



Angeles presented current treatment therapies for Multiple Myeloma. She discussed the difficulties in treating the patient population and existing treatment options, including how these can be implemented in the private practice setting.

Carol Blecher RN, MS, AOCN, APN, C; is a knowledgeable practitioner in the area of safe handling of hazardous drugs and has authored chapters in the publication *Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs* for the Oncology Nursing Society. Carol delivered a presentation on *Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs* to the attendees. She reviewed the OSHA Cytotoxic Safety Guidelines and described the potential points of exposure and ways to minimize potential for hazardous drug exposure.

Carol also presented methods of effective preparation, administration, and transport of oncolytics, including the benefits of oncolytics packaged in shatterproof polymer vials. Carol emphasized the importance of up-to-date training and the value of incorporating the safety guidelines in order to prevent hazardous spills.

### Meeting Wrap-up

The OA Head Nurse/Practice Manager Conference provided an opportunity for members to network with their colleagues and offered creative solutions to obstacles

our industry faces in the months ahead. The "Members Only" general business meeting reviewed the product contracts available to OA Members. The program also included a round table discussion where members could voice their opinions regarding the efficiency of our distributor, the effectiveness of group communication vehicles, and the important supporting role OA plays in each of their practices.

It is always important to us to receive first hand feedback from our members. We feel fortunate to personally meet with members and improve our organization through their comments. As a direct result of the conference, we have learned a number of things we can improve upon that will benefit our group. Here are a few things to look for in the near future:

- > Updated reimbursement reference guide of OA contracted products
- > Current oncology protocols (available at [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org))
- > *OA Member News*, faxes and mail addressed directly to you for easy recognition
- > Updated quarterly quick reference guide

**Thank you for your support of Oncology Associates. We look forward to seeing you at future OA events. OA**

1. Conference attendees gear up for a day of intense reimbursement discussions.
2. Members listened intently to new clinical updates.
3. New acquaintances were made at the OA Head Nurse/Practice Manager Conference.
4. Giddy-up cowboys! Members journey to the Rawhide Ranch for a night of old western-style fun under the stars.



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN  
SAN ANTONIO FOR OUR NEXT  
HEAD NURSE/PRACTICE  
MANAGER CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 15-17, 2004.**