The Association of Northern California Oncologists (ANCO) was organized in 1990 to be an advocate for, educate, and inform practicing hematologists/oncologists. **ANCO currently represents 618 hematologists/oncologists** throughout northern California who practice in the community as well as at the regional academic cancer centers—Stanford University, UC Davis, and UC San Francisco—and The Permanente Medical Group. We serve the interests of our physician members, their nurses and practice managers, and people living with cancer. ANCO is a member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), a state/regional affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and (along with the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California or MOASC) the specialty delegation representative for hematology/oncology at the California Medical Association (CMA).

**ANCO is the regional resource for the Northern California cancer community.** We provide in-depth education, connections to clinical trials, a robust job portal and vital advocacy efforts to empower hematologists/oncologists to maximize their academic and clinical expertise resulting in the best care for patients.

We put clearly defined objectives into practice:

- **Disseminate the latest and best information** to our members to dramatically impact the practice of hematology/oncology.

- **Provide the latest clinical education** to physicians and nurses and professional education to physicians, nurses, and practice managers.

- **Serve as a committed advocate and liaison** for our members before government, private, and corporate entities from coast to coast.

- **Play an active role in the reimbursement environment** on behalf of physicians, nurses, managers, and people living with cancer.

Under the direction of the **Board of Directors** and leadership of **President** Thach-Giao Truong, MD, and **Executive Director** Courtney G. Flookes, ANCO continues to make progress in accomplishing its goal and objectives. 2 and describes plans for 2023.
Administration

A full-time Executive Director under the direction of the ANCO Officers and Board of Directors efficiently and effectively manages ANCO. Fundraising efforts continue to be successful through the Corporate Membership Program. ANCO renewed the Institutional Memberships of Stanford University, UC Davis, and UC San Francisco and the Group Membership for The Permanente Medical Group. And, ANCO retained most current and recruited some new physician members. In conclusion, ANCO is a financially sound organization that is proud to be viewed by government, corporate, and other medical organizations throughout California and the United States as a leader among state oncology societies.

Specifically:

- ANCO’s Board of Directors met on two occasion (in February and in September) and teleconferenced six times (in January, April, June, August, October, and December), and communicated via e-mail on many occasions. Summary minutes of these Board meetings are available from the ANCO office. Among the items discussed and acted upon by the Board were:

  - nominations and elections to the Board.
  - elections of a President and Secretary (for two-year terms).
  - a FY2023 budget for the Association.
  - organization of the annual Board planning meeting.
  - funding two ANCO ASCO Northern California Young Investigator Award.
  - rebranding ANCO and enhancing member communications and the ANCO website.
  - designation of ANCO representatives to various forums (e.g., ACCC, ASCO, ASH, CMA, MOASC, and NCCN).
  - advocacy efforts on behalf of individual ANCO members and hematologists/oncologists in general before ASCO’s State Affiliate Council and the California Medical Association; Noridian/JEMAC’s Contractor Advisory Committee (for Medicare) and DHCS/MediCal; state and national regulatory and legislative bodies (i.e., California State Legislature and Congress); and, a variety of private insurance companies.

- clinical and professional education proposals; and, cosponsored or comarketed programs organized by ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and Corporate and Institutional Members.
The Board will continue to meet and teleconference regularly in 2022. Group and Institutional Member contacts will be routinely included in ANCO Board meetings. ANCO and MOASC Boards of Directors will continue to be invited to each other’s meetings.

• 2022 will end with a surplus of approximately $82,344.53 and assets of approximately $1,200,155. (Exact financial information will be available after December 31, 2022.)

The FY2022 budget will be balanced. There will be no increases in any individual membership dues (i.e., Government, Regular, Retired, or Institutional, Group-TPMG, and Multi-Site Private Practice).

• $486,450 was raised through ANCO’s Corporate Memberships during 2022. Twelve (12) new Corporate Members were added to the roster in 2022 (i.e., Aveo Oncology, BostonGene Corporation, Foundation Medicine, Gilead Sciences, Hologic, Karyopharm,,Kyowa Kirin Inc, MacroGenics, Myriad Genetics, PhRMA, Regeneron, and Servier) and nine (9) Corporate Members did not renew their memberships for 2021 (i.e. Agios Pharmaceuticals, AMGEN, Heron Therapeutics, Immunomedics, Mylan, Oncotype, Oncopeptides, Stemline Therapeutics, Sun Pharma, Teva Oncology).

ANCO is very appreciative of the support provided by our Corporate Members:

**Sustaining Level**
AbbVie • Astra Zeneca • BeiGene • Bristol-Myers Squibb Company • Gilead Sciences • Glaxo SmithKline • Grail • Incyte• Jazz Pharmaceuticals• Loxo @Lilly •MorphoSys USA • Pfizer • Taiho Oncology • Takeda

**Diamond Level**
Daiichi Sankyo • Eisai • EMD Serono • Genentech BioOncology • Hologic • Janssen Oncology • Merck • Pharmacyclics • Regeneron • SeaGen

**Gold Level**
Adaptive Biotechnologies • ADC Therapeutics • Astellas Oncology • Coherus Biosciences • Exact Sciences • Exelixis • Karyopharm • Kite Pharmaceuticals Myovant• Natera • Novartis • Sanofi Genzyme •Tempus Labs • TG Therapeutics

**Silver Level**
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Aveo Oncology • Bayer • Boehringer Ingelheim • BostonGene Corporation • Caris Life Sciences • Deciphera • Epizyme • Guardant Health • Ipsen BioPharmaceuticals • Kyowa Kirin Inc • MacroGenics • Myriad Genetics • Puma Biotechnology
Current Corporate Members will be asked to renew and encouraged to increase their membership support level in 2023. Non-renewing Corporate Members will be asked to rejoin ANCO. And, several new Corporate Memberships will be solicited. ANCO intends to rebrand their corporate membership program for 2024.

• ANCO has three Institutional Members—Stanford University, UC Davis, and UC San Francisco. In addition, ANCO has one Group Member—The Permanente Medical Group. Current Group and Institutional Members will be asked to renew and additional organizations will be invited to join.

• There are currently 618 physician members in ANCO, an increase of 2 (.5%) from 2021. Of these, 132 are community, or government (2) based hematologists/oncologists, 8 are retired from full-time medical practice, 476 are affiliated with one of the three regional academic cancer centers—Stanford University (131), UC Davis (98), and UC San Francisco (119)—and 128 practice at The Permanente Medical Group (at 20 locations). Ninety Two (92) members practice at seven (7) multi-site (often multi-disciplinary) community practices (ranging in size from 5 to 48 physicians at 2 to 14 sites). Finally, 37 members practice in 14 single-site practices (ranging in size from 1 to 5 physicians). Individual members will be asked to renew and new memberships will be solicited in 2022.

Advocacy
ANCO advocates on behalf of all hematologists/oncologists to improve the healthcare environment for physicians, their nurses and practice managers, and people living with cancer. In general, the Board deliberated on and recommended policies, and was represented and communicated these policies at a variety of forums in 2021.

Specifically:

• ANCO sent representatives to ASCO’s State Affiliate Council meetings.
• ANCO continued its relationship with NL Short Public Affairs, a Sacramento-based advocacy firm; monitored cancer-related and general medical legislation; and, worked with the CMA to help pass, improve, and/or defeat cancer-related legislation, amongst other pieces of legislation; including,

AB 1880 (Arambula): Step Therapy. The bill ensures that a health care provider who is a clinical peer is reviewing step therapy and prior authorization appeals and requires health plans to keep key data regarding their utilization management programs. Vetoed by the Governor
SB 912 (Limon): Biomarker Testing. Health plans, including Medi-Cal, must cover biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of an insured’s disease or condition only if the test is supported by medical and scientific evidence. “Medical and scientific evidence” means one or more of the following:
(1) A labeled indication for a test that has been approved or cleared by the FDA or is an indicated test for an FDA-approved drug.
(2) A national coverage determination made by CMS or a local determination made by a Medicare Administrative Contractor.
(3) Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements

Biomarker testing includes, but is not limited to, single-analyte tests, multiplex panel tests, and whole genome sequencing. Vetoed by the Governor

SB 958 (Limon): White Bagging. Would prevent health plans from mandating the use of third-party vendors for specialty medications. The bill is sponsored by the California Hospital Association and supported by the Association of Northern California Oncologists, California Children’s Hospital Association, and others. Died in Committee

AB 2516 (Aguiar-Curry): Health care coverage: human papillomavirus. Requires health plans to provide coverage without cost sharing for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Vetoed by the Governor

SB 934 (Rubio): California Pediatric Cancer Research Fund Act. Would establish the Andrew Hirschman Childhood Cancer Research Fund at the UC and direct the institution to award grants to qualified research institutions. Died in Committee

AB 35 (Reyes, Umberg). Updates the MICRA parameters based on a compromise from CMA, CHA, patient attorneys and advocates in exchange for removal of a November ballot initiative that would have undermined the MICRA protections.

The legislation adjusts MICRA’s cap on non-economic damages, which is currently limited to $250,000. This will increase the existing limit to $350,000 for non-death cases and $500,000 for wrongful death cases on the effective date January 1, 2023, followed by incremental increases over 10 years to $750,000 for non-death cases and $1,000,000 for wrongful death cases, after which a 2.0% annual inflationary adjustment will apply. Signed by the Governor

SB 184 (Committee on the Budget, Office of Health Care Affordability): The Office of Health Care Affordability is charged with collecting data on total health care expenditures, analyzing the health care market for cost trends and drivers of spending, creating a state strategy for controlling the cost of health care and improving affordability for consumers and purchasers, and enforcing cost targets. The Health Care Affordability Board will advise on key activities and
approve some issues such as the methodology for setting and the statewide cost targets. Signed by the Governor

AB 1278 (Nazarian): Requires every physician and surgeon to provide patients with a written or electronic notice informing them of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Open Payments database at an initial office visit. Amendments were accepted to exclude any ongoing notice requirements, remove the physician-specific payments from the notice, and allow the notice to be electronic, among other amendments. Signed by the Governor

SB 987 (Limon) This bill requires a Medi-Cal managed care plan to make a good faith effort to include in its contracted provider network at least one National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) affiliated cite or qualifying academic center in each county the MCMCP operates. It also requires MCMCPs to notify all enrollees of their right to request a referral to access to care through any of those centers. Signed by the Governor

SCA 10: State Constitutional Amendment to ensure access to reproductive health services Signed by the Governor

California Cancer Registry Funding: $15.7 million was included in the 2022-2023 state budget for a three-year grant to UC Davis to manage the registry. Funded

Increased Medi-Cal Rates for Pediatric Specialists: California Children’s Coalition committed to trying again next year. Not Funded

Other Legislative Efforts
SB 310 Implementation: Working with Sirum on final materials. Database created. Preparing for a small test group of oncologists.

Referendum on Tobacco Tax. The referendum is attempting to reverse the bill ANCO supported that would ban flavored tobacco products in CA. ANCO joined the coalition and will be working with them on stopping the referendum in November.

All Copays Count Coalition. Urges legislation be passed that would allow copayment assistance programs to count towards a patient’s deductible/OOP maximums. Expect legislation in 2023.

- Hematology/Oncology, as represented by ANCO and MOASC, was represented at the CMA’s Specialty Delegation, Council on Legislation, and House of Delegates.
- ANCO communicated with Noridian/JEMAC to discuss Medicare issues in California and the Department of Health Care Services to discuss Medicaid (DHCS/MediCal) issues.
• ANCO communicated its concern with coverage policies at a variety of private insurance companies.

ANCO will continue to advocate on behalf of its constituents before government agencies, payers and corporations, and medical societies in 2023. The Board of Directors welcomes and encourages feedback from members on issues of importance that require organizational intervention and advocacy efforts.

Meetings
The ANCO Board of Directors continued to implement its clinical and professional educational strategy in 2022.

Specifically:

• Clinical Education Meetings. Seven (7) ANCO-organized clinical education meetings took place in 2021:
  
  Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2021 (in cooperation with SABCS and Encore Medical Education; February 2022)
  
  22nd Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach (in collaboration with the Stanford Cancer Institute, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, and UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center; March 2022)
  
  Regional Quarterly Hematological Malignancies Updates (May 2022, September 2022, and November 2022)
  
  ANCO’s ASCO Highlights (August 2022)

Precision Oncology Symposium

ANCO also cooperated in marketing ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and Corporate and Institutional Member meetings; and, other oncology meetings in 2023.

In 2023, ANCO will co-host a Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2022, organize a Hematological Malignancies Updates, and host ANCO’s ASCO Highlights 2023. In addition, ANCO and the Stanford Cancer Institute, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, and UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center will cosponsor the 23rd Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach in March 2023.

• Professional Education Meetings. ANCO’s professional education meetings and webcasts present speakers on topics about the management of office-based medical practices and hematology/oncology reimbursement techniques. Participants not only learn at these meetings, but they also form a network of resources to turn to when billing and reimbursement and management issues arise. Two (2) professional education webcasts/meetings were held in 2021:
**Hot Topics in Reimbursement Q1 2022** (webcast, January 2022)

**2022 Professional Education Meeting** (virtually, October 2022)

Professional education meetings and webcasts on timely issues of importance are anticipated for 2023.

**Information Dissemination**

The *ANCO Report*, a bi-weekly summary of advocacy, educational, membership, and Association news, was e-mailed weekly to all ANCO members.

ANCO maintains an updated online edition of the *Directory of Members*. Besides a comprehensive listing of ANCO physician members, nurses, and managers, the *Directory* also includes an updated list of Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance programs and ANCO’s *Articles of Incorporation* and *By-Laws*.

ANCO will continue to enhance *The ANCO Report* and www.anco.org in 2023. The *California Oncology Weekly* will continue to be posted to the website. Both the *Directory* and drug reimbursement and patient assistance programs will be regularly updated at www.anco.org/ANCODIR.pdf and https://anco.org/practice-and-patient-reimbursement-assistance-programs/, respectively. ANCO plans to make these two resources searchable in 2023.

**Information**

For more information about ANCO membership and activities, please contact:

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