

Collaboration. Education. Compensation.

BY ALI MCBRIDE, PHARMD, MS, BCOP



At the ACCC 45th Annual Meeting and Cancer Center Business Summit, I announced my 2019-2020 President's Theme: *Collaborate. Educate. Compensate.* A

Prescription for Sustainable Care Delivery. It focuses on how our healthcare environment continues to evolve in response to changing diagnostic patterns, new oncology specialties, novel therapeutic agents, and new reimbursement models, including the facets of knowledge required to maintain the oncology practice model of care.

I think we can agree that the days of a linear workflow from the physician's diagnosis to a patient's treatment are over. Instead, in this environment of continuous change, members of the multidisciplinary cancer care team must work in tandem to address the goals of patient care and to optimize outcomes, while simultaneously improving workflow and efficiencies in how that care is delivered. In other words, in this era of alternative payment models, we must deliver care that is high quality *and* cost efficient. We can only do so through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary


COLLABORATION.

During the last two decades, advances in cancer care have reshaped our practice environment. We've witnessed the emergence of new specialties in oncology practice along with reconsidering and extending the roles of some traditional healthcare professions and, as a consequence, our workflows have changed. Ten years ago, nurse navigators, advanced practice providers, financial advocates, and molecular pathologists were not part of the common vernacular describing members of the cancer care team. My President's Theme will address how to effectively integrate these new team members, as well as ensure that each is working to the top of his or her license.

The escalating pace of approval and addition of novel agents mandates continual education and learning, as we continue to see

new treatment paradigms with new mechanisms of action and side effects emerge, such as immunotherapies, molecularly-targeted therapies, and adoptive cellular therapies. In recent years, oncology has also experienced vast growth in bio-similar approvals in the United States, with the advent of curative biosimilars on the horizon. Approvals and indications for oral agents continue to increase, along with new strategies for patient management, including electronic adherence devices and patient-reported outcomes. A growing understanding of the molecular biology of many types of cancer is driving much of this advancement. Of paramount importance is the evolving knowledge and identification of molecular biomarkers and biomarker testing, which has shifted our focus to treatment of cancers as molecular-driven diseases. As part of my President's Theme, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) will help members stay current with these advances by offering a robust **EDUCATION** portfolio, including on-demand and on-site learning opportunities, live meetings, and online and print publications.

Which takes me to **COMPENSATION**. We practice in a time of exciting change and amazing scientific advancements, but we do so under an outdated and sometimes restrictive reimbursement methodology. Fortunately, change is coming in this area as well. With the development of the Oncology Care Model, the soon-to-be-released radiation oncology alternative payment model, and new bundled payment methodologies, we have the opportunity to work with key stakeholders to ensure fair and adequate compensation for all of the services we deliver. Crucial to this effort is a survey that will be arriving soon at our member programs and practices. The groundbreaking ACCC Comprehensive Cancer Care Services survey looks to examine both the current capacity and the barriers to delivering essential comprehensive cancer care services for adult patients. ACCC will use these quantitative survey data to inform our policy efforts and educate our provider and payer communities.

Show your collaboration by completing the survey and working with your ACCC member colleagues to bring my President's Theme of developing a sustainable oncology care delivery system to fruition. 

Coming in Your 2019 **ONCOLOGY ISSUES**

- ▶ Leveraging Telemedicine to Improve Survivorship Care
- ▶ Improving Patient-Centered Care for Inflammatory Breast Cancer
- ▶ Virtual Infusion Services
- ▶ Bringing Cancer Care to the Navajo Nation
- ▶ Bridging the Gap in Patient Education with Digital Communication
- ▶ Improving the Tumor Board Experience with Technology
- ▶ PSA Utilization at a Safety-Net Hospital Before and After the 2012 USPSTF Recommendation
- ▶ Chemotherapy Stewardship: The Evolving Role of Pharmacists
- ▶ An Innovative Chemo Companion Program
- ▶ Leveraging Data Analytics to Develop Survivorship Care Plans
- ▶ Development and Implementation of a Patient Pathology Consult Program
- ▶ Compassion Fatigue Resiliency Program for Oncology Professionals
- ▶ The GPS (Guided Patient Support) Model of Care
- ▶ The Clearview Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Program
- ▶ Researching the Use of Virtual Reality (VR) in the Oncology Infusion Clinic
- ▶ An Inpatient Physician Assistant Model Helps Reduce Hospital Length of Stay
- ▶ A Novel "Modifiable Risk" Clinic to Prevent Second Cancers