

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Diane M. Otte, RN, MS, OCN®
Associate Editor

Coleman Awarded in Lilly Oncology on CanvasSM Art Competition

Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member JoAnn Coleman, RN, MS, AOCN®, ACNP, was honored with second place in the 2006 Lilly Oncology on CanvasSM: Expressions of a Cancer Journey International Art Competition and Exhibition, presented by Eli Lilly and Company in partnership with the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. Lilly launched the competition in 2004 to help people affected by cancer express their emotions about the disease, an important part of the healing process. The art has since toured the world.

The judging panel awarded Coleman second place in the U.S. competition for her photograph, "Tranquility" (see inset). Coleman began as an RN in the department of surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD, in 1974 and now serves as coordinator of the Multidisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Clinic at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.

"Tranquility" shows a serene fountain in Hawaii containing water lilies with a reflection of a Japanese tea house. Coleman took the photograph while in Hawaii for a nursing conference.

"The photograph reminds me of how we treat patients when they go into surgery for the removal of cancerous tumors," said Coleman. "We should accept and respect patients as they journey through the cancer experience."

Lilly Oncology on Canvas invited people from all over the world to put their feelings about cancer on canvas and in narrative. People diagnosed with any type of cancer,



"TRANQUILITY"

Patients faced with the challenges of cancer experience the gamut of emotions that reflect the mood of the ocean, from peaceful laps of waves at the shore to waves of tumultuous, rolling fury. I care for patients with pancreatic cancer and follow their journey along the continuum of care. I see the complex and ever-changing combination of physical, sensual, and spiritual elements encountered by these patients and their families and significant others.

This photo of a Japanese tea house reflected in a pond of elegant purple water lilies represents my philosophy of trying to create an aura of tranquility for my patients and their families and significant others. The lovely purple water lilies are a reminder of patients who have pancreatic cancer attempting to maintain harmony but always with a ripple of the reminder of the unknown that may be encountered in their cancer journey. My patients have taught me to respect the human qualities of sensitivity, awareness, respect, and communication, which are also those behaviors reflected in the ancient and elegant tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony.

—Photograph* and essay by JoAnn Coleman, RN, MS, AOCN®, ACNP

* This photograph may not be reprinted, republished, or copied in any form without the prior written consent of Eli Lilly and Company.



JoAnn Coleman received second place honors for her photograph, "Tranquility," in the Lilly Oncology on CanvasSM Art Competition.

their families and friends, cancer advocates, healthcare providers, artists, and art students were eligible to apply. Art was accepted in the following media: acrylic, oil, pastel, photography, watercolor, and other, which included one-dimensional mixed media.

Lilly Oncology on Canvas will contribute \$5,000 to the Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center, Johns Hopkins Medicine, in Baltimore on behalf of Coleman. In all, Lilly Oncology on Canvas awarded prizes to a total of 36 winners from more than 2,000 global entries from 43 countries.

To learn more about Lilly Oncology on Canvas, visit www.LillyOncology.com and click on the Lilly Oncology on Canvas logo.

Pitorak Elected President of Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation



ONS member Elizabeth Pitorak, MSN, APRN, CHPN, has been named president of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF). She began her term on January 1.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/07.ONF.285-288

For more than 25 years, Pitorak has worked in the field of hospice and pain management. She currently is director of the Hospice Institute, Hospice of the Western Reserve, in Cleveland, OH, where she is responsible for planning and participating in external education and research involving end-of-life care issues for professional and lay communities. Nationally, she served for six years on the board of directors of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), an organization for which she also is a past president.

Pitorak was project director for Project Safe Conduct, which was funded by a Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Project Safe Conduct was a collaborative effort between the Ireland Cancer Center at University Hospitals of Cleveland, the Hospice of the Western Reserve, and Case Western Reserve University. The project integrated the services of a university-based research cancer center and a freestanding community-based hospice to provide for patients with terminal illnesses. Project Safe Conduct was a 2002 Circle of Life Award winner.

A clinical nurse specialist and a certified hospice nurse, Pitorak earned her master's degree in nursing with a teaching major from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She has published widely and lectured extensively to multidisciplinary groups.

"We are delighted to have Elizabeth with us," said Judy Lentz, RN, MSN, NHA, executive director of HPNF. "We are confident the Foundation will flourish under her skillful guidance."

HPNF is a nonprofit organization that, through grants, scholarships, and other awards, provides funding to nurses and other healthcare professionals pursuing education and research related to end-of-life care. Its mission is to advance the work of HPNA. For more information, visit www.hpnf.org.

Profota Is New Oncology Nursing Director at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Succeeding Bedell



ONS member Lori Profota, MS, RN, NP-C, OCN®, has been named nursing director for inpatient oncology nursing and radiation oncology nursing at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH. Profota succeeds ONS member Marilyn Bedell, MS, RN, OCN®, who retired in February after 35 years in oncology nursing at DHMC and Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

Profota worked most recently as an oncology clinical nurse specialist in the inpatient

oncology unit. Prior to coming to DHMC, she worked for the St. Anthony Hospital System in Denver, CO. Her prior nursing positions include nurse practitioner, nursing clinical faculty, emergency department nurse manager, and flight nurse. She began her career as a staff nurse on the oncology unit at DHMC, where she was hired by Bedell in 1986.



1975, head nurse in 1980, and oncology nursing director for DHMC in 1999. As a leader, Bedell emphasized mentoring, continuing education, and certification for nurses. Her encouragement of advanced education has resulted in nearly 60% of RNs at the cancer center being certified in oncology nursing.

Norris Cotton Cancer Center combines advanced cancer research at Dartmouth Medical School and patient-centered cancer care at DHMC. It is one of 39 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute. For more information, visit www.cancer.dartmouth.edu/nurses.

Wills Named 2007 National Capital Area Hematology/Oncology Nurse of the Year



"Melissa is a true leader," said Executive Director Donna McKelvey. "Her compassionate care of pediatric patients, her professional mentoring, and her consistent volunteerism set her apart."

Wills is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. She was nominated for the award by Darlene Melkonian, the mother of a pediatric patient with leukemia, and Deborah Lafond, a nurse practitioner colleague at Children's National Medical Center.

"Seeing Melissa always helped us make it through," Melkonian said. "She is encouraging, honest, and so hopeful."

Lafond describes her colleague as "a skilled clinician who is consistently a role

model to other nurse practitioners and staff nurses."

Bedell began as a staff nurse at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, NH, in 1972 and moved to the hospital's oncology unit later that year. She was promoted to assistant head nurse in 1975, head nurse in 1980, and oncology nursing director for DHMC in 1999. As a leader, Bedell emphasized mentoring, continuing education, and certification for nurses. Her encouragement of advanced education has resulted in nearly 60% of RNs at the cancer center being certified in oncology nursing.

model to other nurse practitioners and staff nurses."

In addition to her involvement in ONS, Wills is an active leader in the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses and the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium. She coauthored end-of-life guidelines for the Children's Oncology Group and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Wills has received several awards for end-of-life nursing care, excellence in teaching, and leadership. She also developed the only pediatric chemotherapy provider course in the DC metropolitan area. She volunteers each summer at Camp Friendship, a summer camp for pediatric patients with cancer and their families.

"I am so honored to be selected as the 2007 Nurse of the Year," Wills said. "What makes this award even more special to me is that the nomination came from an extraordinary family and a wonderful colleague. It means so much to me that I am being recognized for just doing what I love."

Wills earned her master's of science in nursing degree at the University of Maryland, her bachelor's of science in nursing degree at Central Connecticut State University, and her nursing diploma from Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Waterbury, CT.

Runner-up for the award was ONS member Beatrice Miller, RN, BSN, OCN®, of Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD. Finalists included ONS members Julie Feurtado, RN, BSN, of National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, MD; Jeannette Haney, RN, MSN, OCN®, of Kaiser Permanente in Upper Marlboro, MD; and Zhila Shabab, RN, RNC, OCN®, of Reston Hospital in Virginia.

Dana-Farber Nurses Honored With Partners in Excellence Awards

Sixteen members of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's (DFCI's) nursing staff have been honored with Partners in Excellence Awards during the 11th annual ceremony held on December 8, 2006, at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston, MA.

Given yearly to individuals throughout Partners HealthCare and Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare, the awards recognize superior performance in areas of quality treatment and service, leadership and motivation, operational efficiency, and community contribution.

Individual winners include Kecia Boyd, BSN, RN, OCN®, staff nurse; Carolyn Hayes, PhD, RN, CNAA, director of the Center for Patients and Families at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center (DF/BWCC) and director of Oncology Nursing and Clinical Services at BWH; and Susan Riendeau, RN, BSN, OCN®, staff nurse.

The following individuals are additional nursing recipients from DF/BWCC and Partners teams.

- **DF/BWCC Patient Navigator Program:** Elizabeth Binari, RN, MHA, and Hayes
- **DF/BWCC Community Forum Committee:** Monica Fulton, RN, and Anne Gross, RN, MS, CNAA
- **Faulkner DFCI at FH Service Level Implementation Team:** Fulton, Gross, and Barbara Kalinowski, RN, MSN
- **DF/BWCC Mesothelioma Clinical Implementation Team:** Robyn Souza, RN, MPH
- **DF/BWCC Pathology Improvement Committee:** Gross, Joy Higgins, RN, MPH/MBA, and Prabhyjot Singh, RN, MS
- **High Performance Medicine Team 3, Tobacco Treatment Task Force:** Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, Judith Balboni, RN, Mary Cooley, PhD, RN, and Susan DeCristofaro, MS, RN, OCN®
- **Information Systems, Oncology Applications Implementation–DF/BWCC at Faulkner:** Lori Buswell, MS, RN, NP, OCN®, Fulton, and Lillian Pedulla, RN, BSN, MSN

DFCI is a founding member of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, designated a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute. For more information, visit www.danafarber.org.

Maloney Honored With DAISY Award for Excellence in Nursing

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has named Mary Maloney, RN, as the first recipient of the DAISY Award for excellence in nursing. Maloney was honored along with 18 other nursing nominees during a ceremony held on December 21, 2006, at Dana-Farber in Boston, MA.

Maloney is a veteran oncology staff nurse who works in the Gosman Infusion Services at Dana-Farber. Judithanne Griffin and Betty Cheney, two of her patients, nominated her. "She cares to the very depth of her soul about helping the patient along this fearful journey with a gentle kindness that far surpasses anything I have seen in my lifetime," wrote Cheney in her nomination essay.



Mary Maloney, displaying her DAISY Award, is pictured with Dana-Farber nurse leaders (from left) Patricia Branowicki, RN, MS, CNAA, Anne Gross, RN, MS, CNAA, and Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN.

The DAISY Award is a national recognition program for nurses offered through the Diseases Attacking the Immune System (DAISY) Foundation. The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses was established in 2001. Dana-Farber is one of 115 hospitals around the country that are members of the program, which has honored more than 2,000 nurses to date.

Maloney has been a nurse for 23 years and has worked at Dana-Farber for 10 years. She resides in Hingham, MA.

Barber Receives Faculty Excellence Award From Morningside College

ONS member Jacklyn Barber, RN, MS, an associate professor of nursing education, has been awarded a 2006 Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Award from Morningside College in Sioux City, IA. Morningside College President John Reynders presented the award during the college's annual faculty banquet held on December 13, 2006, at the Sioux City Country Club in Iowa. Barber received a \$10,000 honorarium and \$3,000 to use for the purpose of faculty development.

Criteria for selection include teaching excellence, effective advising, scholarship, and service to Morningside College. The awards are based on the accomplishments and activities of a faculty member during the previous academic year.

Barber, who teaches a number of nursing education courses, began teaching at Morningside College in 1997. She is currently the director of the Palmer Undergraduate Student Research Symposium. She has presented at numerous healthcare facilities in the Siouxland area throughout her career. She independently consults for rural hospitals and long-term care facilities by developing and implementing in-service presentations on a variety of health topics. She is secretary and an executive committee member of the board of directors for the Siouxland Chapter of the American Red Cross, a member of the Healthy Siouxland Initiative and the End of Life Task Force, and a committee member of the Siouxland Disaster Action Team.

Barber holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Morningside College and a master's degree in nursing from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. In addition to ONS, she is a member of the American Association of University Professors, American Nursing Association, Iowa Nursing Association, National League of Nursing, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

\$15 Million Gift to Create State-of-the-Art Proton Therapy Center

University of Pennsylvania alumni Ralph J. Roberts and his son Brian L. Roberts have pledged \$15 million to help create

the first-of-its-kind proton therapy center for the treatment of cancer. The Roberts Proton Therapy Center will be unique in its ability to fully integrate conventional radiation treatment with proton radiation, which more accurately targets tumors and leaves surrounding healthy tissue unaffected. The center also will be the first to be located on the campus of a world-class academic medical center, facilitating scientific research to measure and improve the innovative therapy. The gift will help finance the construction and equipment for the center, scheduled to open to patients in 2009.

"This is a landmark gift from both the perspective of meaningful, strategic philanthropy, as well as from the standpoint of innovative cancer therapy and research," said Arthur H. Rubenstein, MBBCh, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania Health System and dean of the School of Medicine. "As the largest such facility in the world, this center will provide lifesaving treatment to an estimated 3,000 patients a year."

Penn also will begin a new relationship with Walter Reed Medical Center, through which proton therapy technology will be available to U.S. military personnel. For more information, visit www.uphs.upenn.edu/news/News_Releases/dec06/roberts-proton-therapy-center.htm.

American Pain Foundation Releases Guide on Pain Treatment Options

The American Pain Foundation has released a new publication, *Treatment Options: A Guide for People Living With Pain*. Written and reviewed by leading pain specialists from diverse backgrounds, the guide provides credible, comprehensive information about medications, psychosocial interventions, complementary approaches, rehabilitation therapies, surgical interventions, and more.

The guide is written for people in pain and their caregivers to provide a better understanding about why managing pain is important, goals of therapies, benefits and drawbacks to various treatments, information about communicating effectively with healthcare providers about pain, and mapping a treatment plan.

Print and electronic versions of the free guide are accessible through the American Pain Foundation's Web site at www.painfoundation.org.

Patient Advocate Foundation and Amgen Oncology Launch Colorectal CareLine

The Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), with support from Amgen Oncology, has launched the Colorectal CareLine. The

national toll-free telephone hot line is designed to offer assistance to all patients with colorectal cancer and healthcare providers seeking educational resources, direct assistance with access-to-care issues, or financial aid for select patient needs, including lodging, transportation, child care, and other expenses associated with out-of-town treatment. The hot line can be accessed at 866-657-8634, or patients may visit www.colorectalcareline.org.

Staffed by a dedicated team of multilingual clinical case managers with nursing and social work experience, the Colorectal CareLine offers personal case management services, including the dissemination of disease information, direction on how to obtain financial assistance, availability of clinical trials, and guidance in managing the reimbursement process.

In an effort to spread the word about the Colorectal CareLine to the community, PAF will partner with several advocacy and patient groups to ensure that patients who need these services learn about them.

PAF is a national nonprofit organization that seeks to safeguard patients through effective mediation ensuring access to care, maintenance of employment, and preservation of their financial stability. For more information, visit www.patientadvocate.org or call 800-532-5274.

National Cancer Institute Director's Consumer Liaison Group to Fill Four Vacancies

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) Office of Liaison Activities invites all interested and eligible advocates, consumers, and survivors to apply for four vacancies on the NCI Director's Consumer Liaison Group (DCLG), with terms beginning July 2007.

The DCLG is a federal advisory committee of 16 cancer advocates and consumer members who are appointed by the director of NCI. DCLG members provide broad-based recommendations to the NCI director and serve as a forum to receive feedback and input from all areas of the cancer advocacy community. The NCI director has identified eliminating cancer disparities and research issues in cancer care delivery as two focus areas for the DCLG in 2007.

As a group, the DCLG reflects the breadth and diversity of the cancer consumer advocacy community in expertise, cultural, ethnic, gender, and regional distribution.

Complete application instructions can be found online at <http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/dclg/applications/2007DCLGapplication.pdf>.

Application instructions also can be requested by contacting Palladian Partners, Inc., Attn: DCLG 2007 Selection Process, 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1200, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-650-8660; 301-

650-8676, fax; dclg2007@palladianpartners.com). Applications must be postmarked by **March 30** to be considered.

Joint Commission and National Quality Forum Seek Applicants for 2007 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards

The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum are accepting applications for the 2007 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards, which recognize individuals and healthcare organizations that are making significant contributions in improving the safety and quality of patient care.

The awards honor the memory of Dr. Eisenberg, a nationally recognized leader in healthcare quality improvement who advocated for health care—based on a strong foundation of research—that meets the needs and perspectives of patients. Eisenberg, who died in 2002, spearheaded national efforts to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety as director of the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards are presented each year, in up to four categories, including individual achievement, research, and innovation in patient safety and quality at both the national and local levels. The accomplishments of award nominees must be focused on improving patient safety or the quality of health care, leadership in advancing methods for measuring and reporting healthcare quality, expanding the public's capacity to evaluate the quality and safety of health care, and promoting healthcare choices based on information about safety and quality.

Awards are not necessarily given in each category every year, and more than one award could be presented in a given category. An award panel of outside experts in patient safety and healthcare quality select the recipients. The December 2007 issue of the *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* will feature articles describing the achievements of the award recipients.

Nomination forms for the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards are available at www.jointcommission.org and www.qualityforum.org, or from the Joint Commission's Customer Service Center by calling 630-792-5800. The deadline for nominations is **April 16**.

Landmark Sister Study Seeks to Enroll More Than 17,000 Participants

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is seeking more than 17,000 women to join the Sister Study, the nation's largest research effort to determine the causes of breast cancer. The study intends to enroll 50,000 women who have a sister who has had breast cancer. Enrollment will close at the end of 2007.

Available in English and Spanish, the Sister Study requires very little time from volunteers. The 10-year observational study begins with participants answering questions about diet, jobs, hobbies, and things they have been exposed to throughout their lives to determine what may influence breast cancer risk. Later, small samples will be collected from participants to give researchers a better picture of each woman's environment and genes.

Women are eligible to join the study if they

- Have a sister (living or deceased), related by blood, who has had breast cancer
- Are 35–74 years old
- Have never had breast cancer
- Live in the United States or Puerto Rico.

Women from all races and ethnic groups are needed so that the results benefit all women in the United States. In addition, women aged 55–74 are important to recruit, as the risk of breast cancer increases with age. Women who are not eligible to join the study can help by spreading the word as a volunteer.

For more information or to enroll, visit www.sisterstudy.org or call 877-4SISTER (877-474-7837).

Bravo! Job Well Done! Pat Yourself on the Back!

Have you been awarded recently for your dedication and commitment to oncology nursing? Have you been appointed to a new leadership position at your institution? Are you helping to coordinate an event that is particularly relevant to oncology nurses? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these and other achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for People and Events. Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Diane M. Otte, RN, MS, OCN®, via e-mail at otte.diane@mayo.edu or ottedm@charter.net.