

A Prescription for Sustainable Cancer Care Delivery

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I am honored to serve this year as ACCC president. Each ACCC president has the privilege of selecting a theme that is a prime focus for the Association throughout the year. In selecting a theme that resonates with

the multidisciplinary membership of the ACCC, I believe that it is important to build on the great work conducted under my predecessors, Tom Gallo and Dr. Mark Soberman, who addressed cancer care team resiliency and the next-generation cancer care team. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce the theme for my 2019-2020 presidency: **Collaborate. Educate. Compensate: A Prescription for Sustainable Cancer Care Delivery.**

Now, let me put some context to those words.


First is **Collaborate**. As our options for treating cancers grow, the cancer care team continues to innovate and expand. The advent of novel therapies, new molecular pathologic identification of cancer diseases, and cutting-edge anti-cancer treatments has engaged additional healthcare team members, including molecular pathologists, interventional oncologists, geriatric oncologists, and palliative care providers, as well as additional supportive care staff such as financial advocates, lay navigators, and home healthcare providers. It is clear that to deliver 21st-century cancer care, breaking down siloes is not only essential but salient for the future of patient care. ACCC is the “together we are stronger” organization—committed to collaboration and to creating and sharing strategies and opportunities that bring oncology care providers together as an efficient, highly functioning team.

The word **Educate** is core to ACCC’s mission as the “leading education and advocacy organization” for the multidisciplinary cancer care team. Through our meetings, publications, website, blogs, and ACCCExchange, members access resources to

help every member of the care team keep up with the rapid shifts underway in oncology—from policy and regulatory changes to the latest advances for effective delivery of immunotherapy and other emerging treatments. New technologic advancements are continually innovating cancer care, including telemedicine, biosimilars, electronic medication adherence devices for oral oncolytics, and next-generation sequencing technologies. Throughout the year, we will work with members to develop and further define the tools and resources necessary to help every team member work to the top of their license to deliver quality cancer care.

Which takes me to the most nuanced—and sometimes polarizing—word. **Compensate**. In the simplest terms: ACCC members should be compensated for the delivery of the comprehensive cancer care services they provide. And yet we all know that current compensation (or reimbursement) approaches do not in fact “compensate” for all of the services needed to provide holistic, patient-centered care. As our healthcare system moves forward with value-based compensation models that incorporate strategies such as bundled or episode-based payments, ACCC and other key stakeholders must advocate and educate on behalf of cancer care providers across all care settings.

So, what is my prescription for sustainable cancer delivery? First, we should continue to actively promote and support collaboration among all members of the cancer care team. Second, we should ensure that our staff has the resources and tools they need to succeed. And, finally, we should qualitatively and quantitatively demonstrate the value that each member of the cancer team brings to our patients, share these data with both public and private payers, and continue to make our voice heard in the development of any new payment models.

Collaborate. Educate. Compensate. I believe that this is a prescription for sustainable cancer care delivery that together we can make a reality. 

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