

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader Recognizes the Importance of Nursing Research

I read with interest your March 2006 editorial titled "Professional Aging" (Vol. 33, p. 191). As a member of Generation X and a current nursing student in the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Master's Entry Program in Nursing, I want to commend you on your efforts to draw my generation to professional literature. In my experience, referencing current nursing research is required in certain classroom assignments, but little effort is given to encouraging the continued use of research in our approaching work as staff nurses.

Graduate study certainly will focus on research. Indeed, one of my future professors has informed me that the goal of master's-level training is to enable us to be savvy in finding and applying research. Using research, however, should not be only in the domain of a master's-prepared nurse. It should, as you write, be a natural part of every nurse's professional development.

Nurse residencies, which are in their infancy as an extension to the typical new-graduate training program, are one way to address the problem. UCSF's yearlong residency for new-graduate nurses, which begins with my class, will incorporate long-term, structured mentorship by experienced

nurses. Such programs have the potential to successfully bridge the gap between nursing schools' emphasis on a required knowledge base and the desire that the new generation of nurses use the continual expansion of nursing knowledge offered in journals.

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Reader Acknowledges That Nurse Leaders Have a Critical Role in Oncology Nursing

The March 2006 Leadership and Professional Development column titled "Lessons From Our Leaders: Advancing Oncology Nursing Through the Power of the Group" (Vol. 33, pp. 205–207) presents the foundation of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), its multifaceted roles, and its accomplishments in the local, state, national, and international levels. I highly commend the authors for emphasizing the critical roles of ONS leaders and their significant efforts to cultivate thriving partnerships with its members as well with other professional organizations to reach their common

goal of advancing the field of oncology nursing.

The article also provides information about mentoring programs available through ONS that can be beneficial, particularly to novices such as me. As a current student groomed to become an effective oncology nurse leader in the future, I am inspired by how these exceptional nurse leaders collaboratively joined forces with their peers to make an influential impact in increasing the visibility of oncology nursing and recognizing the unparalleled contributions of oncology nurses in improving cancer care and research.

To assume the responsibility of a nurse leader is, without a doubt, very challenging. However, success in this position can be realized if nurse leaders foster and maintain solidarity with their colleagues in facing the challenges associated with this role. Let's turn to the phenomenal nurses surrounding us for the inspiration we need.

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Reader Comments on Recent Editorial

It is with surprise and dismay that I read your recent editorial "One Giant Step Back," in the May 2006 *Oncology Nursing Forum* (Vol. 33, p. 511). You describe your thoughts on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) vision paper titled "Future Regulation of Advanced Practice Nursing," in which the board recommends clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) no longer be classified as advanced practice nurses (APNs).

You describe the NCSBN vision paper as polarizing and note that "internal struggles sap our strength and divert us." Although I agree with you that CNSs are indeed, and

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Letters that question, criticize, or respond to a previously published article will be sent to the author of that article for a reply. This type of professional exchange is encouraged. Letters that question, criticize, or respond to an Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) policy, product, or activity should be directed to the *ONS News* and automatically will be sent to the ONS Board of Directors or the appropriate ONS project team leader for a reply.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/06.ONF.683-684