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COVID-19 & Cancer Patient Registry: Your Voice Matters

ACCC President Randall Oyer, MD, shares why your program should participate in the new ASCO Survey on COVID-19 in Oncology Registry (ASCO Registry), which seeks to collect information about patterns of symptoms and severity of COVID-19 infection, how COVID-19 influences the delivery of cancer care, and how patient cancer and COVID-19 outcomes are affected. Learn more at acc-cancer.org/covid19-cancer-registry.



Resources to Strengthen Your Research Program

Interested in a series of webcasts on topics like “Research Engagement and the Importance of Identifying a Physician Champion” and “Diversifying Clinical Trial Investigators to Include NPs, PAs, and PharmDs.” Need information about clinical trials in member-identified areas of interest like geriatric oncology, biomarker testing and precision medicine, and tissue acquisition and biorepositories? Want to participate in developing a library of resources to help identify and then solve challenges facing community-based clinical research programs? Then take this short 10-question survey: surveymonkey.com/r/R9G7ZGM.



Financial Health Literacy

On this episode of CANCER BUZZ, Sarah Hudson-DiSalle, PharmD, RPh, Oncology Pharmacy Manager, Medication Assistance Program and Reimbursement Services, The James Cancer Hospital and Wexner Medical Center, Ohio State University Department of Pharmacy and Lori Schneider, Operations Manager, Green Bay Oncology, discuss the importance of financial health literacy for patients with cancer, how cancer team members can better help patients and caregivers avoid financial toxicity, and how financial navigation delivers value to both patients and cancer programs. Listen to the full episode at acc-cancer.org/podcast.



ACCC COVID-19 Webcasts

In “Developing a COVID-19 Recovery Plan,” Jennie R. Crews, MD, MMM, FACP, Medical Director, Research Integration and SCCA Network, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance offers tips to safely and efficiently resume pre-COVID level patient visits and procedures and guidance on operational and technological issues. In “Implementing Virtual Tumor Boards Amid COVID-19,” Shelli Laux, MBA, RHIA, CTR, CCRP, Administrative Director of Oncology Service Line, WellSpan Health, shares effective practices for virtual tumor boards, methods for ensuring attendance and participation, and insights into post-pandemic sustainability.

fast



Study Finds Malnutrition, Physical Inactivity Negatively Affect Cancer Care and Outcomes

- Many patients involved in clinical trials for cancer drugs may be malnourished and sedentary, a factor that may result in inaccurate results for the trials, according to a 2019 study.
- The study finds that malnourished patients had higher rates of side effects from therapy, hospitalizations, lower response rates, and a shortened survival.
- Specifically, **39%** of patients enrolled in a Phase I or II clinical trial were severely malnourished at the time of study initiation; **52%** of patients were sedentary, with minimal physical activity.
- There was about a two-fold increased risk of hospitalizations and severe side effects in malnourished patients, and these patients were only able to stay on the clinical trial study for half as long.

Source: Jain R, et al. Impact of baseline nutrition and exercise status on toxicity and outcomes in Phase I and II oncology clinical trial participants. *Oncologist*. 2019 Nov 20. doi: 10.1634/theoncologist.2019-0289.

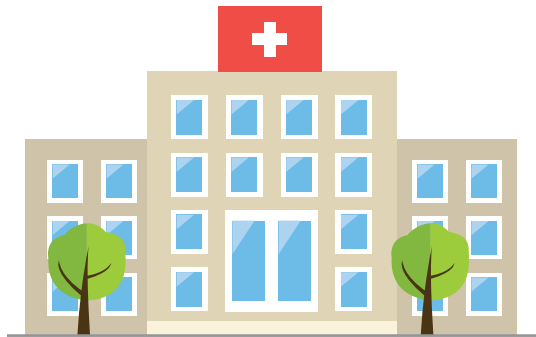
Top 5 Contributors to Physician Burnout

- 55%** Too many bureaucratic tasks (e.g., charting, paperwork)
- 33%** Spending too many hours at work
- 32%** Lack of respect from administrators, employers, colleagues, or staff
- 30%** Increasing computerization of practice (EHRs)
- 29%** Insufficient compensation, reimbursement

Source: Medscape National Physician Burnout & Suicide Report 2020. medscape.com/slideshow/2020-lifestyle-burnout-6012460?faf=1#1.



facts



COVID-19's Impact on Hospitals

America's hospitals suffered significant financial damage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Data from more than 800 U.S. hospitals showed that volume and revenue declines, along with flat to rising expenses, resulted in a dramatic fall in margins within a matter of weeks in March 2020, plunging not-for-profit hospitals, which historically operate on thin margins, deep into the red. Specifically data revealed:

- Operating margins dropped **150%** year-over-year and **170%** below budget for the month of March
- Operating room minutes were down **20%** year-over-year
- Emergency department visits dropped **15%** year-over-year
- Median hospital occupancy rate was **53%** for the month
- Budgeted inpatient revenue was down **13%** in March
- Budgeted outpatient revenue was down **17%** in March
- Bad debt and charity care rose **13%** year-over-year

Source. National Hospital Flash Report. flashreports.kaufmanhall.com/national-hospital-report-april-2020.

COVID-19's Impact on Patients

In April 2020 a national survey found that:

- **66%** of Americans (10 million people) postponed or cancelled healthcare visits due to COVID-19, including appointments for chronic health conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart attack, and stroke.
- **6%** postponed cancer screenings.
- **10%** postponed specialist care for existing conditions, including cancer.
- Two-thirds of those patients (**67%**) hoped to reschedule care within a month of COVID-19 restrictions being relaxed.

Source. The Harris Poll COVID-19 Tracker. [Theharrispoll.com/the-harris-poll-covid19-tracker](https://theharrispoll.com/the-harris-poll-covid19-tracker).

COVID-19's Impact on Physicians

In April 2020 a national survey of physicians found:

- Close to half of all physicians (**48%**) are treating patients through telemedicine, up from **18%** in 2018.
- **21%** of physicians were furloughed or experienced a pay cut during the pandemic.
- **14%** of physicians plan to change practice settings as a result of COVID-19.
- **18%** of physicians plan to retire, temporarily close their practices, or opt out of patient care.

Source. The Physicians Foundation. 2018 Survey of America's Physicians: Practice Patterns & Perspectives. [Physiciansfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/physicians-survey-results-final-2018.pdf](https://physiciansfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/physicians-survey-results-final-2018.pdf).

