



NNECOS News

an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

Summer 2008
Volume 4 Issue 2

LAST CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACTS! **Submission Deadline: August 6, 2008**

The Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society seeks abstracts on hematology/oncology topics to share knowledge during the 2008 Annual Meeting, October 17-18, 2008 at the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield, NH.

Physicians, nurses, mid-level providers, ancillary health care providers (psychologists, physical therapists, etc.), administrators, pharmacists, and post-graduate trainees (fellows, residents) are eligible to submit abstracts. Abstracts previously submitted to ASCO, ASH, etc. are acceptable. NNECOS reserves the right to review and accept submissions.

- Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to attend the poster session on the evening of Friday October 17, 2008, and offered a discounted meeting registration of \$25.00.
- The four best abstracts will be presented orally on Saturday October 18, 2008. The responsible first author will have travel, registration, and lodging covered by NNECOS.

Visit http://nnecos.stateaffiliates-asco.org/NNECOS_Website/General_Members/ for complete details.

Look Who's Coming to the Annual Meeting!



Patricia Ganz, MD
Professor, Health Services and Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine
UCLA School of Public Health
Survivorship Initiative Launch
Saturday 12pm



Allen S. Lichter, MD
Executive Vice President
Chief Executive Officer
ASCO
Oncology Update
Saturday 8am



Barbara Summers, PhD, RN
Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Reclaiming Our Passion
Friday 1pm



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Watch for Registration Materials at the end of August!

NNECOS's 2008 Annual Meeting Planning Committee is putting the finishing touches on this year's annual meeting, which promises to be an outstanding combination of timely, informative topics for your entire oncology care team. With a collection of knowledgeable, accomplished presenters from across the region and across the nation, another exceptional meeting is in store!

Get away to the peace and quiet of the majestic White Mountains. Enjoy networking with colleagues from the region in a picturesque, elegant setting. Join NNECOS for an unforgettable weekend of education and networking amongst the glory of the White Mountains in their finest autumn color.

Watch your mail for registration materials at the end of August, and be sure to book your room today!

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

- 12:30 PM-1:00 PM Registration**
1:00 PM-2:00 PM Reclaiming Our Passion
2:45 PM-4:15 PM Breakouts
- Smoking /Tobacco Cessation
 - Partners in Electronic Health Record Implementations: Clinicians and Information Technology
- 4:30 PM-6:30 PM Abstract Poster Session / Cocktail reception**
6:30 PM-8:15 PM Dinner
Outcomes Analysis
8:15 PM-8:45 PM Business meeting

SATURDAY

- 7:00 AM-8:00 AM Breakfast**
8:00 AM-9:00 AM Oncology Update
9:10 AM-10:10 AM Breakouts
- Stereotactic Radiation Therapy
 - Overcoming Barriers to End of Life Care
- 10:10 AM-10:35 AM Morning break**
10:45 AM-11:45 AM Abstract Presentation
11:45 AM-1:15 PM Lunch/Survivorship Launch
1:25 PM-2:25 PM Breakouts
- Intensive Outpatient Therapies
 - Molecular Testing
- 2:40 PM-4:10 PM Colo-Rectal Panel**

It's Time to Book Your Autumn Escape!

NNECOS 2008 Annual Meeting Lodging Reservations



Standard rooms begin at an unbelievably low **\$159 per night single or double occupancy**, for both Friday and Saturday night (based on availability). To reserve your room for the annual meeting at the special NNECOS rate, visit http://www.nnecol.org/NNECOS_Website/Events/ and download the reservation brochure. Completed reservation forms should be faxed to NNECOS along with a \$50.00 deposit at the time of reservation, and authorization to charge the balance of your first night's lodging on September 18, 2008. **Please see cancellation policy on reservation form.**

To ensure availability, reserve your room today!

NNECOS at ASCO's Annual Meeting in Chicago

Thanks to all who stopped by ASCO's State and Regional Affiliate Booth at ASCO's 44th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NNECOS has received numerous compliments on the outstanding job associate member representatives Marty Byrne and Angela Gibbs did representing our society. Thanks to Marty and Angela for their dedication. The official NNECOS pens were also a big hit!



NATIONAL LUNG CANCER PARTNERSHIP AWARDS Grant Application Deadline is September 2, 2008

The National Lung Cancer Partnership announces the opening of the application period for two award programs:

National Lung Cancer Partnership/ LUNGeVity Foundation Research Grants for the promotion of understanding lung cancer risk, biology, and response to treatment. This grant program, administered by the National Lung Cancer Partnership and co-funded with the LUNGeVity Foundation, is designed to provide seed money for promising novel research in lung cancer for faculty members at any point in their careers, performing research at any institution world-wide.

Two grants are available:

- One is specifically for research in the area of sex differences in lung cancer.
- One is for research pertaining to any facet of lung cancer.

Research Grants will be awarded for one or two years, for up to \$50,000 per year (\$100,000 maximum over 2 years). National Lung Cancer Partnership Career Development

Award for junior clinical and basic investigators involved in lung cancer etiology, prevention, and treatment at any U.S. or Canadian research institution. The National Lung Cancer Partnership's goal is to create a critical mass of lung cancer researchers to ensure that basic and behavioral research discoveries are effectively translated into patient therapies to reduce lung cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality. Applicants will be judged on the merits of their research proposal, career development plan, and research environment, among other factors. Applicants must be post-doctoral fellows, or within the first five years of a faculty appointment. Career Development Awards will be awarded for one or two years, for up to \$50,000 per year (\$100,000 maximum over 2 years).

For application eligibility and instructions for these Grant & Award competitions, please visit the National Lung Cancer Partnership website at www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org.

Application deadline is September 2, 2008.

ONCOLOGY CARE IN RURAL NEW ENGLAND Access to Care Project Team Update

Work on this important tri-state collaborative project continues. The larger project team met again in June, and then in early July, a special subcommittee of tri-state registry contacts convened to fine tune processes and to begin to develop a timeline for assuring the quality of stage and treatment data through hospital registry followback. NNECOS is grateful to each of

the tristate registry collaborators who are putting forth the time and effort to ensure that the data collection phase of this project produce useful, accurate data.

Stay tuned for additional updates in the Autumn 2008 edition of NNECOS E-News.

ASH PRACTICE UPDATE **FDA Orders Change in ESA Labeling**

On July 30, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ordered changes in the label for erythropoietin-stimulating agents (ESAs). These changes respond to recommendations made by the FDA's Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee (ODAC) on March 13 of this year. They represent the first time the FDA has used its recently-granted authority to order changes in drug labels, rather than to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies over proposed alterations. The label updates to the three ESAs currently on the market (Aranesp, Procrit and Epogen) alter the previous labeling in two critical ways:

First, the FDA said the drugs should not be used with patients who are expected to be cured of cancer. Amgen, the principal manufacturer of these agents, had pressed for language that would allow for the use of ESAs in cancer patients who are expected to be cured, but who cannot receive blood transfusions. Second, the changes advise that ESA therapy should not begin when a patient's hemoglobin levels exceed or equal 10 g/dL. These restrictions were added due to concerns about possible shortened survival, increased disease progression, or thrombotic events in some patients.

The label changes are consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) national coverage decision (NCD) of July 30, 2007,

which denies reimbursement for the use of ESAs at hemoglobin levels greater than 10 g/dL. CMS has indicated that there are no plans at this time to reopen the NCD. The revised label does not address use of ESAs in patients with myelodysplasia. ASH has had much success working with local carrier to ensure that insurers allow coverage for MDS patients.

The new label changes will mostly impact adjuvant therapy for breast and colon cancer. For hematology, the impact will be felt in the treatment for Hodgkin's disease, intermediate grade lymphoma, and mantle cell lymphoma where physicians have curative intent. In these cases, we can expect to see a possible increase in transfusions.

A copy of the "ASH-ASCO 2007 Clinical Practice Guideline Update on the Use of Epoetin and Darbepoetin" is available in ASH's scientific journal, *Blood* (<http://bloodjournal.hematologylibrary.org/cgi/content/short/blood-2007-08-109488v20>).

The new labels are available at the FDA website. Changes are highlighted in red:

- Aranesp
- Procrit
- Epogen

CANCER EDUCATION SLIDES OFFERED BY ASCO

ASCO invites NNECOS members review the many topical presentations offered as ASCO Cancer Education Slides (formerly Cancer.Net Slide Decks). These turn-key, oncologist-approved MS PowerPoint presentations are intended for oncologists, oncology nurses, and other health-care professionals who give patient and community lectures.

Each slide presentation offers a basic description of

a type of cancer, and explains risk factors, diagnostic tests, treatment, clinical trials, current research, and after treatment care. Over 20 ASCO Cancer Education Slides are available for you to download and use at your state society events. Please visit www.ASCO.org/StateAffiliates and click on "ASCO Cancer Education Slides" in the Highlights column on the right of the screen.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

We are interested in your feedback and suggestions. Please send your comments and suggestions for future issues to nneecos@comcast.net.



Feel free to forward this issue of NNECOS News to your colleagues who may not be current members of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society. If you would prefer not to receive future e-mail correspondence from NNECOS, please reply to this message and type “remove” in the subject line.

NEWS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

“News from our Supporters” will be included in NNECOS News on a space available basis, with preference being given to supporters who have not shared news in the previous two issues. Send your submissions to nneecos@comcast.net.

BAYER

Updated packaging for liquid LEUKINE: Non-EDTA Liquid LEUKINE (500 mcg/mL)

- Leukine 500mcg SDV is once again available
- New packaging comes with a new NDC code: 50419-050-30
- Use the new NDC when billing Medicaid plans for the Leukine 500mcg SDV
- No change in the J-code (J2820 - Injection, sargramostim [GM-CSF], 50mcg).

PFIZER

Updated professional resource available

- Clinical trials search engine, reimbursement assistance for patients, and comprehensive provider and patient resource that encompasses current oncology news releases and information. Visit pfizeroncology.com for full program details.

GENENTECH

Herceptin BCIRG 006 trial data

- Herceptin has received updated regimens for the adjuvant treatment of HER2+ breast cancer, based on the BCIRG 006 trial data.
- Herceptin is now indicated for the adjuvant treatment of HER2-overexpressing node-positive or node-negative (ER/PR-negative or with one high risk feature) breast cancer concurrently with docetaxel and carboplatin, (also known as TCH)—the first approved non-anthracycline Herceptin-containing regimen, and; as part of a treatment regimen containing anthracycline (doxorubicin), cyclophosphamide, and docetaxel (AC-TH).

MILLENNIUM

Expanded FDA approval for VELCADE

- New FDA approval for VELCADE expands indication to treat patients with previously untreated myeloma

NNECOS wishes to thank all of our Supporters for their contributions in support of the mission of the society, to ensure the availability of and access to high quality oncology care in our region.