November 1, 2019

ASCO Congratulates Stephen M. Hahn, MD, FASTRO, on Nomination to Serve as FDA Commissioner

“The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) congratulates Stephen M. Hahn, MD, FASTRO, on his nomination by President Trump to serve as the next Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). An oncologist and long-time member of ASCO, Dr. Hahn currently serves as the Chief Medical Executive at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has a strong grasp of the drug development process and understands the realities of working in a complex clinical care environment at one of the largest cancer centers in the world.

October 30, 2019

National ASCO Survey Finds Major Gaps in Americans’ Knowledge of Cancer Prevention, E-Cigarettes, and End-of-Life Care

A report of findings from the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s third annual National Cancer Opinion Survey.
Oncologists Call on Pennsylvania Lawmakers to Enact Legislation to Curb Payer Delays on Cancer Care

Today the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology (PSOH) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) came out in strong support of HB 1194, proposed legislation to promote transparency in prior authorization and step therapy policies, which would put in place important safeguards to ensure that patients get the care they need.

Cancer Pain Predicted by Lower Anxiety and Depression, Higher Social Support

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – A new study from the Levine Cancer Institute finds that patients with cancer who report higher levels of anxiety and depression experience more intense pain associated with their diseases. Furthermore, patients with higher social support report lower levels of pain. These findings will be presented at the upcoming 2019 Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium in San Francisco, CA.

Patients With Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy Experience Pain Reduction in a Pilot Study of Oncology Massage Treatment

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – A new study finds that oncology massage therapy can provide symptomatic relief for a common and difficult to treat side effect of cancer treatment. Patients with chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) experience a sustained reduction in lower extremity pain up to six weeks after completion of massage treatment when they
received an intensive therapy schedule of three massages per week. These findings will be presented at the upcoming 2019 Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium in San Francisco, CA.

Meetings News

October 22, 2019

African American and Hispanic Patients Undergoing Pancreatic Cancer Surgery Less Likely to use Hospice Care Than White Patients

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – An analysis of Medicare claims data found that African American and Hispanic patients who underwent surgical removal of the pancreas for pancreatic cancer were less likely than white patients to use hospice services at the end of life, though all groups were just as likely to use hospice late, meaning initiation within 3 days of death. These findings will be presented at the upcoming 2019 Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium, in San Francisco, CA.

Meetings News

October 10, 2019

New Technologies Offer the Possibility of Identifying Cancer from a Single Blood Draw

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Two blood tests show promise as screening tools to identify patients with cancer of different types and across different stages. Results from the two approaches will be presented at the ASCO Breakthrough meeting October 11-13, 2019 in Bangkok. While the technology and science behind the two tests to be presented are complex, the concept is simple. Collect a blood sample. Screen it for cancer. Detect and diagnose cancer at an earlier stage.
While both approaches use cell-free DNA to identify molecular signals of cancer, one of the approaches also uses protein marker results. Cell-free DNA is degraded DNA fragments circulating through the bloodstream, which can come from a number of sources, including tumor cells that have died and released DNA fragments.

October 10, 2019

Researchers Identify Genetic Markers for Response to Radiation Therapy and Prediction of Recurrence

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Genetic information could help identify patients likely to respond to radiation therapy and predict when disease recurrence following radiation is likely to occur. This could help clinicians better tailor treatment strategies to individual patients to boost efficacy, while minimizing unwanted side effects. The findings come from two studies that will be presented at ASCO Breakthrough: A Global Summit for Oncology Innovators, taking place October 11-13, 2019 in Bangkok.

September 25, 2019

Representatives Ben Luján and Gus Bilirakis Recognized with ASCO Congressional Leadership Award

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) today presented Representatives Ben Ray Luján (NM-3) and Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) with its annual Congressional Leadership Award in recognition of the lawmakers’ exceptional, bipartisan commitment to supporting cancer research and treatment. The ASCO award honors Members of Congress who are leading champions for patients and survivors of cancer, their families, and their cancer care teams.
National Survey Reveals One in Five Young Adults Regularly Uses E-Cigarettes and Believes They are Harmless, Not Addictive

ALEXANDRIA, Va.— Roughly one in five young adults uses e-cigarettes daily or recreationally, and nearly one in four believes the products are harmless and not addictive, according to findings from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)’s third annual National Cancer Opinion Survey. This comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the results from its National Youth Tobacco Survey earlier this month, reporting that e-cigarette use among pre-teens and teens is on the rise. It is also despite warnings from the U.S. Surgeon General that e-cigarettes (also known as vapes) contain addictive and harmful or potentially harmful ingredients, including nicotine; lead and other heavy metals; and flavorants such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease. Amid public debate over banning flavored e-cigarettes, the ASCO survey also found that nearly three in 10 young adults think flavored e-cigarettes are less damaging to a person’s health than non-flavored ones. In addition, nearly seven in 10 Americans support raising the legal age to purchase e-cigarettes from 18 to 21.

Congress Must Improve Prior Authorization to Ensure People With Cancer Have Timely Access to Care

Alexandria, Va. – The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) joined 370 health care groups in urging members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3107). The bipartisan bill would help protect patients from unnecessary care delays by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization under Medicare Advantage (MA) and providing program oversight and transparency for MA beneficiaries.
Studies Provide Insight on Factors in Clinical Trial Participation and Prospective Benefits

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Two studies examine different issues related to patient participation in clinical trials. One study investigates the relationship between participation in a clinical trial and overall survival in patients with advanced lung cancer. The second study discovers and explores a discrepancy between providers’ and patients’ perceived barriers to clinical trial participation. Authors will present their findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) upcoming Quality Care Symposium, taking place September 6–7, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront in San Diego.

Studies Highlight Barriers of Drug Costs and Prior Authorizations

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Drug costs and requirements for prior authorization of treatment plans pose barriers to cancer treatment and can potentially affect outcomes for many patients, according to two studies that will be presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) upcoming Quality Care Symposium, taking place September 6-7, 2019, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront in San Diego.

ASCO Announces CancerLinQ Discovery® Research Support Grant Recipients

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) announced today the three recipients of its CancerLinQ Discovery® Research Support Grant. The awardees will
undertake research projects using data from CancerLinQ Discovery®, an offering of ASCO's CancerLinQ® initiative that provides de-identified data from cancer patients to academic researchers, government agencies, and others in the oncology community to generate practical knowledge that will improve cancer care.

**August 8, 2019**

**CAR T-Cell Therapy Coverage Decision Improves Medicare Beneficiary Access to Cancer Care**

ASCO President Howard A. “Skip” Burris III, MD, FACP, FASCO, made a statement applauding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for releasing a national coverage determination (NCD) on CAR T-cell therapy that provides consistent and predictable access to an innovative cancer treatment to Medicare beneficiaries nationwide.