



# NNECOS News

*an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society*

Spring 2008  
Volume 4 Issue 1

## **NNECOS AWARDED \$10,000 ASCO GRANT** **Oncology Care in Rural New England Application Successful!**

NNECOS is delighted to announce that the grant application detailed in our last issue was successful! Now the real work begins! The society is gearing up for this unified data collection project across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont relative to access to care. Members of the project team are looking forward to the strengthened collaboration between our society and collaborative groups within our three states, including the Maine Cancer Consortium, Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer, and the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration. As was mentioned previously, the secondary goal of this grant is to initiate this process

of collaboration, not only among the state cancer plans, but to include the clinical expertise of the NNECOS physicians in setting practical and effective indicators of quality cancer care in this effort to compile a consistent set of data across all three states, with this information serving as the basis for a study of the needs of cancer patients in rural areas. The core team held its first meeting in April and plans to convene a larger project team early this month. Look for additional updates relative to the status of this important process as the project unfolds. **If you'd like to become involved with this project, email [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net).**

## **5TH ANNUAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR** **Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH** **Tuesday, May 20, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m** **Hurry! Registration Deadline is Tuesday!**



**NNECOS' 2008 Spring Practice Management Meeting** is a content-rich program for billers, nurses, practice managers, and physicians addressing key practice management issues in medical and radiation oncology in both office-based and hospital-based practices.

**Bring your whole team!** This year's meeting's focus includes treating the underinsured and uninsured, a payers panel focused on quality, and information packed medical and radiation oncology reimbursement breakouts, plus networking opportunities with peers from the region.

*"Another excellent program. I look forward to next year's conference."*

### **Send Your Questions!**

In an effort to ensure that questions are addressed, participants are invited to submit questions for our payers panel in advance to [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net).

### **Register Today!**

The registration deadline is Tuesday May 6th, but registering is easier than ever. Registration forms are available at [http://nnecos.files.stateaffiliates-asco.org/NNECOS\\_Website/2008%20Spring%20Registration%20for%20Web.pdf](http://nnecos.files.stateaffiliates-asco.org/NNECOS_Website/2008%20Spring%20Registration%20for%20Web.pdf) and can be faxed with credit card payment to 603.887.6049.

# Spring Practice Management Seminar Tentative Agenda

- 9:00 am Registration / Exhibits / Light Refreshments
- 9:30 am Facing the Challenge: Treating the Uninsured and Underinsured ~ *Mary Lou Bowers, MBA*  
*Strategies for identifying and treating patients who are uninsured and underinsured, including patients with no insurance, Medicare patients and patients with high deductible and/or low benefit commercial insurance.*
- 11:00 am Refreshment Break / Exhibits
- 11:15 am Payers Panel: Focus on Quality ~ *Moderated by Amy Stansfield, RN, MBA*  
*A panel of payers from the tri-state region will discuss current quality initiatives, particularly as they relate to oncology practice.*
- 12:30 pm Lunch, Networking & Exhibits
- 1:30 pm Concurrent Reimbursement Sessions (*includes 15 minute refreshment break*)
- Breakout A – Radiation Oncology Billing: 2008 Update ~ *Ron DiGiaino, MBA*  
*Billing and coding review highlighting changes for 2008. Bring your questions and take advantage of this time with a nationally respected radiation oncology billing and coding expert.*
- Breakout B –Medical Oncology Billing: 2008 Update~ *Risë Marie Cleland*  
*Interactive medical oncology billing and coding for both the private practice and hospital outpatient settings. Coding changes, clarifications, and trends will be discussed. Ample time for audience questions and discussion.*
- 4:00 pm Program Concludes

**Continuing Education:** Application has been made for 5.0 contact hours to the ONS Approver Unit. ONS is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.



## 2008 Spring Practice Management Seminar

See You May 20th from 9am - 4pm!

### Location Information

Grappone Conference Center  
Courtyard Concord  
70 Constitution Avenue  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone: 603-225-0303  
[www.concordcourtyard.com](http://www.concordcourtyard.com)



From Interstate 93 North/South:

- ✓ Take Exit 15 West
- ✓ Turn right at the first stoplight onto Commercial St.
- ✓ Follow Commercial St. 1/4 mile to Constitution Ave.

**Questions? Email [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net) or call (603) 644-5273**

**NNECOS AT ASCO**  
**Visit NNECOS at the State Oncology Societies Booth!**

We're delighted to announce that NNECOS will be participating in the State Oncology Societies Booth (#4005) at ASCO's 44th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, May 30 - June 3, 2008. Be sure to stop by and say hello to our associate member representatives Marty Byrne and Angela Gibbs and pick up your official NNECOS pen.

**Exhibition Hours**

Saturday, May 31	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, June 1	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday, June 2	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

While representing **YOUR** society at this national event, NNECOS is delighted to have the opportunity

to showcase the society's accomplishments through posters on display at the booth highlighting the two ASCO grant awards received in support of projects in our region. The first grant, awarded in the spring of 2006, entitled "Academic Enhancement of Annual Meeting", brought the popular abstract posters and podium presentations, and this year's "Oncology Care in Rural Northern New England" grant is key in getting this important access to care project off the ground. **We hope to see you in Chicago!**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Best of ASCO East ~ June 27-28, 2008**  
**Renaissance Waterfront Hotel**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Cutting-Edge Science from the World's Premier Oncology Event**

In 2008, the popular Best of ASCO Meetings will be offered in Boston, Massachusetts and feature high-impact abstracts from the 2008 ASCO Annual Meeting that represent the most relevant, cutting-edge science in oncology today. These educational events will feature a variety of session topics that highlight the latest scientific findings in primary disease sites and practice-changing advances in cancer prevention and treatment.

To facilitate the timely dissemination of these important developments in

oncology research, the 2008 Best of ASCO Meetings will be held in close proximity to the end of the Annual Meeting.

**Best of ASCO East**

**June 27-28, 2008**

**Renaissance Waterfront Hotel  
Boston, Massachusetts**

To learn more, visit: <http://www.asco.org/ASCO/Meetings/ASCO+Symposia+&+Workshops/Best+of+ASCO+Meetings>



**SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 17-18, 2008**  
**NNECOS 2008 Annual Meeting Updates**  
**Abstract Solicitation, Tentative Topics, Lodging Reservations**

**2008 Annual Meeting Abstracts**

Watch your mailbox later this spring for the call for abstracts for this year's annual meeting. NNECOS will once again be accepting abstracts for consideration as posters, as well as for podium presentation in a general session at the Mountain View Grand. NNECOS leadership and meeting attendees alike have been delighted with the high caliber presentations from across the region in previous years, and anxiously anticipate your submissions for 2008.

**Meeting Agenda**

As the planning committee works to finalize this year's annual meeting agenda, we're delighted to present to our membership the following list of topics currently scheduled for presentation in October:

- Reclaiming Our Passion
- Smoking /Tobacco Cessation
- Partners in Electronic Health Record Implementations: Clinicians and Information Technology
- Poster Session
- Outcomes Analysis
- Washington Oncology Update
- Stereotactic Radiation Therapy
- Tri-State Hospice Panel
- Abstract Presentation Session
- Nursing Issues in Intensive Outpatient Therapies
- Molecular Testing
- Colo-Rectal Multi-Disciplinary Panel



**Lodging at the Mountain View Grand**

Room reservations at the Mountain View Grand will be handled differently than with past meetings. Meeting attendees reserving lodging as part of the annual meeting will **make their reservations directly with NNECOS** and will require a credit card deposit at the time of the reservation. With the overwhelming popularity of this property in the autumn, this was the only way for NNECOS to ensure that adequate space for our attendees would be available. Please watch your mailbox for additional details about the reservation procedures later this spring; because this is a new process for us, we want to be certain that we've addressed the necessary considerations prior to opening the reservation process.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US**

We are interested in your feedback and suggestions. Please send your comments and suggestions for future issues to [nneCOS@comcast.net](mailto:nneCOS@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 [nneCOS@comcast.net](mailto:nneCOS@comcast.net).

### GENENTECH

- **Updated indication for Herceptin:** Herceptin has received an updated indication for the adjuvant treatment of HER2+ breast cancer, based on the HERA trial data.
  - Herceptin is now indicated as a single agent, for the adjuvant treatment of HER2-overexpressing node-negative (ER/PR-negative or with one high risk feature) or node-positive breast cancer, following multi-modality anthracycline-based therapy.
  - Herceptin is now indicated for once every three week dosing as a single agent.
- **Avastin Patient Assistance Program Income Cap Increased to \$100,000:** Visit [GenentechAccessSolutions.com](http://GenentechAccessSolutions.com) for full program details.

**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.**

*Save the date for your autumn escape!*



*Northern New England's premiere oncology conference in a relaxing White Mountain resort setting.*

*October 17-18, 2008*