



NNECOS News

an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

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2009 ANNUAL MEETING A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS **More than 150 Participate in Exceptional Event**

The 2009 NNECOS Annual Meeting at the Samoset Resort October 23-24 did not disappoint. With more than 150 in attendance, participants were treated to a wealth of educational information, and a terrific environment for collegial networking, as well as a healthy dose of CMEs/CEUs. The weekend also provided an opportunity to remember former board member Herb Maurer, MD, to whom the program was dedicated. Dr. Maurer passed away in September after a courageous battle with recurrent cancer. Dr. Steve Larmon provided a heartwarming tribute that touched everyone in attendance, capturing the essence of this larger than life man who will be missed by so many.

"Extremely high quality conference for a regional society. Good mix of clinical, scientific, administrative/health services information."

Friday evening's poster and networking session boasted high quality abstracts and an electric atmosphere that carried into the dinner presentation by attendee favorite Scott Burton, a cancer survivor, juggler, author and comedian(see box below). The energy in the room during Scott's presentation was contagious, and both in person and written evaluation feedback was exceptionally positive. Scott commented

many times what a wonderful group we have, and stayed well beyond his presentation chatting with attendees about his experiences.

Saturday morning began with ASCO Clinical Practice Committee Chair, Dr. Michael Neuss's presentation of the legislative update, and a look ahead to QOPI in 2010, a very timely talk for the society in setting the stage for our 2010 ASCO State Affiliate Grant application, "Collaborative Sharing of QOPI Data to Develop Best Practices." The day was packed with numerous breakout and general sessions, including our annual podium abstract presentations, an all-new case presentation panel, and a lunchtime presentation about the unique Access to Care study completed, which is slated for original research publication in the March 2010 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice*.

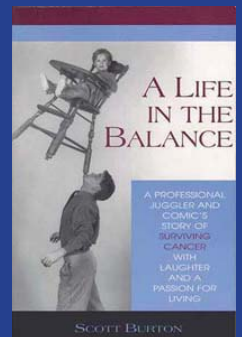
A special thanks to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee for such a fantastic program. We're looking forward to what the committee has in store for 2010! If you'd like to be a part of the 2010 Annual Meeting Planning Committee, e-mail nnecos@comcast.net.



Scott Burton

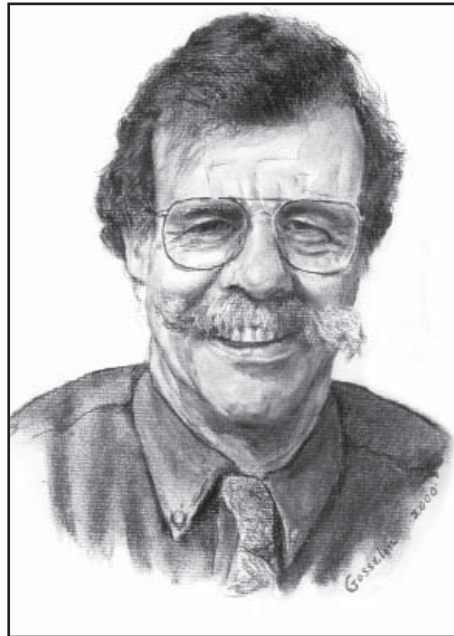
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In Memorium

Lloyd Herbert "Herbie" Maurer
October 17, 1938 - September 13, 2009



Dedication

The 2009 NNECOS Annual Meeting Program was dedicated to former NNECOS board member, Dr. Lloyd Herbert Maurer, who passed away at his home in Vermont after battling recurrent cancer.

Dr. Maurer was known for his ability to inspire, his remarkably perceptive nature, and his huge heart filled with a boundless love for his patients, his friends, and his family. On behalf of its membership, NNECOS has made a contribution to the L. Herbert Maurer Memorial Palliative Care Room at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT.

Our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Letha Mills, and the entire Maurer family.

J14 MAC PART B SPECIAL NOTICES

Dedicated Telephone Reopening Request Line

Effective January 4, 2010, NHIC, Corp. will only handle requests for telephone re-openings through the dedicated telephone reopening request line.

To request a telephone reopening please call 1-877-757-7781. Customer Service Representatives are available on the Reopening Request Line Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM and 12:30 PM-4:00 PM, and on Friday from 10:00 AM-12:00 and 12:30-4:00 PM.

A Clerical Error Reopening request should be requested as a telephone reopening or written reopening. Examples of reopening issues include:

- Mathematical/computational errors
- Transposed diagnosis and procedure codes
- Inaccurate data entry
- Carrier Errors

- Addition of an add-on procedure code (e.g., codes with global days of ZZZ)
- Misapplication of fee schedule
- Inaccurate duplicate denial (not a true duplicate)
- Incorrect performing provider identification number in Item 24K
- Ambulance errors (transposed zip code; origin/destination modifiers)
- Correction of a CLIA #
- Modifier error: 24, 25, 26, 54, 57, 59, 78, 79, TC, KX, GV, GW, QW, QB, QU, AR, AQ, AT, SG.

Please Note: Claims rejected with remark code MA130 cannot be processed as a reopening. A corrected claim must be resubmitted.

MLN MM6740 - Revisions to Consultation Services Payment Policy

Provider Action Needed:

This article pertains to Change Request (CR) 6740, which alerts providers that effective January 1, 2010, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) consultation codes (ranges 99241-99245 and 99251-99255) are no longer recognized for Medicare Part B payment. Effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2010, providers should code a patient

evaluation and management visit with E/M codes that represents WHERE the visit occurs and that identify the COMPLEXITY of the visit performed.

Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf> for more details.

National Audio Call on Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2010

Mark your calendars! ASCO will offer the Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2010 audio call on Thursday, January 7, 2010 from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM ET. This is a free audio call that will cover topics such as the 2010 final physician fee schedule rule, highlights from the 2010 hospital outpatient prospective payment system, Medicare incentive programs, an oncology coding update and much more. Please take a moment to **register for the call**. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Perkins in the Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department at 571-483-1670.

2010 Meeting Dates Announced

New & Improved Spring Educational Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday May 18, 2010

Plans are in the works for a new and improved spring educational meeting. This annual event promises timely, pertinent information focusing on the new health care landscape ahead. Additional information will be forwarded to members as it becomes available, but **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Ave
Concord, NH 03301**

Stowe Mountain Lodge Selected to Host 2010 Annual Meeting Save the Dates: October 29-30, 2010

You won't want to miss the 2010 NNECOS Annual Meeting at the glorious new Stowe Mountain Lodge in Stowe, Vermont! The six-story, 139-room lodge draws on the architectural tradition of turn-of-the-century summer camps created by the great families of New England. The lodge's exterior features a picturesque façade of woven timber and shingles that draw upon the natural harmony found in nature, as well as stone veneer created from local quarries, and expansive glass

to bring the beauty of the lodge's outdoor surroundings to the indoors. With an unbelievably low lodging rate of \$199 per night (*plus tax and resort fee*), you simply won't want to miss the chance to visit this amazing spot while enjoying Northern New England's premiere oncology educational meeting. Additional meeting details will be forwarded to members as they become available, but save the date today!



ASCO Legislative & Regulatory Update

Clinical Trials Amendment

December 16, 2009: Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) have formally introduced an amendment (#2871) to the Senate Health Reform Bill (H.R. 3590) that would prohibit insurers from denying coverage for routine care if a person is enrolled in a clinical trial. Senator Brown's office has noted ASCO as a supporter of this amendment.

FY 2010 Appropriations

December 16, 2009: President Obama signed the conference report on the omnibus, which provides FY 2010 appropriations for Health and Human Services. In this bill, NIH gets \$31 billion, which is a 2.3% increase

(+691.8 million) from FY 2009. NCI gets \$5.103 billion, which is an increase of 2.7% (+\$135 million).

Medicare Payments Amendments

December 16, 2009: Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA) has introduced two amendments that could affect Medicare payments. The first (#3175) would remove the prompt pay discounts of up to 2% of the average sales price formula. The second amendment (#3163) would delay the elimination of consultation codes for one year.



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.



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

“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.

GENENTECH BIOONCOLOGY

Co-Pay Card Program Expanded

Genentech has expanded its BioOncology Co-Pay Card Program to assist eligible patients with their private insurance co-payments for Avastin® (bevacizumab), Herceptin® (trastuzumab), and RITUXAN® (Rituxumab). This complements the existing Co-Pay Card Program for Tarceva® (erlotinib) patients. Genentech will pay 80% of the remaining co-pay, up to \$4,000 per eligibility period, after the patient pays the first \$100 plus 20% of the co-pay per treatment or infusion of their BioOncology therapy. Complete eligibility details available at BioOncologyAccessSolutions.com.

AMGEN

New J-Code for Nplate

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have established a product-specific Healthcare Common Procedures Coding System (HCPCS) J-code, or permanent code, for Nplate® (romiplostim). Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2010, the new J-code for Nplate® is J2796. The new J-code, J2796 for 10 mcg units of Nplate®, should be used instead of the current miscellaneous J-code (J3590) as well as the current C-code (C9245) when used on a claims form starting on January 1, 2010. Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage> for more information.

SANOFI-AVENTIS

Oforta Commercially Available 1/11/10

On January 11, 2010, Oforta will be commercially available and eligible for coverage under the Medicare Part B program, with the following preliminary billing-related information:

- National Drug Codes (NDCs): 00024-5820-20 - 10mg film-coated tablets- 20 count package
- HCPCS Code: J8999: prescription drug, oral, chemotherapeutic, not otherwise classified

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.