



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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 923 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 two occasions (in April and August) and teleconferenced five times (in January, 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 FY2025 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 2025. *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.

2024 will end with a surplus of approximately \$522,862 and assets of approximately \$1,812,875.

(As of December 31, 2024.)

The FY2025 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).

\$1,160,000 was raised through ANCO's Corporate Memberships during 2024.

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Five new Corporate Members were added to the roster in 2024

(i.e. Amgen, Caris Life Sciences, Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, SpringWorks Therapeutics, and SUN Pharma)

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Eight Corporate Members did not renew their memberships for 2024

(i.e. Biotheranostics, BostonGene Corporation, CTI BioPharma, GE HealthCare, Kyowa Kirin, Inc., MacroGenics, Inc., Myriad Genetics, and Tempus Labs)

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

SUSTAINING PLUS LEVEL

AbbVie • Amgen • AstraZeneca • BeiGene USA, Inc. • Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology • Genmab • Gilead Sciences, Inc. • GSK Oncology • Incyte Corporation Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc. • Johnson & Johnson • Kite, A Gilead Company • Merck & Co., Inc. • Mirati Therapeutics • Pharmacyclics LLC, an AbbVie Company • Regeneron Stemline, A Menarini Group Company • Takeda Oncology

SUSTAINING LEVEL

Grail • Lilly Oncology • MorphoSys • Novartis Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology Pharma Essentia USA Corporation • SeaGen • Taiho Oncology Inc.

DIAMOND LEVEL

Aveo Oncology, an LG Chem Company • Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. • Sanofi Genzyme

GOLD LEVEL

Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. • Astellas Oncology • Eisai, Inc. • EMD Serono • Exact Sciences • Exelixis, Inc. • ImmunoGen, Inc. • Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals • Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc. • Puma Biotechnology, Inc. • SpringWorks Therapeutics • SUN Pharma

SILVER LEVEL

Adaptive Biotechnologies • ADC Therapeutics • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Boehringer Ingelheim • Caris Life Sciences • Coherus BioSciences • Deciphera Genentech Inc., a Member of the Roche Group • Guardant Health • Natera SecuraBio • Servier Pharmaceuticals • Sobi, Inc. • Sumitomo Pharma America Inc. TerSera Therapeutics

Current *Corporate Members* will be asked to renew and encouraged to increase their membership support level in 2025. Non-renewing *Corporate Members* will be asked to rejoin ANCO. And, several new *Corporate Memberships* will be solicited.

ANCO has three *Institutional Members*:



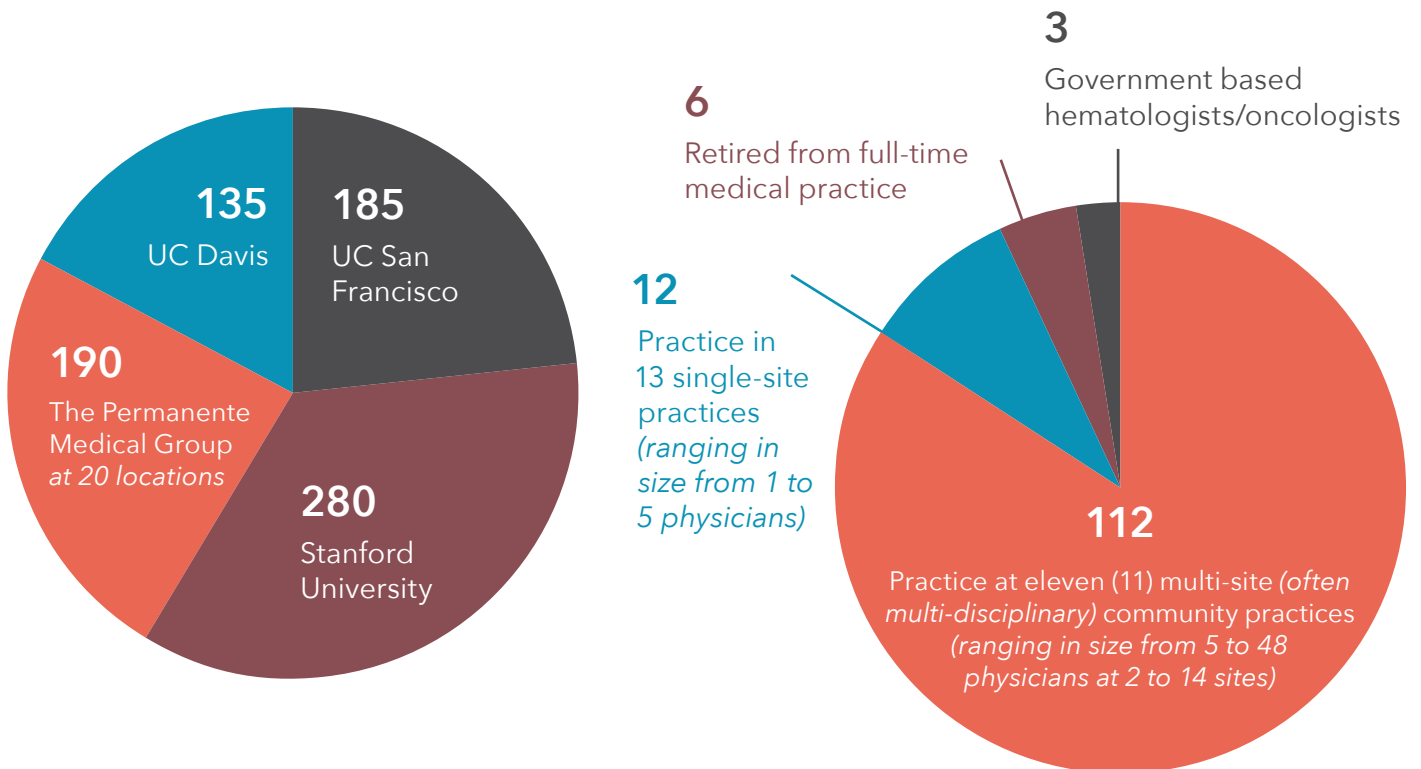
In addition, ANCO has one *Group Member*:

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

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 923 PHYSICIAN MEMBERS IN ANCO, AN INCREASE OF 263 (40%) FROM 2023.

600 are affiliated with one of the three regional academic cancer centers

133 are community, or government based hematologists/oncologists



Individual members will be asked to renew and new memberships will be solicited in 2025.



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 2024.

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 collaborated with the CMA, other provider organizations, and patient advocates on a variety of items including:

NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTION VICTORY: Proposition 35 passed by a large margin.

ANCO was one of the first organizations to endorse Proposition 35, which makes the California Managed Care Organization tax permanent in state law and uses those revenues for raising physician reimbursement rates, including oncologists, in the Medi-Cal program. The proposition passed by a wide margin, with 68% voting yes.

LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY ANCO: Two bills defeated early in the legislative session

AB 1994 (Waldron): Right to Try

Would create the Right to Try Individualized Investigational Treatments Act which would permit an individualized investigational treatment to be made available to patients with life threatening or severely debilitating illness. *Died in Legislature*

AB 200 (Karla): Guaranteed Health Care for All

Would create the Right to Try Individualized Investigational Treatments Act which would permit an individualized investigational treatment to be made available to patients with life threatening or severely debilitating illness. *Died in Legislature*



LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY ANCO: Unfortunately, legislation aimed at prohibiting copay accumulators, reforming prior authorization, regulating pharmacy benefit managers, and expanding cancer coverage for low-income women, were not successful in 2024, but may be reintroduced in 2025.

AB 2180 (Weber): Copay Accumulators

Would require health plans/insurers to apply any amounts paid by third-party patient assistance programs toward cost sharing requirements. *Died in Legislature*

SB 516 (Skinner): Prior Authorization Reform

As introduced, would have prohibited health plans from requiring prior authorization from any physician who had a 90% approval rating in the previous 12 months. *Died in Legislature*

SB 966 (Wiener) Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Would license and regulate pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in California and prohibit certain common PBM practices regarding outpatient pharmacy drugs, such as “spread pricing” and “patient steering” to PBM vertically integrated pharmacies, among others. (ANCO position was “support if amended” to include protections for physician administered drugs and steering patients to specialty pharmacies or infusion centers.) *Vetoed by Governor*

AB 1213 (Atkins) Health Care Programs: Cancer

Would expand the Every Woman Counts program, which provides breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment for low-income women, from 200% of the federal poverty level to 250% of the federal poverty level. *Vetoed by Governor*

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 2025. 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 2024.

SPECIFICALLY:

Clinical Education Meetings. Six (6) ANCO-organized clinical education meetings took place in 2024:

JANUARY 2024

Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2023
(in cooperation with SABCS and Encore Medical Education)

MARCH 2024

24th 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 2024

Hematological Malignancies Update

FEBRUARY 2024

Clinical Cancer Update

NOVEMBER 2024

Precision Oncology Symposium
(in collaboration with MOASC)

AUGUST 2024

ANCO's ASCO Highlights



ANCO also cooperated in marketing ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and Corporate and Institutional Member meetings; and, other oncology meetings in 2024.

In 2025, ANCO will co-host a *Best of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2024*, organize a *Clinical Cancer Update 2025, Hematological Malignancies Updates*, ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2025*, and the *Immuno-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 *25th Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* in March 2025.

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.

One (1) professional education webcast was held in 2024:

- *Hot Topics in Reimbursement Q1 2024* (webcast, January 2024)

Professional education meetings and webcasts on timely issues of importance are anticipated for 2025.

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 in 2025. 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 2025.



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INFORMATION

**For more information about ANCO membership and activities,
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