

**THE SOCIETY OF RI CLINICAL ONCOLOGISTS, INC.  
193 WATERMAN STREET  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906**

Tel. (401) 351-4470  
Fax (401) 351-0163

[www.RICO-cancer.org](http://www.RICO-cancer.org)

Joseph DiBenedetto, Jr., M.D.  
President

PAWTUCKET OFFICE  
73 Beechwood Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Tel: (401) 728-5900  
Fax (401) 722-9575

WAKEFIELD OFFICE  
24 Salt Pond Road, G-2  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
Tel: (401) 783-6670  
Fax (401) 789-4990

Alessandro Papa, M.D.  
Vice President

Linda R. Hassan, M.D.  
Secretary

James L. Smythe, M.D.  
Treasurer

**RICO Minutes – January 30, 2008**

Vincent Armenio, M.D.

The following physicians were present for our meeting: Drs. DiBenedetto, Papa, Hassan, Joseph, Legare, Przygoda, Schiffman, Armenio, Chaquette, Rintels, Paggioli and Reusch.

Raymond Chaquette, M.D.

Playkil Joseph, M.D.

The Treasurer's report demonstrated a balance of \$18,000. No dues will be collected for 2008.

Robert Knisley, M.D.

ASCO Foundation update: Our Society contributed \$250 to the Clinical Practice Subcommittee's 2008 Young Investigator Award. This was acknowledged by the National Committee. We have nominated Dr. Sambandam's practice to be considered for ASCO's Community Oncology Research Award.

Robert Legare, M.D.

Thomas Myers, M.D.

Diane Paggioli, D.O.

John Przygoda, M.D.

A review of the new guidelines for erythropoiesis stimulating agents including new modifiers beginning January 1, 2008 and dosing guidelines were discussed.

Peter Quesenberry, M.D.

Vishram Rege, M.D.

SGR update: There was a 0.5% increase for the first 6 months of 2008. There will be a reevaluation and adjustment of E&M payments beginning July 1, 2008.

Ursula Reusch, M.D.

Peter Rintels, M.D.

Sundaresan Sambandam, M.D.

There was a discussion of Blue Cross and MedSolutions pre-authorization requirements for certain diagnostic imaging tests. We discussed multiple instances of this delaying critical patient care. Our Society may send a letter to Dr. David Gifford expressing our concerns.

Fred Schiffman, M.D.

David Stoll, M.D.

Anthony Testa, M.D.

We reviewed the list of medications included in the Blue Cross Specialty Pharmacy changes which will take place April 1, 2008. This includes many oncology office-administered injectables. We invited Blue Cross administrators to speak at our Society meeting but they declined. Their plan is to discuss their program with us individually.

Anthony Thomas, D.O.

Tarek Wehbe, M.D.

Alan Weitberg, M.D.

HOOPS update: Doctors' offices are at ASP+ 6 and are projected to stay the same for 2009. Hospitals are ASP+ 5 for 2008 and proposed to be ASP+ 3 for 2009.

Edward Wittels, M.D.

## **THE SOCIETY OF RI CLINICAL ONGOLOGISTS, INC.**

PQRI update: We discussed the new quality indicator updates that are voluntarily available.

Recovery Audit Contractors were discussed. These contractors receive a percentage of monies brought back to the Medicare trust fund. Current issues and ASCO activities as it relates to the audit were discussed.

The Compendia update as it applies to United Healthcare was reviewed. Effective March 15, 2008, United Health will use the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) compendium. This is available at the latter's website. Reimbursement will be made for drugs with recommendation levels I, IIA and IIB. Level III recommendations will not be covered.

We were reminded to vote in the upcoming ASCO elections.

Our 2007 and 2008 sponsors, Bristol-Myers, Ortho Biotech, MGI-Pharma and Celgene were acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Hassan, M.D.