



NNECOS News

an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

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NNECOS 2008 EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS SET

Planning Committee Members Needed!

Have you enjoyed NNECOS meetings in the past? Have ideas on how to make them even better? Plans are underway for another great year of educational meetings for NNECOS members, but we need your help! We'd love to have you join us to help shape our 2008 educational meetings. It's easy to volunteer to serve on a planning committee, providing invaluable input while representing your constituents in the oncology community in our region. Why not let your voice be heard? Meetings are held via toll-free teleconference, so you can participate in the comfort of your home or office. Planning committee members are needed for both the spring and annual meetings. To volunteer, simply email nnecos@comcat.net.

NNECOS' 5th Annual

Spring Practice Management Seminar

Tuesday May 20th

Grappone Center, Concord, NH

NNECOS' fifth annual spring practice management meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday May 20, 2008 at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. This well-attended annual one day educational meeting promises a variety of timely, informative practice management topics. Email nnecos@comcast.net to volunteer to serve on the planning committee or with any topic or speaker suggestions.

2008 NNECOS Annual Meeting

October 17-18, 2008 at the Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa

Would you like to get away to the peace and quiet of the majestic White Mountains? Enjoy networking with colleagues from the region in a picturesque, elegant setting? They you won't want to miss our 2008 Annual Meeting!

NNECOS is delighted to announce that our 2008 Annual Meeting will be



held at the luxurious Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa.

Since 1865, the Mountain View Grand Hotel has been an inspiring New Hampshire White Mountain resort, noted for its beautiful surroundings, golfing, horseback riding,

skiing, summer and winter mountain activities, as well as its incredible in-house Spa, superb service and fine dining. The Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa is beautifully perched on 400 landscaped acres, set inside an adjacent 1,300 acres, overlooking the White Mountains Presidential Range in Whitefield, New Hampshire. The Mountain View Grand is a AAA Four Diamond Resort, and a member of the Historic Hotels of America National Trust for Historic Preservation. Standard rooms begin at an unbelievable \$159 per night single or double occupancy.



Mark your calendar today for what promises to be an unforgettable weekend of education and networking amongst the glory of the White Mountains in their finest autumn color.

The planning committee for this two-day educational event is looking for volunteers to serve. As with the spring planning committee, meetings are held via toll-free teleconference, and are a great way to become more involved with the society. **Email necos@comcast.net to volunteer to serve on the planning committee or with any suggestions or ideas.**



NNECOS 2007 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS! ***More than 160 participants gather in Burlington, Vermont***

Amidst the beautiful autumn foliage, more than 160 members of the oncology community and our supporters gathered at the Sheraton Burlington for an exceptional annual meeting this past October.

The multidisciplinary oncology care team was well represented with physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, administrators, social workers, pharmacists, fellows and industry in attendance. The meeting featured a host of incredible presenters and panelists, as well as the return of our abstract posters and podium presentations. Attendees could be heard commenting that a meeting

so great would be difficult to top next year. As one attendee commented on the meeting evaluation, “These meetings are wonderful opportunities for networking, receiving updated information and current guidelines as well as new treatment modalities. The time away from the work environment is enjoyable and relaxing.”

Special thanks to our 2007 Annual Meeting Planning Committee Members: Chris Nunnink, Emma Dann, Steven Grunberg, Dan Hayes, Anne Ireland, Ken Meehan, Linda Patchett, and Elaine Towle.

“These meetings are wonderful opportunities for networking, receiving updated information and current guidelines as well as new treatment modalities. The time away from the work environment is enjoyable and relaxing.”

The outstanding quality of the meeting would not have been possible without our tremendous presenters: Zail Berry, MD, Marcy Canary, MD, George Peter Canellos, MD, Christian G. Downs, MHA, JD, Allan Eisemann, MD, Melanie Feinberg, M.L. Hannay, BS, MEd, Paul Harrington, John Hill, MD, Anne Ireland, RN, Ali Johnson, CTR, Nancy Kane, RN, Jeffrey Klein, MD, Ellen M. Lavoie Smith, PhD(c), MS, APRN-BC, AOCN, Susan Miesfeldt,

MD, Hyman B. Muss, MD, Patricia O'Brien, MD, Martha Polovich, MN, RN,

If you'd like to help make our 2008 meeting a success, why not volunteer to serve on the planning committee? Email nnecos@comcast.net to volunteer.

NNECOS ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Thank You & Welcome to the Board!

Since our annual meeting, the society has said goodbye to two wonderful associate member representatives, both of whom have served since the addition of the Associate Member Representative Board positions. Dedicated volunteers to the end, each recruited a willing society member to serve in their places.

In November, Vermont representative Anne Ireland, MSN, RN, AOCN, stepped down from her seat due to increasing professional demands that no longer provided her the time necessary to dedicate herself as a volunteer to the society. Anne has tirelessly served the society in her board position, an active board member, Anne served on many meeting planning committees, and also lent a hand facilitating and moderating sessions at these meetings. We look forward to seeing Anne at future NNECOS meetings. Replacing Anne will be Marty Byrne, BSN, RN, from the Vermont Center for Cancer medicine in Colchester, Vermont. Nurses in attendance at our 2007

Annual Meeting may have met Marty at registration, as she was welcoming nurses on behalf of the local ONS chapter. Marty plans to work to help enhance the relationship and collaboration between NNECOS and local ONS chapters.

Earlier this month, New Hampshire representative Linda Patchett, RN, MBA, also stepped down due to opportunities for professional advancement taking her outside of the field of oncology. Linda has been an enthusiastic, energetic, engaged participant in the society, providing insight and excellent ideas in meeting planning. Replacing Linda will be Angela Gibbs, RN, AD, BS, from the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Lebanon, NH. Angela has been an active member of the society, attending annual educational meetings, and often lending a hand with registration and other on-site volunteer work.

Welcome Marty and Angela, and thank you again Anne and Linda, you will be missed!

ONCOLOGY CARE IN RURAL NEW ENGLAND GRANT APPLICATION

Earlier this month, NNECOS submitted a grant application to the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to help fund a unified data collection project across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont relative to access to care. Members of the project team believe that such a project will strengthen the 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. Leaders from each of these state cancer collaborative recently attended the 2007 NNECOS Annual Meeting and presented the work that each state is doing. The consensus that developed was that the three states could improve their collaborative effort to review and gather data. A 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; this information will become the basis for a study of the needs of cancer patients in rural areas. The inclusion of the leaders of each of the state cancer plans in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine is essential to the success of this program. We believe this collaboration between a state oncology society and statewide cancer plans is unique and will provide long term value for each of the organizations, the cancer care communities, as well as the cancer patients, in our region. Such an effort is in direct alignment with the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s ongoing efforts for collaboration in Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC), a collaborative process through which a community and its partners pool resources to reduce the burden of cancer, resulting in cancer risk reduction, early detection, better treatment, and enhanced survivorship.

Stay tuned for updates relative to the status of our grant application and this important initiative. If you'd like to become involved with this project, email nnecos@comcast.net.

CRITERIA FOR NEWS RELEASES

FROM NNECOS MEMBERS OR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

NNECOS Board Develops Policy for News Releases in Newsletter and On Website

As the voice of oncology in our region, NNECOS frequently receives requests to pass along information to our membership via our website and/or our e-newsletter. In response to such requests, the NNECOS Board of Directors has developed a policy addressing such requests, detailed below.

1. The subject of the news release must pertain to cancer education, research or to a community service activity related to cancer.
2. News releases may be submitted only by legally constituted organizations such as not for profit corporations, licensed educational institutions, physician practices, or charitable organizations. Cancer education, research and or community service should be a major part of an institutions mission in order to submit a news release to NNECOS.
3. Subcommittees, departments or work groups etc. of appropriately constituted organizations may not submit news releases independent of their parent institution.
4. There may be no more than 50 words of copy in the news release. A group or institutional logo no more than 1 inch in height may be included.
5. The format and placement of the announcement in NNECOS publications will be at the sole discretion of NNECOS. The NNECOS executive committee reserves the right to accept or reject any announcement at its sole discretion.

6. Submissions (copy and graphics) should be submitted electronically to nnecos@comcast.net .
7. Groups, practices, and institutions are limited to no more than two announcements per quarter.
8. Announcements for the quarterly e-newsletter must be submitted based on the following schedule. Submissions received after the deadline will be considered for inclusion in the next issue:

9. Newsletter Issue	Submission Deadline
Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1
Autumn	September 1
Winter	December 1

10. Announcements submitted for inclusion on the NNECOS website will be received at any time, and updated no less than quarterly, on or about the time of publication of the e-newsletter.
11. Questions about submissions to the NNECOS Announcement Service may be forwarded to nnecos@comcast.net.



A MESSAGE FROM ASCO'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL

Join ASCO's Advocacy Network!

TAKE ACTION



A message from Joseph S. Bailes, MD, Chair of ASCO's Government Relations Council
I would like to invite you to become part of ASCO's Advocacy Network. Advocacy is most effective when Members of Congress and government agencies hear from you, their constituents. By participating in this network you will be given the opportunity to develop ongoing relationships with your legislators while helping ASCO raise awareness on important cancer issues like, clinical trials research, Medicare coverage, funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute and quality care. In addition, you will receive targeted alerts on the latest congressional and regulatory activity and updates on emerging policy issues.

To become part of ASCO's Advocacy Network, please visit ASCO's Grassroots Action Center to sign up and

tell us what policy issues interest you. The Grassroots Action Center also contains updated legislative data and online tools that allow you to have an active role in the political process. You can find information on your elected officials, take action on important issues facing the oncology community and keep track of important bills and votes in Congress. By educating yourself and maintaining lasting relationships on Capitol Hill and at home, you advance quality cancer care. Let your voice be heard.

If you have any questions about ASCO's Advocacy Network please contact the Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department at grassroots@asco.org or 703-299-1050.

Thank you,
Joseph S. Bailes, MD
Chair, Government Relations Council

VOTE IN ASCO'S 2008 ELECTION

Voting begins January 2 and ends February 15

Fourteen ASCO members have accepted nominations to participate in the 2008 ASCO Election for open positions on the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, as well as for the office of President-Elect. ASCO Active, Junior Active, and Emeritus members will have the opportunity to shape the future direction of the Society by voting when the election opens on January 2, 2008.

Mace L. Rothenberg, MD, 2007-2008 Chair of the ASCO Nominating Committee, believes that the current slate contains the highest caliber candidates.

"We are looking for people with experience, knowledge, insight, and a record of service to the Society," he says, "individuals who we feel confident can be knowledgeable and active representatives of the members in carrying out the responsibilities of the President and Board of Directors."

To learn more about the candidates, visit the ASCO election news page at <http://www.asco.org/vgn-ext-templating/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=de7798e828716110VgnVCM100000ed730ad1RCRD>.

ASCO urges all members to have a voice in the future of the Society and participate in the 2008 election.



TELEPHONE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Sponsors Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML) Update from the ASH Annual Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 2008
TIMES: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EASTERN
SPEAKER: Selina M. Luger, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Leukemia Program
Division of Hematology-Oncology
Hospital of the University
of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

PARTICIPATE AND LEARN more about:

- Current and emerging therapy options for individuals living with AML
- The role of clinical trials in developing new therapies for AML
- Quality of life issues in living with AML

Participate in the discussion by asking Dr. Luger questions during the Q&A session.
Register here: <https://www.rmei.com/lisaml/index2.php>.

2008 MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE & SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS AVAILABLE

On November 1, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final Medicare physician fee schedule for 2008, which was published in the Federal Register on November 27, 2007.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quarterlyproviderupdates/downloads/cms1385fc.pdf>

ASCO has prepared a summary of provisions of

greatest interest to oncologists, which is available on our website at <http://nnecon.files.stateaffiliates-asco.org/ASCO%20Summary%202008%20Medicare%20Physician%20Fee%20Schedule.pdf>

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact ASCO's Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department at 703-299-1050.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

We are interested in your feedback and suggestions. Please send your comments and suggestions for future issues to nnecon@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 email 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.

BAYER HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICALS

New indication for Nexavar announced

- Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation and Onyx Pharmaceuticals announce new indication for Nexavar in treatment of patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
- Access insurance coverage through REACH (Resources for Expert Assistance and Care Helpline) by calling 877.322.4448. Nexavar will NOT be filled through retail pharmacies, but facilitated through REACH.

PFIZER

A change in how Camptosar (irinotecan hydrochloride) is supplied

- No longer packaged with a plastic tray and foil surrounding the vial; vial contents remain identical
- Change affects both the 40mg/2ml and 100mg/5mL presentations

GENOMIC HEALTH

- Updated ASCO Clinical Practice Guidelines for ER+, N- breast cancer
- OncotypeDX is now recommended as part of ASCO's Updated Clinical Practice Guidelines for ER+, N- breast cancer.
- Complete details at <http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/abstract/JCO.2007.14.2364v1>

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.



Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2008

***Wednesday, January 9
5:00 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. EASTERN***

ASCO invites you and your practice staff to participate in this national audioconference.

Discussion topics will include:

- OVERVIEW OF MEDICARE'S 2008 PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE
- OVERVIEW OF MEDICARE'S 2008 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM
- REVIEW OF THE 2008 PQRI PROGRAM AND ONCOLOGY SPECIFIC MEASURES
- ONCOLOGY CODING UPDATE

To Register & Access this Call:

- 1) Go to https://ww4.premconf.com/webbrsvp/register?conf_id=7022904 or call 800-289-0579 and refer to **Confirmation Code: 7022904**
- 2) Click on link above and enter the requested information.
- 3) Dial-in details will be available after entry. (An e-mail with the dial-in will be sent automatically unless box is unchecked.)
- 4) On the call date, access conference using the provided dial-in details.
- 5) Provide operator with Confirmation Code: 7022904

Please Note: Call materials will be sent via e-mail on Tuesday, January 8. If you are unable to participate on this live call, a replay will occur and background materials will be available on ASCO's website.

Registration Deadline: 12:00 P.M. ET Tuesday, January 8