

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®
Associate Editor

Ferrell Appointed to the National Cancer Policy Forum



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Betty R. Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN, a research scientist in the Department of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope Cancer Centers in Duarte, CA,

has been appointed to the National Cancer Policy Forum. Ferrell was appointed by the Institute of Medicine, a private organization created by the federal government to serve as an independent advisor on scientific and technologic matters, and by Bruce Alberts, PhD, president of the National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council.

The National Cancer Policy Forum, established in May 2005, is a new initiative to allow representatives from government, industry, and academic groups to identify, assess, and make recommendations on emerging national policy issues relating to cancer care.

The forum consists of 20 members drawn from healthcare consumers, providers, and researchers in a variety of disciplines in the sciences and humanities working in the field of cancer. Forum members are designated to serve two-year terms and are appointed for their expertise, experience, and connections in the cancer community.

Ferrell is nationally known for her work in the areas of pain management, quality of life, and end-of-life care for patients with cancer. She has been in oncology nursing for 28 years, working to equip caregivers at healthcare institutions around the world with the knowledge and skills to meet the unique needs of patients with cancer and their families.

Throughout her career, Ferrell has led and contributed to hundreds of studies aimed at quantifying and improving patient care and quality of life. Currently, she is principal investigator for a study of palliative surgery funded by the American Cancer Society and the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium project funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Yarbro Named Honorary Alumnus of MU Sinclair School of Nursing



ONS member Connie Henke Yarbro, RN, MS, FAAN, has been recognized as the honorary alumnus of the Nursing Alumni Organization in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri–Columbia. Yarbro was honored because of her tireless efforts to educate and support healthcare professionals in the oncology field as well as her unyielding support of the university.

Yarbro was among the initial group of nurses who, in the early 1970s, provided the necessary care to patients with cancer and their families. Recognizing the need for an oncology nursing professional organization, Yarbro and three other nurses founded ONS in 1975, and, today, more than 32,000 members worldwide belong to the organization. For four years, she led the Society as president and nurtured the establishment of the ONS Foundation, which financially supports oncology nursing research.

As the founding editor of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing* and the lead editor of *Cancer Nursing Principles and Practice*, now in its sixth edition, Yarbro continues to nurture the profession's growth. Currently, she travels the world consulting and lecturing. Yarbro continues to be interested in and supportive of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. From 1996–2000, she served as an adjunct clinical assistant professor and now serves as an adjunct clinical associate professor.

"Connie is an example of someone who has gone above and beyond in the area of oncology," said Rosemary Porter, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing. Her passion for helping patients, their families, and other nurses has touched many lives in a positive way."

ONS Members Receive 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards

Nursing Spectrum, an RN-focused multimedia organization, recently honored ONS members Cynthia Mooney, CCRN, BSN,

MEd, Ellen Lavoie Smith, RN, MS, APRN-BC, AOCN®, and Gail Wilkes, RN, MS, ANP, AOCN®, as regional winners of the Annual Nursing Excellence Awards. These nurses have been nominated by their colleagues, peers, and supervisors for outstanding service and dedication to their patients and the nursing profession.



Mooney, nurse clinician coordinator at FirstHealth of the Carolinas in Pinehurst, NC, was awarded in the Clinical Care category (Southeastern region), which recognizes RNs who demonstrate

excellence in direct care delivery in any clinical setting.

Smith, director of advanced practice nursing for hematology/oncology at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH, was awarded in the Advancing the Profession category (New England region), which recognizes RNs who have made contributions that have advanced and strengthened nursing as a profession.



Wilkes, a clinical instructor at Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts, was awarded in the Teaching category (New England region), which recognizes RNs who have made significant contributions

in education, professional development, or long-term learning of nursing professionals.

All of the regional award winners will be eligible for Nursing Spectrum's National Nurse of the Year Awards, which will be presented this fall.

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Nursing Spectrum promotes the education, recognition, and support of the nursing community by providing timely, relevant, and compelling information through its award-winning magazines, including *NurseWeek*; annual career guides; Web sites; continuing education services; and career fairs, reaching more than one million RNs and nursing students. For more information, visit www.nursingspectrum.com.

Buswell Awarded Highest Scholarship for Nursing Informatics



ONS member Lori Buswell, RN, APN, MS, OCN®, a nurse at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, was selected as one of the top-two award winners for abstracts submitted this year to

the 15th Annual Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Nursing. This is the highest scholarship awarded by the committee. Buswell was recognized on stage during the conference's opening ceremony on July 20 in Baltimore.

Buswell presented her poster, "The Electronic Medical Record: Does It Really Save Nurses' Time?," which she investigated with secondary author Genevieve Conlin, RN, MS, MBA, and additional authors Lisa Piziferri, Anne Kittler, and Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN. The study examined the real-time impact of an electronic medical record (EMR) on the work flow of an oncology infusion room nurse.

Buswell has worked at Dana-Farber for 21 years and has served as director for clinical operations and decision support since 2000. She plans to analyze these data further and identify specific tasks to fully evaluate the impact of the EMR in an ambulatory oncology infusion room.

ONS Members Serve on National Consensus Project Advisory Committee

The National Consensus Project (NCP) for Quality Palliative Care Task Force has assembled an advisory committee of leading experts in palliative care, expanding its efforts to nationally disseminate its *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care*.

Thirty-four experts, including five ONS members, comprise the interdisciplinary advisory committee, representing a range of specialties in palliative care, including hospice, clinical practice, social work,

psychiatry, ethics, religion and spirituality, pediatrics, health policy, and others.

The ONS members serving on the Advisory Committee are Nessa Coyle, RN, PhD, NP, FAAN, Patrick Coyne, RN, MSN, APRN, BC-PCM, FAAN, Pamela Hinds, RN, PhD, FAAN, Judith A. Paice, PhD, FAAN, and Deborah Witt Sherman, RN, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN. Working closely with NCP Task Force members, these experts will provide advice, assistance, and support in further disseminating the guidelines within specifically targeted healthcare organizations.

"We are very honored to have an advisory committee of colleagues to assist in the dissemination of the guidelines," said Betty R. Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN, chair of the NCP Task Force. "We believe that broad adoption of the guidelines will promote consistent, high-quality care and serve as a guide for existing and developing programs. Patients and families facing serious illness deserve care that addresses physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs."

NCP is a task force of the Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition, a consortium of three national palliative care organizations: the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. For more information, visit www.nationalconsensusproject.org.

Bernstein to Present on Comprehensive Care for Advanced Cancer

ONS member Sarah Bernstein, RN, MS, AOCN®, an oncology clinical nurse specialist in the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, will serve as a speaker at the Seventh Annual Josefin Magno Conference, which will be held November 8–9 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA. The theme of the conference is "Improving Care for Those Experiencing Life-Limiting Illness," with topics addressing the following.

- Evidence-based best practices for integrating medication, treatments, and therapies into the care provided for patients with serious, life-limiting illness
- A new understanding of why palliative care is central to the healthcare system
- Strategies for helping families and caregivers resolve psychological, spiritual, social, and ethical issues in end-of-life care
- Creative approaches for alleviating the suffering surrounding end of life
- Practical information about caring for patients with end-stage dementia and cancer
- Insight into public advocacy and policy making through federal legislation

In her presentation, Bernstein will address "Comprehensive Care for Advanced Cancer"

and join many other nationally and internationally known speakers who will present on issues that healthcare providers face in caring for people who are experiencing life-limiting illnesses. For more information, visit www.capitalhospice.org/healthcare/educational/Seminars.asp or call 703-531-6247.

Founder of the Modern Hospice Movement Dies

Dame Cicely Saunders, OM, DBE, FRCP, FRCN, a visionary credited with founding the modern hospice movement, died on July 14 at the age of 87 in London, England. She had been fighting cancer for several years.

Born on June 22, 1918, in Barnet, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom, Dame Cicely trained as a nurse before qualifying as a medical social worker and then training as a doctor at St. Thomas' Hospital Medical School. In 1967, she founded St. Christopher's Hospice, where for the first time, the link was established between expert pain and symptom control, compassionate care, teaching, and clinical research. Her work was studied and replicated by Florence Wald, who in 1971 established the first hospice in the United States, ushering in a new era in pain management and end-of-life care. Dame Cicely died at her beloved St. Christopher's.

Dana-Farber Attains Nation's Highest Honor for Nursing Excellence

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, has earned the prestigious Magnet status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the highest institutional honor awarded for nursing excellence. Dana-Farber is the only cancer center in New England—and one of fewer than 150 hospitals worldwide—to earn the distinction.

"Our nursing staff has continuously shown a commitment to excellence through their compassionate care for our patients, and their expertise in teaching and evidence-based practice is second to none," says Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, Dana-Farber's senior vice president for patient care services and chief of nursing. "It is truly a magnificent, well-deserved honor to be recognized by ANCC and a milestone for Dana-Farber."

Magnet recognition, an award considered by many to be the gold standard in nursing practice, was established in the early 1980s by the American Academy of Nursing to identify characteristics in hospitals that serve to attract and retain nurses. Since 1993, it has been a formal recognition program of ANCC, the nation's leading nursing accreditation organization and a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association.

A National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, Dana-Farber

provides adult cancer care in conjunction with Brigham and Women's Hospital (Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center) and pediatric cancer services in conjunction with Children's Hospital Boston (Dana-Farber/Children's Hospital Cancer Care).

Dana-Farber will be recognized as a Magnet institution until June 2009, when the hospital will have to reapply to keep its status. For more information, visit www.danafarber.org.

American Nurses Association Delegates Take Action to Improve Health Care

Achieving universal access to health care, ensuring nursing's vital role in providing care in community-based settings, changing workplace practices that lead to dangerous levels of fatigue among nurses, and protecting the rights of prisoners and detainees were among the many issues that nurse leaders acted on during the American Nurses Association's (ANA's) House of Delegates (HOD) June meeting.

The HOD, composed of more than 600 nurse leaders from ANA's 54 constituent member associations and organizational affiliates, was held June 17–19 in Washington, DC. As a result of ANA's 2003 bylaws amendments, organizational affiliates have both voice and vote in the HOD.

"The House of Delegates took bold action on behalf of the profession, approving reports

that advocate for Americans' right to quality health care, nurses' rights and welfare, the well-being of children, and human rights," said ANA President Barbara A. Blakeney, MS, RN.

The delegates overwhelmingly approved an HOD resolution on healthcare reform that will improve consumer access and reduce costs. The HOD-approved measure asks ANA to use its leadership role to work with other healthcare organizations and citizen action groups to carry out the goals outlined in the association's updated blueprint for healthcare reform, ANA's *Health Care Agenda 2005*. In that document, ANA states that health care is a basic human right and calls for an emphasis on preventive, community-based care and universal health coverage. The HOD resolution also directs ANA to work toward shaping the national debate in advance of the 2008 national election cycle and disseminate ANA's *Health Care Agenda 2005* to elected officials and policymakers.

In a related action, the HOD passed a measure aimed at protecting RNs' vital role in providing patient care in community-based or ambulatory care settings. The measure asks ANA to update relevant position statements on the replacement of RNs in these settings, as well as to evaluate recent trends, such as assistive personnel being allowed to administer medications.

For more information, visit www.nursingworld.org/rnrealnews.

Nursing Schools Offer Master's Programs to Address Faculty and Nursing Shortages

Several colleges and universities are offering unique nursing master's degrees to address the shortage of qualified nurses and nursing educators, including Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT, and Holy Names University (HNU) in Oakland, CA.

Westminster College offers a new master's of science in nursing education (MSNEd) degree, which is the only one in the state that prepares RNs for teaching both at the college level and in staff development roles. In addition to offering a master's degree, the program has been designed as a two-phase program that will give RNs the option of solely earning a nurse educator certificate during the first five courses (15 credits) of the program. To complete the master's degree, students will take two additional semesters of course work. The Westminster College School of Nursing and Health Sciences has designed the program to teach MSNEd students how to enhance student and teacher roles through a variety of courses, seminars, and research opportunities. For more information, visit www.westminstercollege.edu.

HNU offers a master's of science in nursing (MSN) program that focuses on the preparation of clinical faculty that will help alleviate the critical nursing shortage in California by preparing nurses to teach nursing students. HNU is collaborating with seven San Francisco Bay Area hospitals to reduce the nursing faculty shortage and increase RN education capacity. Through these unique alliances, Holy Names and its partner hospitals offer clinical faculty students two program options: (a) a two-year MSN with an education concentration or (b) a one-year, post-MSN education certificate program. Course work is provided on-site within the hospitals where the clinical faculty students work, via HNU's interactive video distance program. Students also may pursue the program on the HNU campus. Upon completion of either program, graduates will be prepared to educate nursing students in the clinical setting. For more information, visit www.hnu.org.

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 Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®, via phone (773-350-2234), fax (773-583-3477), or e-mail (pjassak@aol.com).