



NNECOS News

an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

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Volume 4 Issue 3

LAST CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION! **Registration Deadline: *Wednesday October 1st***

Join Us! Annual Meeting time is upon us! With an amazing array of presenters and sessions to choose from, this year's annual meeting promises to be an exceptional educational and networking event for the oncology community across our region. A perfect blend of excellent local and national presenters, you simply will not want to miss this meeting. We're delighted to have a timely update from ASCO's Executive Vice President, Dr. Allen Lichter, just weeks before a presidential election! Other notable moments will include a Saturday lunchtime launch of the new Journey Forward survivorship initiative by UCLA professor, Dr. Patricia Ganz.

Register Today! Wednesday October 1st is the registration deadline, so if you haven't done so already, please send your registration today! Full details are available at www.nnecos.org.

Lodging: Due to the OVERWHELMING response to this year's meeting/location, the Mountain View Grand is reporting that they are completely SOLD OUT for Friday October 17th, and have only limited

availability for Saturday October 18th. If you're traveling alone, and wouldn't mind sharing your room with a colleague, please let NNECOS know so that we can move someone from our waitlist on site. If you haven't yet reserved your room, and you're not able to double-up and share a room with a colleague who might already have a reservation, don't fret. We do have a backup plan in place. First, contact NNECOS at nnecos@comcast.net and request to be put on our wait list in case rooms open up at the Mountain View. Next, make your reservation at the backup property below.

Overflow lodging is available at the Cabot Motor Inn in nearby Lancaster, NH (less than 10 minute drive). Friends of NNECOS have assured us that the Cabot is a fine place to stay in this beautiful region, and they've offered a very attractive \$79 per night plus tax for double occupancy. To reserve your room, call 603-788-3346 or visit www.cabotmotorinn.com for more details. Enjoy all of the beauty of the region, and participate fully in this once a year educational event, while saving your budget a few dollars!

We Hope to See You at 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



Friday October 17th and Saturday October 18th

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

We are delighted to report that this important project is well-under way and gaining momentum as we prepare to submit our 6-month progress report to ASCO, as providers of \$10,000 of grant funding for this project.

Although the project has not been without its challenges in the early going, through the outstanding collaboration of key leaders in our three states, and under the guidance of NNECOS past president Dr. Chris Nunnink, the team continues to overcome each hurdle and charge ahead into the autumn with a renewed sense of excitement and commitment to the project. Great progress has been made in the areas of data quality/ follow-back procedures and protocol, and careful consideration and analysis is underway to solidify a consistent rural vs. non-rural classification to ensure data consistency across the states. Following the classification agreement, the team will also look toward the establishment of a publications committee to share the results of this collaborative project at its conclusion.

The level of teamwork and collaboration that is key to the success of this project simply **cannot be understated**. Each of our three states is providing unique and valuable information and support to the

other. As the excitement builds for this project, talk of additional long-term benefits to the region abound, including improvement to data quality moving forward in support of the continuation of this work well into the future.

As we look toward the second half of the grant period, the team is diligently finalizing edits, developing and sharing SAS code, and running preliminary frequencies to identify cases requiring follow-back, while aligning work schedules to ensure data collection in concert with our time line.

In an effort to further enhance tri-state collaboration, the team is excited to be planning a dinner meeting for key registry personnel across the tri-state region who will be in attendance at the Cancer Registrar Association of New England (CRANE) meeting later next month in Burlington, VT. The assembly of key registry personnel in one location is a unique and fortuitous opportunity to spread the excitement for and commitment to the project with those whose efforts will ensure the highest quality data possible for this study. *Look for an updated progress report at this year's annual meeting, as well as in the Winter edition of NNECOS E-News.*

NNECOS AWARDS CLINICAL TRIALS STUDY GRANT **Tri-State Group Studying Barriers to Clinical Trials Participation**

The NNECOS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the awarding of a research grant to a group of community oncologists from across the region to study cost as a barrier to clinical trial participation in Northern New England. Principal investigators for this project are: Douglas Weckstein MD, NH Oncology Hematology PA; Ivette Emery, PhD, Maine Center for Cancer Medicine; Christian Thomas MD, Vermont Center for Cancer Medicine; and Barbara Shea MD, Seacoast Cancer Center.

This team has developed a protocol to assess the reasons that patients decline or are unable to

participate in clinical trials. The survey will be issued to patients in four community based oncology practices in Northern New England with established clinical trial programs. The practices provide a cross-section of geographic, economic, and clinical trial infrastructure conditions. Grant funding will cover the cost of postage and three daytime investigator meetings. The team hopes to utilize the data obtained from the study to devise targeted strategies to ameliorate barriers to trial participation that exist in the community oncology practice setting.

In approving this grant request, the board expressed

great enthusiasm for this strategically important project whose goal is in direct alignment with NNECOS' mission "to ensure the availability of and access to high quality oncology care in our region," which is also an excellent complement to our ongoing access to care study being conducted with state cancer registries from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

The board has invited the team to promote the project at this year's annual meeting, and encouraged future

publication of the results of the study, including possible presentation of findings at a future NNECOS meeting.

NNECOS leadership has expressed hope that the funding of this project will serve as the catalyst to the establishment of formal research study grant application process, with grant funding to be awarded annually beginning in 2009.

FREE TELEPHONE EDUCATION PROGRAM FROM LLS **Understanding Myeloma: From Diagnosis Through Treatment**

DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2008

TIME: 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM EASTERN

SPEAKER:

Asher A. Chanan-Khan, MD
Associate Professor of Oncology
Division of Lymphoma/Myeloma
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Buffalo, NY

- Current and emerging drug therapies for myeloma
- The role of clinical trials in the advancement of myeloma treatment
- Quality of life issues in living with myeloma
- Participate in the discussion by asking Dr. Chanan-Khan questions during the Q&A session.

Register online at <https://www.rmei.com/LLSmyeloma/index2.php> .To register by phone, please call (866) 992-9950, ext. 304.

PARTICIPATE AND LEARN more about:

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.

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.

CENTOCOR ORTHO BIOTECH

Procrit Label Change

- New label includes updated prescribing information and medication guide
- Complete details available in updated Patient Information for Use (PIU) available on the Procrit or OrthoBiotech websites.

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.