

## Oncology Nursing Society Member Named Chief Executive Officer at Duke University Hospital



Kevin Sowers, MSN, RN, FAAN, who began his career at Duke University Hospital (DUH) 24 years ago as an oncology nurse, has been named the hospital's chief

executive officer (CEO). In making the announcement, William J. Fulkerson, Jr., MD, senior vice president of clinical affairs for Duke University Health System (DUHS), highlighted Sowers' exemplary service over the past six years as chief operating officer (COO) at DUH and, for the past year, as interim CEO.

"Kevin is a proven leader who has made valuable contributions across the operational functions of the hospital, ranging from enhanced quality and safety measures to financial management," Fulkerson said. "His excellent relationships with physician faculty and employees at large illustrate that he is a highly-respected leader and superb choice to execute our vision for continuing to extend the legacy of excellence associated with DUH."

Sowers was named to the position following a national search process conducted by one of the country's leading executive recruitment firms.

In his roles as COO and interim CEO at DUH, Sowers has been responsible for implementing the hospital's strategic objectives in collaboration with the physician faculty, administrators, and staff and has had responsibility for the management of the hospital's clinical service units.

Sowers has driven organizational initiatives to improve clinical quality, patient satisfaction, work culture, and finance. He also launched the Strength, Hope, and Caring program to recognize hospital employees who exemplify those characteristics. He has led several major expansion and renovation projects within DUH, including expansion to the emergency department, modernization and expansion of hospital operating rooms, development of the state's only pediatric cardiac care unit, and expansion of the intensive care nursery.

"Throughout his two decades of service to DUHS, Kevin has played a significant role in the rise of DUH to one of the elite medical institutions in the country," said Victor J. Dzau, MD, chancellor for health affairs at Duke University and president and CEO of DUHS. "The dynamic nature of today's healthcare environment requires leaders who can effectively adapt to regulatory and reimbursement changes while always keeping the interests of patients as a primary focus. Kevin has demonstrated that he is exactly this kind of leader and he was a clear choice for this critically important position."

Prior to his roles as COO and interim CEO at DUH, Sowers had held a variety of administrative positions of increasing responsibility within DUHS, including those of associate vice president for hospitals and clinical facilities for DUHS, and as interim CEO of Durham Regional Hospital.

"It's an honor to be selected as the CEO of a world-class hospital with such highly skilled and dedicated faculty and staff," Sowers said. "I'm committed to furthering the hospital's mission of providing excellence in patient care through the clinical translation of innovative research, while maintaining a healthy operational and financial foundation."

Sowers is internationally known for his lectures and writings on the issues of leadership, organizational change, mentorship, and cancer care. His clinical research has focused on human responses to chronic illness.

Sowers received the Duke University School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 and was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 2008. He has also served in a variety of leadership roles at the national level within the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

For more information, visit [www.dukehealth.org](http://www.dukehealth.org).

## Association of Community Cancer Centers Honors ONS Member

ONS member Susan Leigh, RN, BSN, was honored with the Association of Community Cancer Centers' Annual Achievement Award for her long-standing advocacy, dedication, and commitment to quality cancer survivorship services and education. Leigh is a founding member



and past president of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS). She also initiated the formation of the Nurse Survivors Focus Group and the Survivorship Special Interest Group within ONS.

The award was presented to Leigh at the Awards Luncheon during ACCC's 35th Annual National Meeting at the Pocomac National Harbor in Maryland.

Leigh works as a cancer survivorship consultant and focuses on long-term and late effects of disease and therapy. In addition to surviving Hodgkin's lymphoma, she has been treated for breast and bladder cancers.

Leigh is an advocate for cancer clinical research studies at local and national levels. Locally, she serves as a consumer advocate at the Arizona Cancer Center in Tucson. Nationally, she sits on committees at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and has been a member of CARRA (Consumer Advocates in Research Related Activities) since its inception. Her current work with NCI includes co-chairing the newly formed Patient Advocate Steering Committee.

Leigh has been actively involved with Sunstone Cancer Support Centers, a community-based outreach program in southern Arizona. She also coordinates Life Beyond Cancer, a national women's retreat at Miraval Life in Balance outside Tucson.

Leigh joins a long list of distinguished past recipients of ACCC's Annual Achievement Award that includes pioneering researcher Judah Folkman, MD; Harmon J. Eyre, MD, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society; H. Lee Moffitt, an innovator and advocate of community access to clinical trials; and Harold P. Freeman, MD, an early advocate and creator of patient navigation programs.

For more information, visit [http://accc-cancer.org/mediaroom/media\\_pressreleases\\_leigh.asp](http://accc-cancer.org/mediaroom/media_pressreleases_leigh.asp)

## ONS Member Joins the James Cancer Hospital as Chief Nursing Officer

ONS member Susan Brown, RN, MSN, is the new chief nursing officer for the Ohio State University Comprehensive