



CoC Flash

A Monthly News Update from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons



September 2003

Highlights of the Month:

- No Access to the FIPS or NCDB Data Transmission for Two Weeks
- Speaker Requests
- Attend an NCDB Benchmark Report Demonstration during Clinical Congress
- Breast Disease Slide Curriculum Now Available
- ACOSOG Offers Clinical Trials Course during Clinical Congress
- NCI Seeks Volunteers to Share Cancer Experiences
- NAACCR Process Improvement Workshop Award (PIWA)
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- Spotlight on Member Organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics
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No Access to the FIPS or NCDB Data Transmission for Two Weeks

In order to prepare internal CoC databases for the new Survey Application Record (SAR) system that will be used beginning 2004 by CoC-approved cancer programs, the CoC must disable the FIPS and NCDB Data Transmission links in CoC DataLinks from Thursday, October 23, to Sunday, November 2, 2003. We regret any inconvenience this process may cause. The Business Associate Agreement and Hospital Comparison Benchmark Report links that reside in this password-protected area will, however, continue to be up and running during this time.

Speaker Requests

At this time, the CoC's Speakers Bureau is no longer accepting requests for CoC-trained speakers to make presentations at meetings during November 2003. Organizations wishing to secure a speaker for December should submit a speaker request form by the end of October. For details, see the Education Activities section of our Web site, <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/coeduc.html>.

Attend an NCDB Benchmark Report Demonstration during Clinical Congress

The Commission on Cancer will demonstrate the National Cancer Data Base's (NCDB) new Benchmark Reports at the College's Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care booth during this year's Clinical Congress in Chicago. Demonstrations will be held in the College's Member Information Center, which will be located in the Registration area at McCormick Place Lakeside Center. Specific times have been scheduled for the demonstrations, but information on the databases will be available during the entire week of the Congress. Demonstration times will be as follows:

Sunday, October 19: 1:00pm
Monday, October 20: 10:00am and 1:00pm
Tuesday, October 21: 9:00am and 12:00pm
Wednesday, October 22: 9:00am

Breast Disease Slide Curriculum Now Available

The Advisory Council for General Surgery announces the availability of a "Breast Disease Curriculum" for use by members of the College and other authorized persons for presentation to

medical colleagues and practitioners in primary care. Authored by David A. August, MD, FACS, and Thomas J. Kearney, MD, FACS, the curriculum consists of text and 94 slides in a PowerPoint presentation, and covers the basic concepts and techniques for understanding, evaluating, and treating patients with common benign breast problems, breast cancer, and the "high-risk" patient. The material may be used in sections depending on the audience. There are approximately two hours of presentation material on a CD-ROM. For pricing information and to order the curriculum, visit the "Keeping Current" section of the Publications and Services Catalog of the ACoS at <https://secure.facs.org/commerce/2003/slideset.html>. This is *not* a CoC product. It was developed through the Division of Member Services of the American College of Surgeons.

During Clinical Congress, a sample of the product will be available for viewing at the College's Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care booth in the College's Member Information Center, which will be located in the Registration area at McCormick Place Lakeside Center.

ACOSOG Offers Clinical Trials Course during Clinical Congress

The American College of Surgeons' Oncology Group (ACOSOG) will offer a course to familiarize Fellows with the opportunity to participate in the clinical trials it conducts. The program will provide a general educational format for surgeons who are unfamiliar with surgical trials in general and the with the ACOSOG group in particular. Participants will learn how clinical trials are developed and conducted. A section of the program will be devoted to active ACOSOG clinical trials discussion.

This course will be offered during the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. *PG Course 19a* will be held Monday–Tuesday, October 20–21, 8:30am–4:30pm.

The course fee is \$100. Register online at <http://www.facs.org/2003clincon/index.html> or mail the registration form from the American College of Surgeons 89th Annual Clinical Congress Program Planner along with your payment to American College of Surgeons, Attn: Registration Services, PO Box 92340, Chicago, IL 60675-2340.

NCI Seeks Volunteers to Share Cancer Experiences

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is developing new education materials to address concerns that people with cancer and their families face throughout the course of the disease. They would like to know what you believe is important to include in these materials. They are looking for:

- **Patients:** Individuals who have recurrent or Stage III or Stage IV cancer.
- **Current informal caregivers:** Family or friends who are currently providing care for someone in treatment for cancer.
- **Bereaved informal caregivers:** Family members or friends who have provided care at end of life for someone who died from cancer within the last two years.
- **Physicians:** Individuals who work with people with advanced cancer.

The NCI will be conducting individual telephone interviews with patients and telephone focus group discussions with informal caregivers and health care professionals to learn about your experiences with cancer. Payment will be provided to all participants.

Please call the NCI toll-free at **1-888-249-0029**. A few questions will be asked to see if you qualify to participate. If you qualify, you will be contacted at a later date for scheduling.

NAACCR Process Improvement Workshop Award (PIWA)

NAACCR invites state/province and local tumor registrar associations and other groups of cancer registry professionals to apply for a Process Improvement Workshop Award (PIWA). The purpose of the PIWA is to award grants to enable these groups to offer a Process Improvement Workshop as one component of their annual meeting. The closing date for applications is October 1. If you miss the closing date for this quarter, another opportunity will be available next quarter (January 1).

The PIWA documents can be downloaded from the following NAACCR Web site at <http://www.naacccr.org>.

UICC Fellowship Awards

The UICC has announced the upcoming annual application closing date of December 1 for

the *American Cancer Society UICC International Fellowships for Beginning Investigators (ACSBI)* (6–8 awards @average \$40,000 each) and the *Translational Cancer Research Fellowships (TCRF)* (2–3 awards @ \$50,500 each) to be awarded at the Spring 2004 selection.

Please visit the UICC Web site at <http://fellows.uicc.org> to find out more about the international fellowships that UICC offers for scientists, clinicians, nurses and volunteers.

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

The American Academy of Pediatrics has been a member organization of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) since 1967. The current representative is Dr. Robert C. Shamberger with Children's Hospital in Boston, MA.

AAP's vision is to prepare its members with the tools, skills, and knowledge to be the best qualified health professionals to 1) advocate for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults and provide for their care; 2) collaborate with others to assure child health; and, 3) ensure that decision-making affecting the health and well-being of children and their families is based upon the needs of those children and families.

The AAP is a professional organization with 57,000 members in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Members include pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists. More than 41,000 members are board-certified and are called Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP). Its mission is to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The Academy and its members dedicate their efforts to addressing the needs of children, their families, and their communities. AAP also exists to support members' professional satisfaction and personal growth. We invite you to learn more about AAP and its programs by visiting its Web site at <http://www.aap.org>.

Dates to Remember: October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Brain Injury Awareness Month
Disability Awareness Month
Health Care Quality Week (October 13)
Mammography Day (October 18)

To Subscribe to CoC Flash

CoC Flash is e-mailed automatically each month to individuals for whom the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has an e-mail address. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter on a monthly basis, you need do nothing. You can discontinue your subscription by writing to coc@facs.org and requesting that your name be deleted from the database. Individuals not currently receiving the newsletter may subscribe to the publication by sending an e-mail containing your name, address, telephone and fax numbers to coc@facs.org, and asking to be added to our electronic distribution database.

To Submit Information

CoC Flash will accept submissions received by the third week of each month. However, the CoC reserves the right to decide whether or not the materials are appropriate for inclusion. Information for CoC Flash should be timely, newsworthy, brief, and of use and interest to the constituents of the Commission, which include cancer registrars, liaison physicians, cancer committee chairs, and other cancer-oriented health care professionals. To submit material, send it to coc@facs.org.

Mission

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality of cancer through education, standard setting, and the monitoring of quality care. CoC Flash is a monthly news service for constituents of the CoC provided by the Commission and the Cancer Department of the American College of Surgeons.