



hoosier oncology group

leading cancer research, close to home

Community Clinics, Heart of Hoosier Oncology

A Message from the Executive Director

As we wrap up 2009 and a quarter century of community-based cancer clinical research, it seems to be a good time to reflect a bit on the past year. For many, 2009 was a year full of challenges across the globe, as well as, at the Hoosier Oncology Group. Though the first quarter of 2009 was focused on minimizing resources, we are excited to say that Hoosier Oncology closed out the year, fully staffed, with a healthy pipeline and well positioned to perform at a very high level in 2010.

As part of an evolving process of self-improvement, Hoosier Oncology has intentionally put in place an emphasis on responding to and engaging our community clinic partners. Throughout the year, Hoosier Oncology has added several new sites in the community setting that have both mature and budding research capabilities. We have increased the "pie" so that we can meet the accrual speed required to secure adequate funding for our studies that Sponsors expect.

As for funding, Hoosier Oncology took up the challenge by many community sites to improve the level of reimbursement on Hoosier Oncology studies. We are happy to report that within the next 6 studies to open, average per patient site reimbursement approximately doubles the average reimbursement from the previous few years. We understand it is no longer acceptable for sites to subsidize research at the level they have historically. It is our hope, that if a time comes when our great research isn't as well funded, our members will continue to support those studies to meet our mission.

Early survey results for the CTWG Priority Study Populations show strong demand for studies that serve Triple Negative Breast patients, and we are excited to be opening a PARP Inhibitor study for that population within the coming weeks. The survey tool helps us in identifying the unmet community needs, and gives our academic research partners a clear direction and areas of focus in developing LOIs for submission. Community clinics, Hoosier Oncology is listening and we look forward to discussing with you the results of the survey at the January 29th Clinical Trial Working Group meeting!

Furthermore, we know that community sites want timely and regular communication, so our project managers are holding monthly coordinator meetings with thoughtful agendas. And as we have brought on new sites, we have improved our New Member on-boarding process. In addition, Hoosier Oncology now regularly and immediately recognizes members that put patients on study. We appreciate that our community sites have been trending upward in their accrual contributions to our study portfolio. We are committed to not just consistent systems for our members, but effective systems as well.

Finally, you might notice that the Hoosier Oncology Group has adopted a new logo and positioning statement, "Leading Cancer Research, Close to Home." We recognize that our patients value having access to the *Leading Cancer Research* from Indiana University Mel and Bren Simon Cancer Center research physicians and our other distinguished research collaborators, and receiving these cutting-edge treatments in their own community, thru their local oncologists, really hits *Close to Home*.

All in all, we have great science, are well-funded, and are meeting community-physician unmet needs. We look forward to serving you in 2010 and continuing to build the community member relationship that represents the Heart of Hoosier Oncology. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you on January 29th and the Silver Anniversary celebration April 10th.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Quake Pletcher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

P. Quake Pletcher, Executive Director