

ONS Members Honored at Intercultural Cancer Council's Eighth Biennial Symposium

Two Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) members were honored at the Intercultural Cancer Council's (ICC's) Eighth Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved, and Cancer, which was held February 6–10 in Washington, DC. Helene G. Brown received the Susan Matsuko Shinagawa Cancer Control Leadership Award, and Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, PhD, RN, MN, presented the Herbert W. Nickens Memorial Lectureship.



Brown, an honorary ONS member, is director of Community Applications of Research, Division of Cancer Control, at Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and a senior lecturer in the School of Public

Health at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She has been at the forefront of the national cancer control movement since 1950 and is credited with leading the nation's battle against cancer quackery and implementing mass media approaches to promoting the Pap test in the 1950s and 1960s. In the early 1970s, she was instrumental in the Nixon Administration's "War on Cancer" and the establishment of a national cancer program, and she was one of the signers of the National Cancer Act. Her broad-based community leadership extends to working with the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society (ACS), University of Southern California's Norris Cancer Center, City of Hope National Medical Center, and the National Organization for Women. Brown currently serves as chair of ACS's chief executive officer's Advisory Committee and sits on several committees of the National Dialogue on Cancer.

The Susan Matsuko Shinagawa Cancer Control Leadership Award is given to an individual "whose leadership in the area of cancer control goes beyond the expected to the exceptional, who inspires others to aim high by his or her example, and whose esprit de corps brings greater recognition to the organization/program/message than to him- or herself." Shinagawa, a 10-year cancer survivor, served as the first sole chair of ICC.



Kagawa-Singer is an associate professor in the School of Public Health and Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. Her clinical area has been in oncology, and her research focuses on

disparities in physical and mental healthcare outcomes of ethnic minority populations with cancer. She serves on multiple local, state, and national committees, addressing issues of ethnicity and health care, and has published and lectured extensively on issues in cross-cultural health care, cancer, pain, grief and bereavement, end-of-life decision making, and quality of life. Presently, her research focuses on defining and developing standards of cultural competence in health care. Her current studies related to cancer include intervention studies to promote mammography in Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander women, quality of life in breast and cervical cancer survivors in multiethnic populations, and doctor/patient communication for breast cancer in elderly Latina and African American women.

The lectureship honors Herbert W. Nickens, MD, who served as assistant professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania from 1978–1986 and went on to hold a series of federal appointments within the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 1986, he became the first director of the Office of Minority Health at HHS.

For more information on the Symposium, visit <http://iccnetwork.org/symposium/eight>.

New Web Site on Pain and the Law Launched

The Center for Health Law Studies at Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, MO, and the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics recently launched a new Web site, Pain and the Law, at www.painandthelaw.org. This new resource represents the Internet's most comprehensive collection of materials and commentary on the legal and professional issues raised by the treatment of pain. The site was developed through a grant from the Mayday Fund.

The Pain and the Law Web site includes hundreds of links to primary sources, such as federal legislation and court decisions, as well as commentary from leaders in the field. Features of the site include breaking news, links to related sources, video from pain management conferences, and a free electronic newsletter. Sections include the following.

- The Statutes and Regulations section discusses the effects of legislation and professional standards and the tension between promotion of effective palliative care and controlled substance legislation.
- The Malpractice and Civil Actions section includes links to case decisions regarding malpractice claims for under- and over-medication as well as failure to refer and obtain informed consent and commentary on these claims.
- The Palliative Care and Criminal Action section covers criminal prosecution and includes prosecution of caregivers for both the over- and undertreatment of pain, links between palliative care and physician-assisted suicide, and prosecution arising from violation of controlled substance laws.
- The Entitlement Programs section deals with patients' access to Social Security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid, worker's compensation, reimbursement under private insurance, and protection under the Americans With Disabilities Act, highlighting the difficulty in assessing and measuring pain.

The Center for Health Law Studies at Saint Louis University is one of the nation's pre-eminent academic health law programs. The Center boasts a large number of full-time, nationally recognized faculty engaged in cutting-edge research and an extensive and imaginative selection of health law courses.

NLINKS Dedicated to Online Research and Concept Analysis

The North American Nursing Diagnosis Association and several donor members are sponsoring a new Web site dedicated to the development of online research and concept analysis. Called the Network for Language in Nursing Knowledge Systems (NLINKS), the

site is accessible at www.nlinks.org and serves as an international partnership of individuals, groups, and organizations with a unique mission to advance the development, testing, and refinement of language and informatics in nursing knowledge systems.

Although still a work in progress, users are encouraged to review NLINKS and submit their ideas, recommendations for improvement, and questions about the site. Individuals, groups, universities, organizations, and corporations are invited to become members of NLINKS.

Through its Research and Concept Analysis Centers, NLINKS aims at building teams of researchers and analysts in the development and application of standardized nursing language within the international nursing and healthcare communities. As long as other individuals, teams, or groups can support the cost involved, they may partner with NLINKS to design and implement their own online research studies, using the resources of the Research Center to create new online Centers (e.g., Informatics Center, Standards Center, Taxonomy Center, Language Developers Center, Nursing Knowledge Center).

For information on participating in or becoming a member of NLINKS, visit the membership and donations page.

Course Helps to Prepare Nurse Scientists With Research Training

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) has offered a three and one-half day course, "Research Training: Preparing Nurse Scientists," each summer for the past several years. The course is designed for doctorally prepared nurses who have not yet been successful in obtaining National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to support their research proposals. The course is competitive and has space for 40 participants each summer.

NINR plans to offer the course each year on the NIH campus. Because there are many more applicants for this course than can be accommodated each year, NINR now is offering the course in two mediated segments for any nurse wishing to enroll.

- An online segment awards five contact hours for registered users who complete the segment.
- A five-videotape segment captures the faculty presentations, complete with slides and teaching prompts to facilitate learning the content of presentations.

There is no cost for registration or completion of the online portion of the course. The videotapes are available at cost plus a small shipping and handling charge. The online course includes a "Resources" link for ordering the videotape(s) and can be accessed at <http://ninr.cm.net>. The online portion of the course is intended for nursing students at any level who want to learn more about NINR's programs that support research and research training. The videotapes are intended for doctoral students and faculty.

For more information, visit www.nih.gov/ninr/research/dir/flyer.html.

Free Patient Information on Mammography Screening Debate Available

Recent reports questioning the quality of evidence from existing mammography studies once again have raised the issue of whether women should undergo screening mammography. In an effort to educate the public and clarify the key issues in the mammography screening debate, ECRI, a nonprofit health-services research agency, has posted an article on its Web site that presents all sides of the debate. "Study Rekindles Debate Over Clinical Benefit of Screening Mammography" is available at www.ecri.org in the Patient Information

section. The article contains interviews with leading experts, examines the recent meta-analysis findings from the Cochrane group published in *The Lancet*, and summarizes U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson's February 2002 endorsement of screening mammography. The ECRI article also discusses the quality of the studies analyzed, changes in breast cancer mortality rates, and the effects of treatment on mortality rates. For more information, visit www.ecri.org.

Agency to Maintain National Quality Measures Clearinghouse

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently awarded ECRI a four-year contract to perform the technical work of developing and maintaining the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC), a database of healthcare quality measures. NQMC will be a publicly available, Internet-based library of measures to support healthcare quality research and program evaluation in health services. The Web site will be available in late 2002. This contract also will support the development of a common information technology (IT) platform for other AHRQ-funded healthcare information resources and clinical tools, such as the National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC). Under a separate contract with AHRQ, ECRI has performed the technical work of developing and maintaining the content and Web site for NGC (www.guideline.gov) since 1997. AHRQ's vision for the common IT platform is that it eventually will support searching of a variety of clinical tool modules through a common user interface. Users will be able to retrieve an integrated results set that includes quality measures from NQMC, clinical practice guidelines from NGC, and relevant content from other modules to be developed under subsequent contracts.

The NQMC contract directly supports AHRQ's goals, outlined in the agency's reauthorizing legislation, of support activities that improve the quality of health care, promote patient safety and reduce medical errors, and advance the use of IT for coordinating patient care and conducting quality and outcomes research. For more information, visit www.ecri.org.

Publish Your Accomplishments in the *Oncology Nursing Forum*

The *Oncology Nursing Forum* 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 Jane M. Fall-Dickson, RN, PhD, AOCN®, at 301-962-8281 (jdickson@nidcr.nih.gov).