

MSCO NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Improving Cancer Care & Treatment Together

Winter 2022



UPCOMING EVENTS

~ Monday, January 9, 2023, 5:30-8:30 pm Corporate Roundtable

(2022 Platinum Corporate Members and Oncology Professionals)

MSCO's Corporate Roundtable dinner provides an opportunity for our corporate members, board officers, and oncology professionals to discuss the latest topics, trends, and concerns related to oncology in Massachusetts.

For additional information, please reach out to our chapter administrator, Katy Monaco (kmonaco@mms.org).

LEARN MORE

WHAT'S NEW

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- MSCO 2022 - ANNUAL MEETING
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- CORPORATE MEMBERS
- INDUSTRY NEWS
- OTHER NEWS
- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

~ Save the Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 MSCO 2023 - Annual Meeting

The Westin Waltham Boston, Waltham, MA

MSCO 2022 - Annual Meeting

RECAP

Last month MSCO held its incredibly successful annual meeting featuring three award presentations and the featured program "*Management of Metastatic Triple Negative Breast Cancer*" presented by the recipient of the Distinguished Researcher of the Year award - Dr. Aditya Bardia. The presentation slides can be accessed by logging onto the [Members Only Section](#).

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our featured speaker, Dr. Aditya Bardia. Thank you for sharing your research findings and knowledgeable insights with our attendees. It was truly inspiring. We wish you the best of luck with your future research endeavors.

We hope everyone can join us at next years annual meeting!



MSCO 2022 - Annual Meeting

AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Audesse Award

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka

Senate President, Second Middlesex and Norfolk

Arthur T. Skarin Award

Steven E. Come, MD

Physician, Breast Medical Oncology Program, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Physician, Dana Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center; Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School





Distinguished Researcher of the Year Award

Aditya Bardia, MD, MPH

Attending Physician, Director of Breast Cancer Research, Massachusetts General Hospital; Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School Distinguished Researcher Award Recipient Speaker

YIA Grant Recipient

Evan Chen, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Leukemia, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to reflect on some successes. We would also like to present an overview of some of the initiatives we will be focusing on in the coming year.

I. SUCCESS

STEP Therapy: Chapter 254 of the acts of 2022 signed into law Nov. 1 --- protects patients by regulating step therapy policies used by health insurers to determine coverage for prescription medications.

- Streamlines the step therapy process by creating a set time process allowing patients and their providers to request an exception to an insurer's step therapy protocol. Spells out criteria for exemptions.

Co-Pay Assistance: The Legislature extended the authorization of co-pay assistance programs in Massachusetts until January 1, 2026. Chapter 126 of Acts of 2022.

II. PENDING

Co-Pay Accumulator: S.644 & H.1053. "An Act relative to consumer deductibles" would ban co-pay accumulator programs in Massachusetts. Many Insurers and PBMs are now utilizing copay accumulators to stop copay assistance from counting towards a patient's deductible and maximum out-of-pocket spending, instead applying it to the insurer's cost which undermines the co-pay assistance benefit for patients.

- Sent to study. Will be refiled for the 2023 session.

Fertility Preservation. S.640, "An Act relative to preserving fertility" would require insurance coverage of embryo, oocyte, and sperm cryopreservation procedures for an insured patient who is at least age 18 and has been diagnosed with cancer but has not started cancer treatment.

- Sent to study. Will be refiled for the 2023 session.

Patient Access to biomarker testing H.1137 & S. 808 Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.

- Sent to study. Will be refiled for the 2023 session.



In other news

- **Heads Up: End of the Year Bill Reduces Medicare Cuts...**Lawmakers unveiled their long-awaited \$1.7 trillion government funding package on Dec. 20, 2022. As of publishing, it seems likely that a vote on final passage in the U.S. Senate will occur at some point today or tomorrow, with a final up-or-down vote in the House of Representatives taking place ahead of the December 23 government funding deadline.

[LEARN MORE](#)

MSCO CORPORATE MEMBERS

Thank you for supporting MSCO in 2022!

We'd like to take a moment to once again thank our all our corporate members without whom none of MSCO's great work would not have been possible.

Thank you for everything; you cannot possibly know how grateful we are for your support.

Be sure to register as a corporate member in the coming year to continue this generous support and help MSCO continue its mission to improving cancer care and helping patients to receive the best possible care.



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THANK YOU
Gold Members

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AbbVie
Agios
Bayer
Karyopharm Therapeutics
Lilly Oncology

Novartis
Sanofi
Seagen
Sobi

Industry News



- **FDA APPROVES UPDATED DRUG LABELING INCLUDING NEW INDICATIONS AND DOSING REGIMENS FOR CAPECITABINE TABLETS UNDER PROJECT RENEWAL**
The FDA approved updated labeling for capecitabine tablets (Xeloda, Genentech, Inc.) under Project Renewal, an Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE) initiative aimed at updating labeling information for certain older oncology drugs to ensure information is clinically meaningful and scientifically up to date. This is the first drug to receive a labeling update under this pilot program. [Read More.](#)
- **FDA ACCELERATED APPROVAL OF KRAZATI™ (ADAGRASIB) AS A TARGETED TREATMENT OPTION FOR PATIENTS WITH LOCALLY ADVANCED OR METASTATIC NSCLC WITH A KRASG12C MUTATION**
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted accelerated approval for [KRAZATI™](#) (adagrasib, Mirati Therapeutics, Inc.), a targeted treatment option for adult patients with KRASG12C-mutated locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have received at least one prior systemic therapy. [Read More.](#)
- **FDA APPROVED ATEZOLIZUMAB (TECENTRIQ) FOR ALVEOLAR SOFT PART SARCOMA**
Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved atezolizumab (Tecentriq, Genentech, Inc.) for adult and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with unresectable or metastatic alveolar soft part sarcoma (ASPS). [Read more.](#)
- **FDA APPROVAL OF REZLIDHIA™ (OLUTASIDENIB) FOR THE TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH RELAPSED OR REFRACTORY ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA WITH A SUSCEPTIBLE IDH1 MUTATION**
Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved REZLIDHIA™ (olutasidenib) capsules for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory (R/R) acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with a susceptible isocitrate dehydrogenase-1 (IDH1) mutation as detected by an FDA-approved test. REZLIDHIA is an oral, small molecule, inhibitor of mutated IDH1 designed to bind to and inhibit IDH1 to reduce 2-hydroxyglutarate levels and restore normal cellular differentiation of myeloid cells. [Read More.](#)

Other News

~ Part D Proposal Aims to Improve Prior Authorization, Patient Access, and Equity in Coverage and Care

On December 14, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would revise regulations governing Medicare Advantage (MA or Part C), the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D), Medicare cost plans, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The proposed rule aims to improve beneficiary protections, increase access to care, and promote equity in coverage and care. [Read more on ASCO in Action](#).

~ 2022 MIPS Hardship Application Deadline Approaching

The AMA is reminding organizations that the deadline to submit a 2022 MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances (EUC) Exception application is January 3, 2023. AMA is concerned that practices that need the relief will miss the opportunity to file a MIPS exception application, especially since the EUC deadline coincides with the upcoming holidays, the continued COVID PHE, and severe staffing shortages. As a result, the AMA has reached out to CMS requesting that CMS once again automatically apply the automatic EUC for 2022 MIPS reporting. Alternatively, at a minimum, requesting CMS extend the 2022 MIPS EUC deadline until the end of the 2022 data submission period, which is March 2023.

In the interim, physicians interested in requesting a 2022 MIPS EUC and avoiding a 2024 payment adjustment may do so by going to the [CMS MIPS EUC Exception application page](#) until **8:00 PM ET on January 3, 2023**. If you believe you've been affected by an extreme and uncontrollable circumstance (such as the public health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic), you can apply whether reporting [traditional MIPS](#) or the [APM Performance Pathway \(APP\)](#).



For us, 2022 has been an exciting year, as we formed new relationships, accomplished exciting advocacy efforts, and maintained meaningful relationships.

On behalf of the MSCO Board Members, we wish everyone a very happy holiday and a joyous and prosperous new year!

Thank you!



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