

NewsLine



Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS)

www.imos-illinois.com

March 12, 2009

President's Message

The leadership of the Illinois Medical Oncology Society recognizes the enormity of the business challenges that Fellows face when they begin practicing outside the scope of academia. As a result of the Board's desire to play a role in preparing the State's oncologists/hematologists in their progression from Fellowship to independent practice, IMOS sponsored a special, invitation-only dinner program for Fellows on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at Maggiano's in downtown Chicago. **Dean Gesme, MD**, from Minnesota Oncology-Hematology in Minneapolis, MN, was the featured speaker on the topic of "Transitioning from Fellowship to Independent Practice." In attendance were four Fellows from Loyola University Medical Center (Drs. Aileen Go, Bill Broderick, Shefani Shan, and Elise Hattersley); two from the University of Chicago Medical Center (Drs. Manish Sharma and Tara Gangadhar); and three from Northwestern University (Drs. Sairah Ahmed, Wendy Oates, and Kevin David). **Drs. Stephanie Williams, Ann Mellott, Joseph Kash, and Timothy Kuzel** represented the IMOS Board of Directors and brought the perspective of practicing oncologists. **Donna Krueger, Jan Schneider, Cheryl Weslowski, and Rick Perez** contributed the knowledge they have acquired from the business management and reimbursement side of the practice equation. The program was considered a success by all segments of the attendees, and the IMOS Board of Directors will consider subsequent programs in its efforts to support oncology/hematology Fellows.

I am also happy to report that the **2009 IMOS Annual Membership Conference** is scheduled for **Friday, November 13 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, IL**. I hope you will mark your calendars and attend what

is always an excellent educational and networking event.

In January, I had the pleasure of attending ACCC's Annual Presidents' Retreat and ASCO's Clinical Practice Committee meeting in Alexandria, VA, on behalf of IMOS. Two messages were apparent in both meetings:

1. *Our services to patients will be evaluated in a very different manner by this Administration than by former Administrations;* and
2. *It will be essential in the coming year(s) for us to speak in a unified voice to influence public policies that will benefit our patients with cancer.*

Our patients count on us to speak on their behalf—they deserve nothing less!

Sincerely,
Stephanie F. Williams, MD



J6 MAC Award Disputed

On January 7, 2009, Noridian was awarded the A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) contract for Jurisdiction 6 (includes IL, MN, WI) and Home Health and Hospice MAC Jurisdiction C. On January 27, 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified Noridian that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) had received a protest of the award, which has resulted in a Stop-Work Order in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Noridian anticipates a decision from the GAO on or about May 6, 2009.

Sign Up for MAC J6 Listserv

The MAC J6 listserv is up and running! This listserv was created by the collaborative efforts of the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology (MSCO) and the Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS) to enhance communication regarding Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and other similar issues related to Medicare Contracting Reform processes and the functioning of the Jurisdiction 6 Part A/Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).

The MACJ6Exchange allows MSCO and IMOS members and other oncology professionals in the MAC Jurisdiction 6 to send information to all listserv participants at one time and receive information from other section members in their e-mail. It provides an on-going forum for discussion on important topics such as reimbursement issues and reform processes related to the J6 MAC.

Signing up is easy! Go to: <http://lists.ossn-network.net/listmanager/listinfo/macj6exchange>.



Drugs in the News from IMOS' Corporate Members

GlaxoSmithKline (London, U.K. and Philadelphia, U.S.) announced that the FDA granted accelerated approval for **Promacta® (eltrombopag)** for the treatment of thrombocytopenia in patients with chronic immune (idiopathic) thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) who have had an insufficient response to corticosteroids, immunoglobins, or splenectomy. Promacta is the first oral thrombopoietin (TPO) receptor agonist approved for adult patients with chronic ITP. GSK has launched **Promacta Cares**, a single source of information, education, and support for healthcare professionals and patients. For more information, go to: <http://www.promactacares.com/>. (Reprinted from Jan/Feb 2009 *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). For more information, go to: <http://www.novartisoncology.com/products/index.jsp>. (Reprinted from Jan/Feb 2009 *Oncology Issues* TOOLS.)

Amgen Inc. (Thousand Oaks, CA) 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 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, IN) **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 nonsquamous 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.)

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Upcoming IMOS Events— Save the Date

ANNUAL IMOS MEMBERSHIP
CONFERENCE:

Friday, November 13, 2009

Hyatt Regency Woodfield

Schaumburg, IL

For more information about
Illinois Medical Oncology Society
go to: www.imos-illinois.com
or call: 301-984-9496, ext. 218