Tech Solutions Ahead!

BY DAVID R. PENBERTHY, MD, MBA

In my first column, I introduced the ACCC 2022-2023 President's Theme, "Leveraging Technology to Improve Cancer Care Delivery and the Patient Experience." Now I'd like to share the key components of this initiative, including the information, resources, and education that will be heading your way over the next year.

Tech Talks

ACCC will host four 60-minute video calls where subject-matter experts lead small-group discussions on technology-related topics. The first of these Tech Talks took place on July 14 and focused on "The Home as a New Site of Cancer Care." The expansion in access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 public health emergency and Medicare coverage for remote patient monitoring have allowed patients to increasingly receive care at home. On a macro level, we discussed how technologies have revolutionized cancer care delivery, as well as regulatory and reimbursement barriers to long-term transformation. On a micro level, we focused on topics like models to provide care in the home, services that can be delivered safely at patients' homes, staffing requirements for these models, remote patient monitoring, virtual visits, payer and policy strategies, and more. Future Tech Talks will focus on "Technology Solutions to Mitigate the Workforce Shortage," "Digital Tools in Oncology," and "Big Data." More information is to come. If you want to be involved in these small-group discussions, email mparker@accc-cancer.org.

Institute for the Future of Oncology

This year, the Institute will be held immediately before the ACCC 39th National Oncology Conference on Oct. 11 in West Palm Beach, Fla. At this half-day meeting, ACCC will convene thought leaders, stakeholders, industry, and engaged members to discuss ways to leverage technology to support the oncology workforce. And, because ACCC members have shared across multiple platforms that workforce issues are the number one challenge they face, let me invite you to stay for the National Oncology Conference (Oct. 12 to 14). Not only will the five ACCC Innovator Award winners share technology-related solutions like "Chemotherapy Care Companion: A Remote Patient Monitoring Program" and "Deploying Technology Across an Interdisciplinary Team to Improve Oral Oncolytic Compliance" but the second day of the conference will focus on solutions to workforce challenges with sessions on retention, recruitment, improving workplace culture and morale, succession planning, mentoring new leaders, and more.

Technology-Driven Solutions

In May, ACCCBuzz kicked off its coverage of the 2022-2023 ACCC President's Theme with a two-part blog series on optimizing cancer care delivery. The first blog discussed integrated care settings that include oncology-specialized urgent care centers, community paramedicine partnerships, telehealth, and remote patient monitoring. The second blog highlighted the use of artificial intelligence—specifically a prescriptive intelligence platform that pulls in massive amounts of data, including social determinants of health—to predict patient risk and proactively target interventions. If you missed it, go back and check it out at accc-cancer.org/prescriptive-intelligence. Other blog posts focused on the hospital-at-home model, including a spotlight on the University of Utah, Huntsman Cancer Institute's Huntsman at Home program.

The first in the series of *Oncology Issues* articles related to the 2022-2023 ACCC President's Theme appears in this issue. Turn to page 36 for an interview with long-time ACCC member Kim Woofter, who left her role as chief operating officer at Michiana Hematology Oncology to become executive vice president of strategic alliances at AC3, an oncology business intelligence platform. After a career spent building a successful oncology practice, Woofter was hooked by business information technology. "To have solutions that don't require more manpower, more expense, it was really exciting for me," she said.

We have an exciting year ahead. And if you have a large or small technology-driven strategy or idea, we want to hear from you! Be a part of the solution and send your story to mmarino@accc-cancer.org. Stay tuned! ◻