

## **Topline Take-Aways from the January 2026 AAHPM Board Meeting:**

- **Oncology Nurse Society Position Statement Advances**

This statement affirms palliative care as a patient centered, interprofessional approach that improves quality of life for people with cancer at any stage and is distinct from hospice care. It emphasizes strong evidence for palliative care's benefits and highlights the critical role of oncology nurses in delivering and coordinating this care across settings. The AAHPM Board is endorsing this statement as consistent with its mission to promote timely, high quality palliative care for all patients with serious illness.

- **Position Statement Committee Shares Latest Update**

The Position Statement Committee, established in summer 2025, has met monthly since September and has made strong progress by defining position statements, creating submission and review processes, and developing tools to prioritize and manage new statements. Next steps include launching an online submission portal in late spring, communicating the process to members, reviewing existing statements for updates, and issuing calls for volunteers for writing groups. The committee aims to revise or create one to two position statements per year.

- **President, Arif Kamal and CEO, Pierre Désy delivered key updates** on the ongoing goal setting of the Academy in alignment with the Strategic Plan and further informed by the Pulse Check meeting that occurred in October 2025.

- **Hospice Workgroup Reports on Progress and Priorities**

The new Hospice Work Group was formed from a highly competitive pool of 30 volunteers, with 15 selected to represent the full diversity of hospice care across the U.S., including for profit and nonprofit providers, rural and urban settings, pediatric and adult care, and community, academic, health system, and VA environments. Chaired by Kristi Newport and supported by staff Kat Ast and Wendy Chill, the group surveyed both selected and non-selected volunteers to identify key issues aligned with Board goals. Three consistent priorities emerged: improving hospice quality standards and transparency, strengthening the hospice physician role, and modernizing the Medicare Hospice Benefit. Based on this input, the Work Group will continue to help shape AAHPM's 2026 hospice priorities, including defining and publishing quality standards, advancing physician role clarity and training, strengthening advocacy around eligibility and concurrent care, and promoting clinically meaningful fraud oversight.

- **2026 Annual Assembly and State of the Science** continue to progress successfully with record registration and room pick up.
- **Board Reviewed and approved Chief Medical Officer** time allocation supporting the work and success of Kristi Newport in this role.