

# OPTA *Review*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ONCOLOGY PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION | NOVEMBER 2021



**HOT TOPIC DISCUSSION: LEARN HOW  
NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS SUPPORT  
CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVING CHEMO-  
THERAPY**

**PAGE 3**

**TECHNICIAN IN FOCUS: ALANA KROLL,  
CPhT SHARES HER 'BEST PRACTICES'  
WITH OPTA**

**PAGE 5**

Vonda McClendon, CPhT & Rebecca Garland, RPhT present the  
importance of adherence at the 2021 NCODA Fall Summit





## WELCOME

# 2021 NCODA FALL SUMMIT: CELEBRATING REUNITING IN ARIZONA

BY NORA HANSEN, CPhT  
ILLINOIS CANCER SPECIALISTS, ILLINOIS

"Welcome to the 2021 NCODA Fall Summit!" No sweeter words have been heard in two long years! We all traveled from far and wide to Scottsdale, Arizona at the beautiful JW Marriott Camelback. The NCODA Team outdid themselves as always. Everything was perfected in anticipation of our arrival.

First up was check in and the opportunity for complimentary head shots. Then an OPTA Meet and Greet with fellow OPTA members along with complimentary OPTA t-shirts, a give-away to help us show our support of OPTA. It was so good to reconnect with OPTA members. These members are the best representation of Oncology Pharmacy Technicians across the country. We



Nora Hansen (left) receiving the Living the Mission Award in 2019

then proceeded to the Welcome Reception with a live band, buffet, and networking opportunities with NCODA professionals. I was so excited to see everyone, and it was very hard not to hug, but with a lingering pandemic, I had to control myself!

Thursday brought a marathon of meetings, one better than the next. We are so lucky to be surrounded by a wealth of knowledge. The speakers were all engaging, and I took advantage of every continuing education opportunity available. I especially loved the survivor stories. The Keynote speech was a moving story and the Be the Match presentation had me in tears.

Friday was short and bittersweet as it was already time to say goodbye to old and new friends. Until we meet again in the Springtime in Atlanta, Georgia for NCODA's 2022 Spring Forum!

## FIRST-TIME FALL SUMMIT OPTA MEMBER REFLECTS ON HER EXPERIENCE

BY KRISTIN McCauley, CPhT

KOOTENAI SPECIALTY PHARMACY, WASHINGTON

This year was my first experience attending the NCODA Fall Summit. There was a lot of insight into what is happening in the world of Medically Integrated Dispensing. I was so excited to learn about the new NCODA Center of Excellence Accreditation Program that will be offered in the new beginning of the year! This is a great opportunity for MID pharmacies to acquire more access to insurance contracts and to be able to provide better patient care to their patients by keeping more prescriptions in house.

Probably one the most memorable moments during the conference was the session with Dr. Marshall and his wife Liza Marshall. Their candid discussion surrounding the release of their book *Off Our Chests* really put into perspective the world of cancer from the viewpoint of not only the patient and their caregiver(s), but also from the providers' perspective. Their honesty with each other and with the audience was very moving.

It was a great experience for me to be able to attend Fall Summit. I was able to meet with my OPTA committee members in person and had a great time getting to know the incredible leaders of OPTA and NCODA. There is so much passion from the leaders of NCODA to provide exceptional patient care. It's easy to get excited being a part of an organization that really cares. Everything from the PQI's, OCE's, Treatment Support Kits, and other resources offered, all encompasses NCODA's mission to empower the Medically Integrated Oncology team to provide the best patient care possible.



Kristin McCauley

## OPTAReview

### EDITORIAL BOARD



**Janine Brodeur**  
CPhT

Lead Rx Services Coordinator  
| cCare, Fresno, California



**Sara Eisenhart**  
CPhT

Gettysburg Cancer Center,  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

### LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Ginger Blackmon**  
PharmD

Senior Manager of Clinical  
Initiatives | NCODA



**Taryn Newsome**  
CPhT

OPTA Coordinator | NCODA

OPTAReview is published by the National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc., and is issued monthly online. This newsletter may not be reproduced, in whole or part, without written permission from the publisher. NCODA assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in this publication. It is the responsibility of the treating physician/pharmacist or other healthcare professional, relying on independent experience and knowledge of the patient, to determine dosages and best treatment options. Opinions expressed by authors in OPTAReview do not necessarily reflect those of NCODA, Inc.



## OPTALeaders

- Linda Grimsley, CPhT
- Christine Robinson, CPhT
- Emily Zimdars, CPhT
- Brandi Gudwien, CPhT
- Teri Roberts, CPhT
- Sara Eisenhart, CPhT
- Becki Tinder, CPhT

## OPTAOpportunities

### MEETING PRESENTATIONS

OPTA members are invited to participate in monthly meetings by providing:

- Drug Updates
- Peer Presentations
- Technician / Practice in Focus

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- NCODA National Monthly Webinar
- NCODA Conferences/ Meetings

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

- Ginger.Blackmon@ncoda.org
- Taryn.Newsone@ncoda.org

## OPTAResources

### NCODA DISCUSSION BOARD

<https://www.ncoda.org/discussion/pharm-tech/>

### BASECAMP DOCUMENT STORAGE

<https://3.basecamp.com/3780922/reports/progress>

### NCODA/OPTA WEBSITE

<https://www.ncoda.org/oncology-pharmacy-technician-association-opta/>

## OPTACE

**IF YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE 2021 FALL SUMMIT, PLEASE USE LINK BELOW TO OBTAIN CE CREDITS**

<https://www.pharmacytimes.org/pages/ncoda2021>

## OPTA LEADER IN FOCUS

# SARA EISENHART SHARES PERSONAL STORY THAT LEADS TO AN ONCOLOGY CAREER

**BY SARA EISENHART, CPhT**  
GETTYSBURG CANCER CENTER, PA

I would first like to thank all the OPTA members for your dedication to your patients. I have been working as a National Certified Pharmacy Technician for 13 years with experience in both retail and hospital settings before working at Gettysburg Cancer Center. I received a bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration from Shippensburg University.

I was drawn to the oncology space when my uncle was diagnosed with head and neck cancer. He was told his monthly medications would be \$30,000. He was very concerned about the cost of his medications as any cancer patient would be. Back then, I was unaware



Sara Eisenhart

of the multitude of options that he should have been presented with to afford his medication. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2018 and shortly after, I began working at Gettysburg Cancer Center. In my 2 years and 10 months of working at Gettysburg, I gained a wealth of knowledge in patient assistance.

I am thankful for the connections I have made through OPTA and NCODA. I am proud to be an OPTA leader and I encourage others to learn and grow in their evolving role as an Oncology Pharmacy Technician. In my spare time, I love to cook and bake and enjoy spending time with family and friends.




## HOT TOPIC

# TOPIC: NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

**BY TARYN NEWSOME, CPhT**  
OPTA COORDINATOR | NCODA

Will Brown, CEO of Trovita Health Sciences presented a product and clinical application overview on ENÜ Nutrition. ENÜ Nutrition supports the challenging side effects that patients may experience when receiving chemotherapy such as nausea and vomiting, difficulty swallowing, digestive issues, and diarrhea. The supplements contain high amounts of calories, fat, proteins, and other nutrients to help patients maintain a balance of nutrition altered by side effects during treatment. Samples are easy to obtain for the pharmacy as well as for the

patient. For more information on ENÜ and to get samples please see ad on page four.

			
	ENU Pro3+ 6 SCOOPS	Duocal 9 SCOOPS	Benecalorie 1 Package
Calories	210 kcal	221 kcal	330 kcal
Added Protein	13g (26% of Daily)	×	7g
Added Carbs	28g (12% of Daily)	32.7g	×
Added Fat	5.2g (12% of Daily)	10g	33g
Protein Sources	Whey Protein Isolate Milk Protein Concentrate L-leucine	×	Calcium Caseinate
Contains Fiber	✓	×	×
Fully Fortified with Vitamins & Minerals	✓	×	×
Contains ZERO Sucrose, Gluten, or Isoflavones	✓	×	×
Completely Flavorless	✓	×	×

## DRUG UPDATE

# MONJUVI®: FDA APPROVED TREATMENT FOR NON-TRANSPLANT ELIGIBLE ADULT PATIENTS WITH DLBCL

BY EMILY BUIS

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY, CLASS OF 2022,  
REGIS UNIVERSITY

MONJUVI® (tafasitamab-cxix) is indicated for the treatment of relapsed or refractory Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (DLBCL) in patients who are ineligible for autologous stem cell transplant. MONJU-VI® was approved in July 2020 under the FDA accelerated approval based on overall response rate. MONJUVI® is a monoclonal antibody that binds to the CD-19 antigen expressed on the surface of B-cell malignancies. Upon binding to the CD-19 receptor, B-cell lysis, or cell death, is mediated through natural killer cells and macrophages.<sup>1,2</sup>

MONJUVI® is recommended to be started in combination with lenalidomide given for twelve 28-day cycles. Upon completion of the twelve cycles, MONJU-VI® is administered as monotherapy until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity occurs.<sup>1</sup> MONJUVI® is administered intravenously and is dosed at 12 mg/kg based on actual body weight, while lenalidomide is dosed 25 mg orally. The first four cycles

have different dosing schedules that can be found in the package insert. Once 4 cycles have been completed, MONJUVI® will be dosed on days 1 and 15 (out of a 28-day cycle) until a patient can no longer undergo this treatment.<sup>2</sup> Current precautions include infusion related reactions (IRRs), myelosuppression, infections, and embryo-fetal toxicity. To combat the risk of IRRs, it is recommended to administer pre-medications, such as Tylenol or Benadryl, 30-120 minutes before receiving MONJUVI®.

Because the risk of myelosuppression and infections are high, it is important to inform patients on contacting their providers if they experience a fever of 100.4°F or greater. Pregnancy status must be evaluated before beginning treatment.<sup>1</sup>

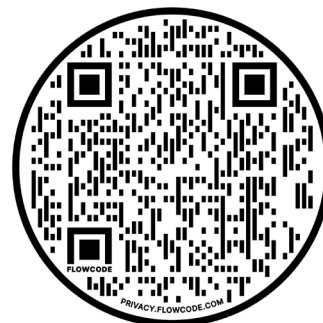
MorphoSys offers a copay assistance program called My Mission Support, and through them, eligible patients may pay as little as \$0 for MONJUVI®.<sup>3</sup>

#### References:

1. Monjuvi®. Package Insert. MorphoSys US Inc; 2021. <https://medlibrary.org/lib/rx/meds/monjuvi/>
2. Monjuvi® Monograph. Lexicomp. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Roverwoods, IL. Accessed October 8, 2021. <https://online-lexi-com.dml.regis.edu/>
3. Red Book. 2020. Drug Cost. Accessed October 9, 2021. <https://www.micromedexsolutions-com.dml.regis.edu/>



To access NCODA's corresponding PQI to  
MONJUVI® please scan the QR Code below





dispensing positive outcomes


## ENÜ Contact Information

**To Request Samples:**  
[Support@ENU-Nutrition.com](mailto:Support@ENU-Nutrition.com)

**For Patients Request Samples:**  
[www.enu-nutrition.com](http://www.enu-nutrition.com)

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON  
NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS**

 **PASSION FOR PATIENTS**  
NCODA.ORG




dispensing positive outcomes

## ESI NETWORK CHANGES

**Pharmacy Processing Phone number:**  
**1-833-955-3404**

**Patient Information Line:**  
**1-800-683-1074**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

 **PASSION FOR PATIENTS**  
NCODA.ORG

## TECH IN FOCUS

**Name:** Alana Kroll, CPhT, Director of In-Office Dispensing

**Practice:** Mission Cancer & Blood, Des Moines, Iowa

### How can OPTA or NCODA help you and your practice?

NCODA is a wonderful organization and advocate for the community oncology field.

NCODA has provided and continues to provide valuable, helpful, support and thorough resources to aid and guide my dispensary to a high level of success and patient care.

The NCODA website is a vital tool offering essential information where my team and I can go to access and retrieve sources for education resulting in best patient outcomes. Some of the tools I use often are the Positive Quality Intervention documents and the Oral Chemotherapy Education sheets.

NCODA also helps me to stay informed regarding PBM information and provides strategies to assist me with inventory control and waste management.

NCODA is a one stop destination providing my staff the resources needed to be a successful operation and to offer the best care and value for our patients.

**Explain your current role at your practice:** I oversee our In-Office Dispensary and manage a team of 5 pharmacy technicians including myself. My focus and oversight in my department include but are not limited to the following: staff interviewing and hiring, staff training and evaluations, staff education, daily operations, effective workflow, billing and insurance, prior authorizations, PBM desktop audits and internal audit reports, inventory control, strong communication and relationships with the physician/nurse teams



Alana Kroll

and advanced practice providers, patient care and advocacy, and financial assistance.

### Do you assume any specialized duties/responsibilities from time-to-time?

Besides overseeing the day-to-day operations and management of my team as mentioned earlier, I am also a part of a multi-manager team at Mission Cancer + Blood. I attend monthly meetings, provide input, and stay engaged in the entire practice. I attend drug education programs/dinners and establish strong relationships with our local oncology pharmaceutical drug representatives. I stay informed on PBM news and contract changes and continue to educate myself on GPO contracts. I interact with our Mission Cancer + Blood Clinical Pharmacist on IOD policies and procedures, PBM contracts and recertification. I coordinate with our local drug repository program in the state of Iowa to help financial hardship patients. I work with our assigned specialty mail order pharmacy teams (i.e. CVS, Accredo, Optum) to ensure that our patients filling through a specialty pharmacy mail order setting are well cared for and that their medication(s) is scheduled for on time delivery and without treatment delays.

### Do you have any "best-practices" that you use at your practice that you would like to share with OPTA members?

I initiated the practice of a weekly team rounding with round table discussion. This is where ideas and concerns are welcomed and discussed. The goal of these sessions is to constantly improve and stay up to date on education, best practices, and individual and team success. I also provide weekly updates via email to my staff, highlighting pertinent information affecting the dispensary along with directives from me. I and my team have well-established lines of communication developed between our physician/nurse teams and the IOD. This relationship ensures that the patient is well taken care of from the beginning point of receiving a new prescription.

**NCODA's Career Share Network**

Through the Career Share resource, NCODA connects oncology healthcare professionals of all backgrounds (oncologists, oncology pharmacists, technicians, administrators, etc.) with relevant position postings.

To access all current listings, log into [NCODA.org](https://www.ncoda.org)

**CURRENT LISTINGS**

- AON Patient Assistance
- Cancer Specialists of North Florida

**NCODA** PASSION FOR PATIENTS

### NEXT OPTA MEETING:

**3 p.m. EST, Wednesday,  
November 10, 2021**

Members will receive  
a calendar invitation

## OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

**BY TARYN NEWSOME, CPhT**

**OPTA COORDINATOR | NCODA**

OPTA Coordinator Taryn Newsome, CPhT started the meeting by sharing the re-partnership of NCODA and PAAS National. PAAS National is a pharmacy audit assistance service that helps prepare the pharmacy for virtual, on-site, or desk audits as well as many other services. NCODA practices are offered a discounted rate for programs such as the Audit Assist Program and the Fraud Waste and Abuse (FWA)/HIPAA Program. For more information on receiving discounted rates, please contact [Victoria.Eno@ncoda.org](mailto:Victoria.Eno@ncoda.org).

Newsome then discussed NCODA's Career Share Network and current Pharmacy Technician positions available. The Career Share Network connects oncol-

ogy healthcare professionals with relevant position postings. For more information on current positions available please see ad on this page (page 5).

Brandi Gudwien, CPhT from Alabama Oncology and OPTA Co-Chair discussed an Express Scripts network change. SaveOn, a third-party payer by ESI, requires patients to enroll before any prescription is processed. Gudwien first experienced this as she was trying to process a prescription for PROMACTA®. She received a hard stop on the claim, no overrides were accepted, and the patient was required to enroll themselves. Gudwien shared important contact information for SaveOn as well the pharmacy processing information line that can be found on page four.

**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**

