Happy New Year, Cancer Liaison Physicians!

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) is planning two virtual Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) meetings this year, on **February 11** and **September 16**, as well as small group office hours with CoC leaders. The February 11 CLP meeting will include updates on CoC Standards, the Assessing the Effectiveness and Significance of the Operative Standards Program (AESOP) initiative, and helpful resources from the American Cancer Society. For those unable to attend, the CLP meetings will be recorded and posted on the CoC website. If you have suggested agenda topics for upcoming meetings and office hour sessions, please send them to ACS Cancer Programs Communications and External Relations Manager Melissa Leeb at mleeb@facs.org. In the meantime, the following are a few recent CoC updates that I hope you'll find useful in your role as the CLP for your program.

Don't Miss the 2026 ACS Quality, Safety & Cancer Conference
Register today for the 2026 ACS Quality, Safety & Cancer Conference, July 30 – August 2 in Orlando, FL. The conference will feature sessions for all members of the cancer care team, with content that is particularly relevant to State Chairs and CLPs. The deadline for the conference call for abstracts, which may be accepted as an oral presentation, poster presentation, or both, is **March 9.**

CoC Seeks CLP Feedback for Operative Standards Study
The Assessing the Effectiveness and Significance of the Operative Standards Program (AESOP) study is a five-year, multi-institutional initiative funded by the National Cancer Institute. The AESOP team is evaluating how the CoC Operative Standards are implemented and their impact on cancer care. A central component of this work involves collecting insights from CLPs through national surveys. During the month that their programs are undergoing CoC Accreditation site visits, CLPs will receive a survey link from REDCap@facs.org. CLPs are asked to complete the 10-to-15-minute survey within 2 weeks of receiving the email. In appreciation for their time, CLPs will receive a $25 gift card upon completion of the survey.
Learn more about the AESOP study in the January issue of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*, where authors discuss the aims and progress of the program. Contact AESOP@facs.org with questions.

Learn More about CoC Standards for Rural Cancer
To better address the needs of hospitals providing cancer care in rural counties, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) has developed a category for participation that includes standards tailored for rural hospitals. Hospitals located within a county that has a Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC) of 4 through 9 are eligible to participate in the Rural Cancer Program (RCP) category. Current CoC programs that meet the eligibility criteria may switch from their existing categories to the RCP category in late 2026. The RCP modifications will also be added to Specifications by Category section of *Optimal Resources for Cancer Care (2020 Standards)* with its next update.

Sign up for Small Group QI Coaching Calls
Register today for the upcoming ACS Cancer Programs quality improvement (QI) coaching calls. These small group sessions, led by QI experts, offer opportunities for feedback on current initiatives, ideas for future projects, and a review of available QI tools. Complete this survey to receive a registration link. You can also email questions or QI project ideas ahead of time to cancerqi@facs.org. More information about the 2026 national QI project, Timely Administration post-Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor (TApT), is available on the ACS Cancer Programs website.

NCDB Releases 2024 CQIP Report
The National Cancer Database (NCDB) has released the 2024 Cancer Quality Improvement Program (CQIP) report. CQIP is a data-driven, process and outcomes-based cancer quality improvement initiative. This annual report is unique in providing short-term quality and outcome data and long-term outcome data, including 5-year survival rates for commonly treated malignancies stratified by stage. CQIP allows programs to assess their quality and outcomes based on data submitted to the NCDB. CoC-accredited programs can access this report through QPort. A complete CQIP slide directory is available in the "About CQIP" tab of the CQIP reporting application. Send questions to NCDB@facs.org.

Access Resources for New Smoking Cessation Standard
The Commission on Cancer (CoC) hosted the webinar "Smoking Cessation Across the Continuum of Lung Cancer Risk, Treatment, and Survival," which provided an overview of the new **Standard 5.9: Smoking Cessation for Patients with Cancer**. The session also included information underscoring the value of smoking cessation for patients with cancer, notable components related to standard compliance, and suggestions for successful implementation. A recording of the webinar can be accessed through the ACS **Online Learning Portal.** Questions submitted during the webinar have been addressed in the Standard 5.9 Frequently Asked Questions document, in the Standard Resource Library in QPort. Additional questions can be submitted to the CAnswer Forum.

CoC Operative Standards Template Resources Are Available
CoC Operative Standards Video Template Overviews are now available for accredited programs within the Resources section of QPort. These videos provide a high-level overview of the new templates and demonstrate data entry to facilitate quick and accurate case auditing. In addition, the Cancer Surgery Standards Program will host the webinar CoC Operative Standards Self-Audit Tool at 4:00 pm CT on **February 23**, where speakers will discuss the use of the CoC Operative Standards Audit Templates. Questions can be directed to CSSP@facs.org.

American Cancer Society Resource Intersections Guide Available in QPort
The American Cancer Society, with the support of the CoC, has updated the Resource Intersections Guide, which outlines society resources that support cancer programs in their efforts to meet CoC accreditation standards. While these resources do not demonstrate all required elements for compliance with CoC standards, the listing of programs and services aligned with specific CoC standards can be a helpful component of a program's accreditation process. CoC-accredited programs can access the ACS Intersections Guide in the Resources section of QPort.