

NewsLine



ONCOLOGY STATE SOCIETY NETWORK

The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society

www.tacos-oncology.com

March 27, 2009



President's Message

The upcoming TACOS Spring Membership Conference promises to be an exciting one for MANY reasons!

First, we are trying out a new format, combining both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions. We hope that the additional Friday afternoon program will allow office managers, administrators, and other oncology practice staff to attend continuing education events while "on the clock." *The Friday program is geared to the practice management side of oncology care and is designed to afford both medical and business staff the opportunity to enhance the business of running their practices.*

Second, we are co-sponsoring a Friday morning Regional Meeting with the *Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)*. *The Regional Meeting includes nationally-known speakers and, coupled with the TACOS' afternoon program, offers attendees a full day of business/practice economics sessions.* The Regional ACCC meetings always are informative and are great value-added opportunities for TACOS members.

Finally, we all know that we are "living in interesting times," as the Chinese proverb indicates. *With so much uncertainty on both the economic and political fronts, every oncology practice needs to be aware of the tools we have available to provide ongoing, cost-effective, quality care to our patients.* "Knowledge is power," and I urge you all to attend both the Friday economics sessions and the Saturday morning scientific sessions, as well!

See you at the Pointe Hilton
Tapatio Cliffs Resort on April 17-18.

Sincerely,
Patrick Donovan, MD, FACP

Become Part of the MAC J3 Listserv

TACOS created the MAC J3 listserv to enhance communication regarding Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and other similar issues related to Medicare Contracting Reform processes and the functioning of the Jurisdiction 3 Part A/Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). J3 includes

Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The J3 listserv allows TACOS members and other oncology professionals in the MAC Jurisdiction 3 to send information to all listserv participants at one time and receive information from other members in their e-mail. It provides an on-going forum for discussion on important topics such as coverage issues and reform processes and experiences related to the J3 MAC. To register for the listserv, go to: http://www.accc-cancer.org/ossn_network/AZ/AZlistserv.asp.

Drugs in the News from the TACOS Corporate Members

Amgen Inc. (Thousand Oaks, Calif.) announced that the FDA has approved **Nplate™ (romiplostim)**, the first and only platelet producer for the treatment of thrombocytopenia in splenectomized and non-splenectomized adults with chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura. Nplate works by raising and sustaining platelet counts, representing a novel approach for the long-term treatment of this chronic disease. For more information, go to: <http://www.amgen.com/>. (Reprinted from Nov/Dec 2008 *Oncology Issues TOOLS*.)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Eli Lilly and Company's (Indianapolis, Ind.) **Alimta® (pemetrexed for injection)** for use, in combination with cisplatin, in the first-line treatment of locally advanced and metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) for patients with non-squamous histology. Alimta is *not* indicated for treatment of patients with squamous NSCLC. For more information go to: http://www.lillypatientone.com/professional_resources/reimbursement.jsp. (Reprinted from Nov/Dec 2008 *Oncology Issues TOOLS*.)

Novartis (Basel, Switzerland) announced that **Gleevec® (imatinib mesylate) tablets** have been approved by the FDA for the post-surgery treatment of adult patients following complete surgical removal of Kit(CD117)-positive gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). About 5,000 to 6,000 new patients are diagnosed with GIST each year in the U.S. For more information, go to: <http://www.novartisoncology.com/products/index.jsp>. (Reprinted from Jan/Feb 2009 *Oncology Issues TOOLS*.)



TACOS Corporate Members (as of 3/20/09)

<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>
Amgen	Abraxis Bioscience
AstraZeneca	Genentech
Celgene	Genzyme
Lilly Oncology	Millennium, The Takeda Oncology Company
Novartis	Wyeth
sanofi-aventis Oncology	

ACCC Recognizes Susan Leigh, AZ Nurse and Cancer Survivorship Advocate

Susan Leigh, RN, BSN, was honored with ACCC's Annual Achievement Award for her long-standing advocacy, dedication, and commitment to quality cancer survivorship services and education on Friday, March 20, 2009, during ACCC's 35th Annual National Meeting.

Ms. Leigh is a founding member and past president of the *National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship* (NCCS). She also initiated the formation of both the Nurse Survivors Focus Group and the Survivorship Special Interest Group within the Oncology Nursing Society.

Ms. Leigh is an advocate for cancer clinical research studies at both local and national levels. Locally, she serves as a consumer advocate at the Arizona Cancer Center in Tucson. Nationally, she sits on committees at the *National Cancer Institute* (NCI), and has been a member of CARRA (Consumer Advocates in Research Related Activities) since its inception. Her current work with NCI includes co-chairing the newly formed Patient Advocate Steering Committee.

Ms. Leigh has been actively involved with Sunstone Cancer Support Centers, a community-based outreach program in Southern Arizona. She also coordinates Life Beyond Cancer, a national women's retreat at Miraval Life in Balance outside Tucson.

Currently, Ms. Leigh works as a cancer survivorship consultant, and focuses on long-term and late effects of disease and therapy. Besides surviving Hodgkin's lymphoma, she has also been treated for breast and bladder cancers.

For more information about
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society
go to: www.tacos-oncology.com
or call: 301-984-9496, ext. 218

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Upcoming TACOS Events— Save the Dates

SPRING MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE:

Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, 2009
The Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort
Phoenix, AZ

FALL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE:

Saturday, October 31, 2009
Westin La Paloma
Tucson, AZ