



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



ANCO

Educating and Empowering the  
Northern California Cancer Community

*Association of Northern California Oncologists (ANCO)* was organized in 1990 to be an advocate for, educate, and inform practicing hematologists/oncologists.

**ANCO currently represents 660 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 the specialty delegation representative for hematology/oncology at the *California Medical Association (CMA)* together with the *Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC)*.

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:**



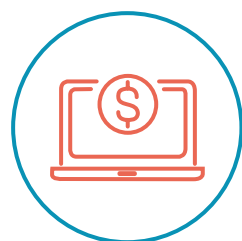
Disseminate the latest and best information to our members to dramatically impact the practice of hematology/oncology.



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* Millie Das, MD, and *Executive Director* Courtney G. Flookes, ANCO continues to make progress in accomplishing its goal and objectives.





# 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 three occasions (in January, April, and August) and teleconferenced four times (in February, June, 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 *Treasurer* and *Secretary* (for two-year terms).
- a FY2024 budget for the *Association*.
- organization of the annual *Board* planning meeting.
- funding two ANCO ASCO Northern California Young Investigator Awards.
- rebranding ANCO Corporate Membership Program 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 2024. *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.

**2023 will end with a surplus of approximately \$82,344.53 and assets of approximately \$1,200,155.**

*(As of December 31, 2023.)*

The FY2024 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).

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**\$596,800 was raised through ANCO's Corporate Memberships during 2023.**

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**Eleven new Corporate Members were added to the roster in 2023**

*(i.e., Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Biotheranostics, CTI BioPharma, GE HealthCare, Genmab, Immunogen, Inc., Mirati Therapeutics, Myriad Genetics, PharmaEssentia USA, Sobi, Stemline, A Menarini Group Company)*

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**Five Corporate Members did not renew their memberships for 2023**

*(i.e. Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Caris Life Sciences, Epizyme, Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, TG Therapeutics).*

# ANCO IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS:

## SUSTAINING LEVEL

AbbVie • Astra Zeneca • BeiGene USA, Inc. • Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Gilead Sciences, Inc. • Grail • GSK Oncology • Incyte Corporation  
Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc. • Kite, A Gilead Company • Loxo @Lilly • Merck & Co., Inc.  
Mirati Therapeutics • MorphoSys • Pfizer Oncology  
Pharma Essentia USA Corporation • Sanofi Genzyme  
Stemline, A Menarini Group Company • Taiho Oncology Inc. • Takeda Oncology

## DIAMOND LEVEL

Biotheranostics • Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. • Genentech Inc., a Member of the Roche Group  
Janssen Oncology • Natera • Pharmacyclics LLC, an AbbVie Company  
Regeneron • Seagen

## GOLD LEVEL

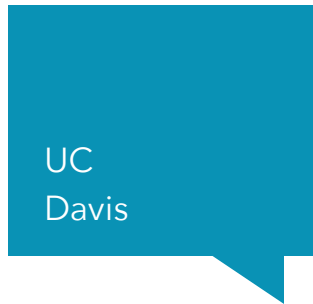
Adaptive Biotechnologies • Astellas Oncology • Deciphera • Eisai  
Exact Sciences • Exelixis, Inc. • GE HealthCare • Genmab • Immunogen, Inc.  
Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc. • Puma Biotechnology, Inc.  
Sumitomo Pharma America, Inc. • Tempus Labs

## SILVER LEVEL

ADC Therapeutics • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Aveo Oncology an LG Chem Company • Boehringer Ingelheim  
BostonGene Corporation • Coherus BioSciences • CTI BioPharma • EMD Serono  
Guardant Health • Kyowa Kirin Inc • MacroGenics, Inc. • MyriadGenetics  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals • PhRMA • SecuraBio • Servier Pharmaceuticals • Sobi  
TerSera Therapeutics

Current *Corporate Members* will be asked to renew and encouraged to increase their membership support level in 2024. Non-renewing *Corporate Members* will be asked to rejoin ANCO. And, several new *Corporate Memberships* will be solicited.

ANCO has three *Institutional Members*:



In addition,  
ANCO has one  
*Group Member*:

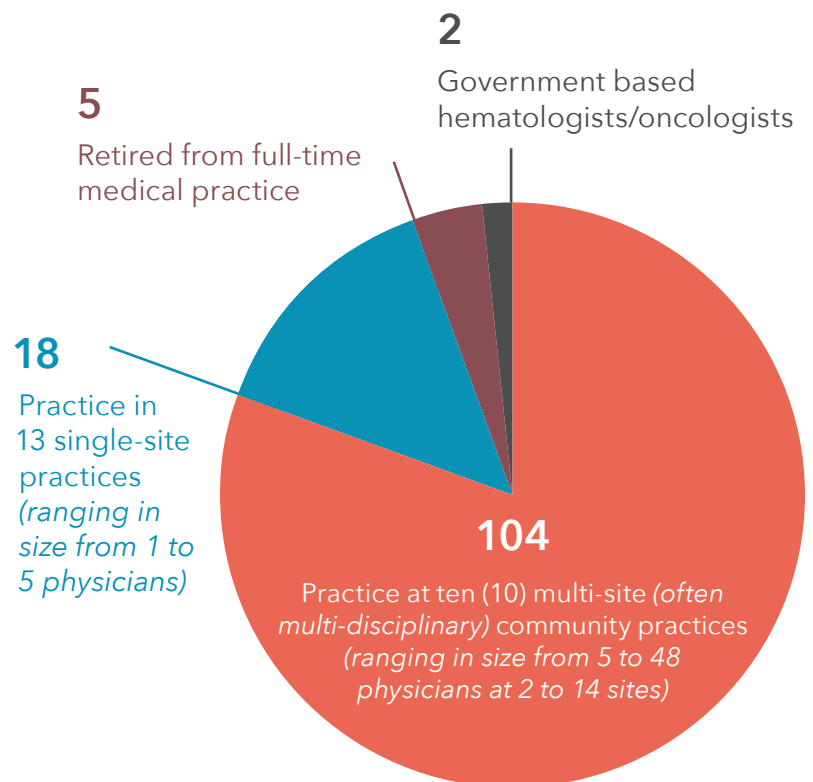
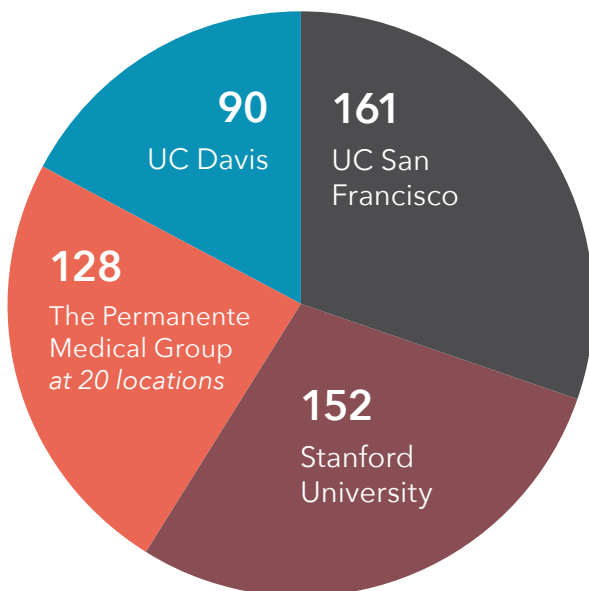


Current *Group* and *Institutional Members* will be asked to renew and additional organizations will be invited to join.

## THERE ARE CURRENTLY 660 PHYSICIAN MEMBERS IN ANCO, AN INCREASE OF 42 (7%) FROM 2022.

**531** are affiliated with one of the  
three regional academic cancer centers

**129** are community, or government  
based hematologists/oncologists



Individual members will be asked to renew and new memberships will be solicited in 2024.



## 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 2023.

### SPECIFICALLY:

- ANCO sent representatives to ASCO's *State Affiliate Council* meetings.
- ANCO continued its relationship with *Resolute*, a Sacramento based lobbying and strategic counsel 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 (Aguilar-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 site 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 2024. 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 2023.

## SPECIFICALLY:

**Clinical Education Meetings. Six (6) ANCO-organized clinical education meetings took place in 2023:**

### FEBRUARY 2023

Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2022  
*(in cooperation with SABCS and Encore Medical Education)*

### MARCH 2023

23rd 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)*

### MAY 2023

Hematological Malignancies Update

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Health Equity Research Symposium  
*(in collaboration with MOASC)*

### NOVEMBER 2023

Immuno-Oncology Symposium  
*(in collaboration with MOASC)*

### AUGUST 2023

ANCO's ASCO Highlights





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

In 2024, ANCO will co-host a *Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2023*, organize a *Clinical Cancer Update 2024*, *Hematological Malignancies Updates*, ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2024*, and the *Precision Oncology Symposium*. In addition, ANCO and the *Stanford Cancer Institute*, *UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center* will cosponsor the *24th Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* in March 2024.

### **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, reimbursement, and management issues arise.

#### **Two (2) professional education webcasts/meetings were held in 2023:**

- *Hot Topics in Reimbursement Q1 2023* (webcast, January 2023)
- *2023 Professional Education Meeting* (virtually, October 2023)

Professional education meetings and webcasts on timely issues of importance are anticipated for 2024.

## **INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

The ANCO Report, a quarterly 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](http://www.anco.org) in 2024. Both the *Directory* and drug reimbursement and patient assistance programs will be regularly updated at [www.anco.org/ANCODIR.pdf](http://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 2024.



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## INFORMATION

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

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