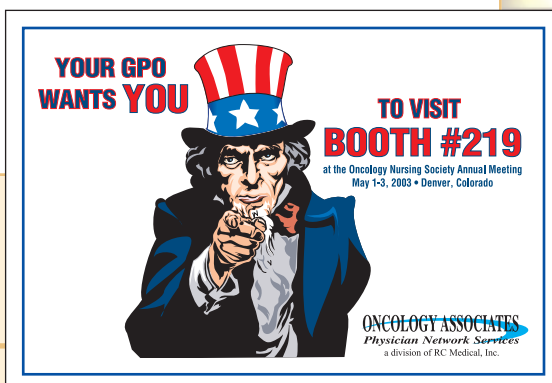


## CLIMBING MOUNTAINS AT ONS

With the magnificent scenery of Denver, Colorado in the background and the crisp mountain air surrounding us, Oncology Associates attended the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Annual Meeting May 1-3, 2003. The theme for the 2003 ONS Annual Congress was appropriately named, "Climbing Our Mountains." OA was excited to catch up with many of our nurse members at our booth this year and hear their thoughts on the conference. We appreciate all of the positive feedback and great suggestions for the future of the group. We also had the opportunity to meet several new members and welcome them in person.

We would like to thank our members for stopping to visit with the OA staff as a show of support for the coming year. OA looks forward to being able to "climb mountains" together towards the advancement of cancer care.

Members stop for a photo during their visit to the OA booth.



**NEUMEGA**  
(Oprelvekin)

### NEUMEGA® CONTRACT REMINDER

Oncology Associates reminds you of its contract with Wyeth/Genetics Institute. The contract provides discounted pricing for the product Neumega in 5mg Vial and 5mg Vial 7/bx quantities.

Wyeth/Genetics Institute offers a reimbursement/medical affairs hotline: 888-638-6342 for assistance in regard to your questions about billing for Neumega.

**NEUMEGA HOTLINE:  
888-638-6342**

### NEW COMPENDIA REFERENCE ETHYOL® GRANTED OFF-LABEL STATUS FOR MDS

Ethylol® (amifostine) is not approved for use in patients with Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), however, as of March 2003 the USP-DI Oncology and Hematology expert committees have granted Ethylol® off-label status for MDS. This new use for Ethylol® is now accepted (as supported by evidence and current medical practice) and is listed as: "Amifostine for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)." (More information may be obtained by going to [www.usp.org](http://www.usp.org) and clicking on Drug Information, Finalized Drug Information, March 2003.)

Additionally, the February 2003 ACCC Compendia Based Drug Bulletin has included MDS (238.7, orphan drug status) for Ethylol® as recognized by USP. The orphan drug status noted in ACCC refers to FDA's "orphan drug/unapproved" classification for Ethylol® and MDS. Additional information may also be obtained at [www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org).