

NNECOS News

an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

October 2009
Volume 5 Issue 3

2009 ANNUAL MEETING AT THE SAMOSET! **Last Chance to Register ~ Deadline is October 9th!**

Final Registration Deadline is Approaching

The 2009 NNECOS Annual Meeting is fast approaching, and so is the final deadline to register! Registrations must be received by Friday October 9th. With more breakout sessions than ever before and an expanded program that begins with lunch on Friday, there's something for everyone at this year's meeting.



Scott Burton

Look Who's Coming!

Nationally recognized speakers include cancer survivor and comedian, Scott Burton (*visit www.sburton.com for more information*) who will present the Friday evening dinner presentation, and ASCO

Registration materials are available at http://www.nnecos.org/NNECOS_Website/Events/.

Clinical Practice Committee Chair, Dr. Michael Neuss, who will present the Saturday morning kick-off session, Looking Ahead: Legislative Update and QOPI in 2010.



Michael Neuss, MD

Still not convinced? Take a look at the jam-packed agenda on page 2 of this newsletter to see all that the planning committee has in store for you. Education, networking, and a relaxing ocean side setting await you at the Samoset Resort. *See you in Rockport!*

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**Northern New England's
Premiere Oncology Meeting
October 23-24, 2009
The Samoset Resort
Rockport, ME**

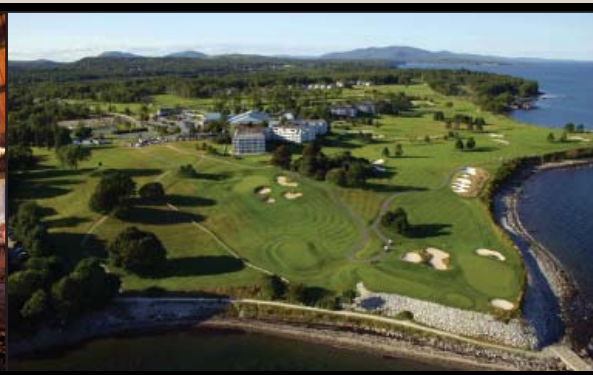
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society 2009 Annual Meeting Agenda

FRIDAY

- 11:30 AM 1:00 PM **Registration**
- 12:00 PM 1:00 PM **Lunch/Exhibits**
- 1:00 PM 2:15 PM **Breakouts**
- **Symptom Management: Managing patients through a prescribed course of treatment**
Jennifer J. Reid, FNP-C, RNFA; Maine Medical Center
 - **Effectively Integrating Non-Physician Practitioners**
Elaine L. Towle, CMPE; Oncology Metrics, llc
- 2:15 PM 2:45 PM **Break/Exhibits**
- 2:45 PM 4:00 PM **Productivity Measures for Hospitals and Practices**
Thomas Barr, MBA; Oncology Metrics, llc
Teri U. Guidi, MBA, FAAMA, Oncology Management Consulting Group
- 4:30 PM 6:30 PM **Cocktail Reception/ Poster Session**
- 6:30 PM 8:30 PM **Dinner and Presentation: A Message with Laughter**
Scott Burton; Cancer Survivor, Professional Juggler, Comic
- 8:30 PM 9:00 PM **Business Meeting**

SATURDAY

- 7:00 AM 8:00 AM **Breakfast/Exhibits**
- 8:00 AM 9:00 AM **Looking Ahead: Legislative Update and OOPI in 2010**
Michael N. Neuss, MD; Chair, ASCO Clinical Practice Committee
- 9:15 AM 10:15 AM **Breakouts**
- **Pharmacogenomics and Breast Cancer**
Tracey F. Weisberg, MD, Maine Center for Cancer Medicine & Blood Disorders
 - **Dysphagia: Minimizing effects of oro-pharyngeal surgery/radiation**
Lakshmi J. Boyle, MS, CCC-SLP; Fletcher Allen Health Care
 - **Radiation Oncology Update: Case Discussions**
Paul M. Busse, MD, PhD; Massachusetts General Hospital
- 10:15 AM 10:45 AM **Morning Break/Exhibits**
- 10:45 AM 12:00 PM **Abstract Presentation Session**
Uday B Dandamudi, MD; Ivette F. Emery, PhD; Cocav A. Rauwerdink, MD; Madhuri Vithala, MD
- 12:00 PM 1:30 PM **Lunch/Exhibits; Access to Care Project Update Presentation**
- 1:30 PM 2:30 PM **Breakouts (3)**
- **Oncology Opportunities: The Road Less Taken**
Christian A. Thomas, MD; Vermont Center for Cancer Medicine
 - **Skin Toxicities Associated with Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Inhibitors**
Carina McCauley, RN, BSN, OCN; Fletcher Allen Health Care
 - **Update on Breast Cancer Management: Current Trends in Breast Reconstruction**
Lisa A. Rutstein, MD, FACS; Maine Medical Center
- 2:30 PM 4:00 PM **Head and Neck Cancer Update: Case Presentations**
Steven M. Grunberg, MD; University of Vermont/Fletcher Allen Health Care
Paul M. Busse, MD, PhD; Massachusetts General Hospital
Benoit J. Gosselin, MD, FRCSC, FACS; Dartmouth College/ Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Jeannine B. Mills, MS, RD, CSO, LD; Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Lakshmi J. Boyle, MS, CCC-SLP; Fletcher Allen Health Care



A FOCUS ON QUALITY

2010 ASCO State Affiliate Grant Project QOPI as a Performance Improvement Tool

NNECOS president, Dr. Andrew Hertler, of the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care in Augusta, Maine, is working on a proposal for a 2010 ASCO State Affiliate Grant, in an effort to bring a study of QOPI as a performance improvement tool to our region.

As Dr. Hertler explains, “By presenting QOPI data for all of the centers together, with aggregate and individual institution (blinded, initially) results, best practices can be shared to facilitate improvement for all.”

Dr. Hertler has been consulting with ASCO QOPI expert, Dr. Michael Neuss of Ohio, a featured speaker at this year’s annual meeting. Dr. Neuss has been involved with the ASCO Quality Oncology Practice Initiative throughout its development. “It is our hope that the QOPI program will serve as a certification vehicle for outpatient



chemotherapy administration,” explains Dr. Neuss. “Our goal has always been to promote excellence in cancer care for patients who deserve the best care we can provide, with minimal unnecessary variation, maximal adherence to reasonable guidelines, and respect and attention to each patient’s circumstance and wishes.”

NNECOS is seeking assistance from member practices in making this project a reality. Members can help in two ways: 1) participate in a short online survey about QOPI in your practice, to assist in the establishment of a baseline measure of the percentage of practices in the tri-state area that are participating in QOPI; and 2) Commit to participating in QOPI for the two consecutive QOPI cycles during the grant period (spring and fall 2010). For more information, email nneCOS@comcast.net.

National Provider Call on 2009 PQRI

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Provider Communications Group will host a national provider conference call on the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The call is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 15 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM Eastern time. The 2009 PQRI consists of 153 quality measures and 7 measures groups.

The topics covered on this national provider call will include:

- The Alternative National Provider Index (NPI) Feedback Report Distribution Process;
- Updates on 2008 PQRI and 2007 re-run PQRI incentive payments; and
- An explanation of the paper and electronic remittance advice statement for determining incentive payments.

A PowerPoint slide presentation will be posted to the PQRI webpage for you to download prior to the call so that you can follow along with the presenter. Following this presentation, the lines will be opened to allow participants to ask questions of CMS PQRI subject matter experts.

To participate, individuals must [register for the call](#). Registration for the call closes October 14th at 2:30 PM.



NEWS FROM THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
LLS Co-Pay Assistance Program Launches
Online Portal for Healthcare Providers

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is pleased to announce the launch of an online portal for Healthcare Providers to submit LLS Co-Pay Assistance program applications on behalf of patients.

The Co-Pay Assistance Program provides patients with financial assistance for health insurance payments and specific blood cancer treatment co-pay obligations. Support for this program is based on the availability of funds by disease diagnosis.

Co-Pay applications can be submitted by calling (877) 557-2672 from your physician facility or submitted online through this secure web-based process.

This portal is a convenient, easy and quick opportunity for providers to submit LLS Co-Pay Assistance Program applications for their patients. Each online application should take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Visit the [Co-Pay Assistance Provider Portal](#) and register your facility to begin the application process.



CALL FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
7th Annual Spring Educational Meeting Tuesday May 18, 2010

The Grappone Center in Concord, NH will once again host the annual spring educational meeting for NNECOS in 2010. Save Tuesday May 18th for this annual tradition with a new twist. We're looking to revamp this meeting with fresh, new ideas, and welcome feedback from you, our members! Why not take an active role and join the planning committee?



Don't have the time to commit to joining the team, but have an idea for a session you've been wishing we'd offer? We want to hear from you! There's no better opportunity to help shape the educational activities of importance to our region than getting involved. Email nneCOS@comcast.net for more information about becoming a part of planning this spring tradition!

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” 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.

ALLOS THERAPEUTICS

Folotyntm approved

On September 24, 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval for FOLOTYNTM (pralatrexate injection) for use as a single agent for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL). FOLOTYN is the first and only drug approved by the FDA for this indication and represents a new treatment option for patients with relapsed or refractory PTCL.

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.