

CPEN QUARTERLY



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Partnering with the National Cancer Institute

Chair's Corner

By *Tanya Smith*

Wow, I can't believe how quickly the summer has flown by. I'm proud of all of the activity and progress the CPEN Board and membership has accomplished these past three months, including a successful CPEN Board Retreat held in Salt Lake City, UT in June, and the fantastic upcoming annual CPEN conference put together by the great folks at Memorial Sloan-Kettering and the Annual Planning Committee. We also received the welcome news that CPEN was officially granted 501(c)(3) status!

I have truly enjoyed my term as Chair and have loved being a part of the process to further the growth of CPEN as a professional organization. I was lucky to be supported by an amazing Board of Directors, and I learned so much from each of them. Thank you for trusting me to lead CPEN this past year.



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I only see great things ahead for CPEN and I know that your next Chair, Kelli Fee-Schroeder, will do an excellent job leading CPEN. Kelli has been an active CPEN member for several years and has held several leadership positions within our organization. She is an incredible person and a strong leader who brings a wealth of great experience and a terrific sense of humor. I hope to see you all in New York!

Warm regards,

Tanya

New Members Welcome

The New Member Committee would like to invite all CPEN members to our New Members Welcome which will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is the chance for new CPEN members to meet each other as well as to mingle informally with all CPEN members. It is a lovely kick off to a great conference. Please look for more information in upcoming e-mails. We hope you can join us. Don't miss your chance to mingle with the finest cancer patient educators in the world!

Questions? Please contact Donna Branson at 801-585-6809 or donna.branson@hci.utah.edu.

CPEN Board Retreat Held at Huntsman Cancer Institute

By *Donna Branson*

The CPEN Board held their annual retreat at Huntsman Cancer Institute located in Salt Lake City, UT on June 10–12. Board members discussed CPEN’s attainment of 501(c)(3) status, financial status, bylaws revisions, board elections, AACE collaboration, committee updates, NCI–OSE update, annual CPEN meeting and CPEN Canada.

Board members attending are pictured at right and include: (from l to r) *Kelli Fee–Schroeder, Karen Stepan, Susan Scritchfield, Patricia Mullen (AACE Guest), Kerry Harwood, Tanya Smith, Donna Branson, Rosemary Padberg, Louise Villejo, and Audrey Friedman.*



Center Spotlight–Memorial Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center

By *Alissa Lewandowski*

Pat Agre, Director of the Patient Education Office at Memorial Sloan–Kettering, has plenty to keep her busy these days. Amidst the planning and preparation, Pat volunteered to give us a sneak peak of the great things to come in New York in October.

“It’s finally under control, which is very nice,” says Pat. “We’re just working on the little things now!”

Planning for a major conference in addition to running a Patient Education program is no easy task. Fortunately, Pat has been with Memorial Sloan–Kettering’s Patient Education office since 1988, so she brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the position. Although the department is smaller in size, Pat receives a great deal of support from Jessica Dirkes, a full–time health education specialist who began in April, Irina Vinokur the office manager, and Sanjay Bajinath, an inventory specialist.

“We currently have a huge initiative on literacy, where our goal is to bring all of our patient

education materials and informed consent forms down to a 6th grade reading level.” Pat explains. The team at Memorial has partnered with a local community college to test their materials with students enrolled in adult literacy classes. They have also conducted focus groups with clinical nurse specialists and workshops with staff members on the topic of literacy.

In addition to the literacy initiatives, the patient education team produces 3–10 new print Please see ***Memorial Sloan–Kettering*** on page 5



*Pat Agre, Patient Education Office Director,
Memorial Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center*

Call for Award Nominations

By *Donna Branson*

The CPEN Awards Committee invites you to nominate a health care professional or group who has positively contributed to cancer patient education for a CPEN Award.

What are CPEN Awards?

The CPEN Awards recognize individuals and/or groups for their leadership, professionalism and contributions in the profession of cancer patient education.

How do I submit a nomination?

Please refer to the website listed below for specific award criteria. Select and complete the appropriate nomination forms and write or obtain letters of support indicating the nominee's qualifications as an award recipient. Electronic nominations are encouraged. To access an electronic nomination



Anne Sweet announcing the 2006 winner

form, go to:

<http://www.cancerpatienteducation.org/> and click *Annual Meeting*, to access the nomination forms.

What are the award categories?

There are three categories of awards including:

- ❖ **Distinguished service award** – outstanding contribution to the practice of cancer patient education with ten years or more of professional practice.

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CPEN Elections – Meet the Candidates

By *Donna Branson*

All active CPEN members should have received an e-mail inviting them to vote in the 2007 CPEN election. This year votes are being handled electronically and are due by September 27. For more information on the candidates please visit <http://www.cancerpatienteducation.org/Elections.cfm>. If you did not receive a ballot and believe you are an active CPEN member please contact Allison Travis at info@cancerpatienteducation.org. A brief biography of the candidates is below.

Candidate for Secretary (Vote for 1)

Janine Kokal, MS, RN – Janine has been an oncology nurse at Mayo Clinic Cancer Center for 24 years. For the last 7 years she has worked as an Educator with the Mayo Clinic Cancer Education Program.

Janine has been an active CPEN member since 2000. Since that time she has been a member of and served as chair of the Learning Resource Center Committee (2002–2005). Janine was also the Co-Chair of the 13th Annual CPEN Conference Planning Committee. Being a part of CPEN has been a rewarding experience for her and she is amazed by the collaboration and camaraderie displayed within the organization.

Candidates for Member-at-Large (Vote for 2)

Judith Balboni, RN, BSN – Judith has been a registered nurse for over 25 years, and recently celebrated her 21st year at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where she is a Patient Family Education Specialist. She recently co-authored a chapter on

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oncology patient education for a nursing textbook. Judith is currently a member of the CPEN Translation Committee. Since joining CPEN she has been astounded by the mentorship, collaboration and collegial atmosphere of this professional organization.

Ann Breen, MN, APRN, OCN – Ann is a Patient and Family Education Coordinator and Transition Coordinator for the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. She has been a manager for over 20 years in the area of oncology care. Ann has been a CPEN member for 14 years. She credits CPEN as the organization that has given her the most support as she developed her education role and now she is at the point where she would like to give back to CPEN.

Lisa M. Horton, BA – Lisa is the Manager for the Patient and Family Resource Center at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance where she has worked since 2001. Before her current position she worked for 10

years for NCI's Cancer Information Service. She has been a member of CPEN since 2001 and is an active member of the CPEN Learning Resource Center Comm. Lisa has benefited greatly by being a member of CPEN and networking with all of her colleagues.

Deborah Steele, MA – Deborah is the Support Services Coordinator at Norris Cotton Cancer Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is an 18 year survivor of breast cancer. Deborah joined CPEN in 2002 and is currently a member of the CAM Committee. CPEN became a life line of relevant information to her on topics she faced each day in her role by connecting her with professionals in a noncompetitive and collaborative environment.

Each of these candidates brings a wealth of great experience with them. We appreciate their willingness to run as candidates for the CPEN Board. Please show them your support by voting today!

Birth Announcement

Tanya Smith and Jim Tipton
welcomed their son
Milo James Tipton
on August 7, 2007

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- ❖ **Excellence in Patient Education Award** – CPEN members, committees or groups who have contributed to patient education at the institutional, community, regional or national level.
- ❖ **Gold Star Award** – Extraordinary contributions to cancer patient education at the institutional, community, regional or national level.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **August 31**. Winners will be announced at the CPEN Annual Meeting in New York. Please take a moment to nominate a deserving colleague or group. If you have questions please contact Anne Sweet at sweeta@karmanos.org or 313-576-9288.

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materials per month, with a collection of over 550 titles. They also produce self-care videos on topics ranging from care after breast surgery reconstruction to tube feeding, which they give to patients to take home. “We have an in-house video department that produces the videos,” explains Pat. I write the scripts, the nurses and doctors approve the content, and a professional does the on-camera work.”

As far as the conference goes, everything seems to be coming together. When asked what members of CPEN should look forward to, Pat did not hesitate. “I’m really, really thrilled about the speakers – that’s really going to be the highlight!” Pat and the planning committee realized the importance of getting the speakers set up early, and have a fabulous line-up planned with something for everyone, including topics on survivorship, drug development and discovery, literacy and health

outcomes, clinical trials and cancer outcomes in minority populations, and spirituality.

In addition to the conference sessions and workshops, the group has arranged a boat trip around lower Manhattan. “We think this will be a great way to unwind and relax, and the views should be spectacular!” says Pat.

I think I speak for all of us when I say we’re really looking forward to a great conference. For more information about topics and speakers please follow this link to the conference agenda <http://www.cancerpatienteducation.org/meeting.cfm> New York, New York – here we come!



Resource Corner

By *Desirae Nasrallah*

Oncology Interactive Education Series™: Making cancer easier to understand.

A large amount of cancer patients discover that finding reliable and accurate information about their disease can be quite cumbersome. The internet, while being a useful tool, can pose a problem for patients seeking credible information. Cancer patients must navigate through a maze of endless information, often with no clear direction. When they do find information, patients run the

risk of that information being inaccurate or too medically advanced for them to understand.

In an effort to help patients become more fully informed, over 300 oncology professionals have helped to develop the Oncology Interactive Education Series™ (OIES). This comprehensive education software offers time-saving and credible oncology information to patients, caregivers and health care professionals. The software employs several methods to deliver over 25 hours of education on the major forms of cancer and the associated Please see **Resource Corner** on page 6

“The internet, while being a useful tool, can pose a problem for patients seeking credible cancer information.”

Cancer Patient Education Network

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*Your authoritative resource for
patient education.*

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treatments. Also included is information on prevention, early diagnosis and supportive care. Patients with different learning preferences are accommodated by the incorporation of text, animations, 360° rotatable images, interactive graphics and narrations. The information provided by OIES is regularly updated via the internet.

With clear and easy-to-understand information at their fingertips, patients can make well-informed decisions about their healthcare. A well-informed patient will also be able to have more meaningful and productive conversations with their healthcare providers.

More information on OIES can be found at
www.oncologyinteractive.com.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
cancerpatienteducation.org

Cancer Patient Education Network
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Early bird
registration
deadline is
September 7



For more information about topics and speakers please follow this link to the
conference agenda

<http://www.cancerpatienteducation.org/meeting.cfm>