

The Future is Wide OPEN

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Over the last two decades new therapeutic agents, including novel pharmaceutical and cellular therapies, have revolutionized patient care. In some cases, these

agents offer curative potential for patients who previously would have had limited to no therapy options. With this dynamic change in treatment modalities comes a need to change our practice models to keep pace with innovation, quality care, and patient needs.

As a continuation of my 2019-2020 President's Theme, provision of comprehensive cancer care services is essential to meeting the growing needs of today's cancer patient. In the wake of widespread reimbursement changes, alternative payment models, ever-increasing drug costs, precision medicine, and other "stressors," cancer programs must increasingly rely on the expertise of allied health professionals to deliver care, manage programs, and help educate clinicians and patients alike on expanding treatment options.

As we continue to assess the capacity for and barriers to delivery of comprehensive cancer care services within our membership, I want to briefly focus on a vital cohort of this team; namely, oncology pharmacy professionals. The management and operation of pharmacy services now require team members with specialty training and skills to address issues such as formulary management, how to remain current with cutting-edge clinical data, and how to navigate increasingly complex payment and reimbursement structures.

The need to align our teams to address these pharmacy practice management issues gave life to the ACCC Oncology Pharmacy Education Network (OPEN) in 2004. Through directed educational content, OPEN brought pharmacists to the forefront of ACCC membership, with pharmacists assuming leadership positions on the ACCC Board, executive committee, and eventually presidency. (Ernest R. Anderson, Jr., MS, RPh, was the first pharmacist to serve as ACCC president from 2008 to 2009.) Pharmacists

also began to play a key role in ACCC advocacy efforts, testifying before the Ambulatory Payment Classifications panel biannually from 2004 through 2012 and providing expert guidance during the transition to averages sales price methodology for drug reimbursement.

Fifteen years later, we're still creating new resources and tools under the OPEN umbrella to address the increasing complexity of treatment regimens, new drug approvals and indications, the expansion of biosimilars in oncology, rapid advances in immunotherapy, the high cost of cancer treatment, and continual regulatory and reimbursement changes.

The OPEN Advisory Committee consists of former ACCC President Steven L. D'Amato, BSPHarm, BCOP, executive director, New England Cancer Associates; ACCC Board Member Olalekan Ajayi, PharmD, MBA, oncology service line manager, Welch Cancer Center at Sheridan Memorial Hospital; and myself. To ensure broad representation across various cancer care delivery models, to address emerging pharmacy management issues, and to help direct the future vision for OPEN, three new members were recently added to this committee: Marc Earl, PharmD, BCOP, assistant director of Pharmacy, Cleveland Clinic; Melody Chang, RPh, MBA, BCOP, director of Pharmacy Operations, Florida Cancer Specialists; and Sandeep Parsad, PharmD, MBA, BCOP, assistant director of Pharmacy, Cancer and Investigational Drug Services at University of Chicago Medicine.

OPEN offers pharmacists and other allied and administrative team members the knowledge and know-how to navigate the accelerating course of change in oncology—clinically, operationally, fiscally, and programmatically. From USP <797>/<800> compliance assistance to the integration of biosimilars, from managing an oral oncology program to strategic leadership planning, OPEN offers solutions to real-world oncology pharmacy management issues. Learn more at acc-cancer.org/OPEN.

Over the next year, we look to better define the ever-growing role of oncology pharmacy practice. We also plan to address the integration of alternative payment models alongside pharmacy-based practice to orient our team members to a successful path toward value-based care. I look forward to hearing from you about these changes, as well as how OPEN can help. 

Coming in Your 2019 ONCOLOGY ISSUES

- ▶ Compassion Fatigue Resiliency Program for Oncology Professionals
- ▶ Improving Patient-Centered Care for Inflammatory Breast Cancer
- ▶ An Inpatient Physician Assistant Model Helps Reduce Hospital Length of Stay
- ▶ Cancer Care Considerations for Sexual and Gender Minority Patients
- ▶ Leveraging Data Analytics to Develop Survivorship Care Plans
- ▶ Severing Silos with Revenue Cycle Tiers
- ▶ Development and Implementation of a Patient Pathology Consult Program
- ▶ Bridging the Gap in Patient Education with Digital Communication
- ▶ PSA Utilization at a Safety-Net Hospital Before and After the 2012 USPSTF Recommendation
- ▶ Chemotherapy Stewardship: The Evolving Role of Pharmacists
- ▶ Addressing Cancer-Related Cognitive Impairment in the Community Setting
- ▶ Implementing and Evaluating a Webpage for Chemotherapy Education for Veterans
- ▶ The GPS (Guided Patient Support) Model of Care
- ▶ The Clearview Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Program
- ▶ Radiation Oncology Voice-Enabled Document Completion and Physician Wellness