on unanimous votes from the legislature. The new law goes into effect on January 1, 1993. The relationships that were established in this state, as well as the lessons that were learned, will provide invaluable assistance as we continue to pursue off-label legislation in other states. For example, the Oncology Nursing Society's national publication, *ONS News*, featured on the front pages of its October issue a story entitled, "Legislative Victory Achieved Through Member Involvement." ACCC's role in guiding the bill through the legislative process is highlighted in the article. This has led to increased awareness among ONS chapters across the country about the opportunity to get involved in these initiatives.

The momentum from Illinois carried over quickly to California. Despite recommendations to veto the bill, Governor Pete Wilson signed Assembly Bill 1985 into law on September 30, 1992! ACCC members responded in a big way to our call to arms, as did a number of other organizations (see the story on page 6). The California victory is especially significant because two years ago a similar bill had been vetoed by the previous governor. In

addition, the legislation applies not only to cancer drugs, but to drugs used to treat other life-threatening illnesses. It also becomes effective on January 1, 1993.

The remaining active legislation for this year is pending in Massachusetts. The sponsor of S. 689, Sen. Nancy Achin Sullivan, addressed the ACCC/Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists/Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society reimbursement seminar held in mid-September in Burlington, MA. Those in attendance heard a candid presentation on the legislative process, the bill's status, and what it will take to get it passed. Although currently bottled up in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, there is a strong possibility of getting the bill moving again after the November elections. A campaign is under way to provide our ACCC constituency in Massachusetts with information they can use to educate their elected officials about the need for legislative action.

Finally, efforts are well under way in the states of Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, and Minnesota to prepare legislation for introduction in 1993. Additional states are expected to eventually join the off-label legislation movement. It's an ambitious undertaking, but as September has shown, there is strength and success in numbers. ¶