

Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives Nurse Excellence Award



The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) selected Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Elizabeth A. Brunton, RN, MSN, OCN®, a lead nurse in the

Radiation Oncology Department at Scripps Clinic and Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla, CA, as the recipient of the 2010 ASTRO Nurse Excellence Award. The award is presented annually to an RN who goes above and beyond the normal standards of nursing practice. Brunton received the award, a \$1,000 grant, during ASTRO's 52nd Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Brunton received her bachelor's of science in nursing from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her master's of science in nursing from Case Western University in Cleveland, OH. She has worked at Scripps since 1986. Brunton is responsible for assessing the daily physical, nutritional, and emotional needs of radiation therapy recipients and assuring optimal patient care.

At Scripps, Brunton has worked across departments to develop education materials on radiation therapy to help patients and their families better understand the life-saving treatment. In 2009, she created an education orientation program for new patients. The course educates patients and their families about all aspects of radiation therapy, including physics, nursing, therapy, and simulation. Participants are asked to evaluate the course afterward, and the results are reported as part of Scripps' quality improvement process.

Brunton also assists patients with cancer during the transition from actively receiving treatment to becoming cancer survivors. She initiated a procedure to ensure that all patients receive information regarding their stage, pertinent test results, and specific information regarding their disease.

In addition to patient education, Brunton helps teach her nurse colleagues. She is a regular speaker at ASTRO nurse meetings as well as local ONS events. For

her presentation, "Mucositis—Patient Pain or Nurse's Bane," at ASTRO's Annual Meeting in 2005, Brunton received the highest evaluation ratings within ASTRO for that year.

ASTRO is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, biology, and physics, ASTRO is dedicated to improving patient care through education, clinical practice, advancement of science, and advocacy.

For more information, visit www.astro.org/meetings/annualmeetings.

ONS Member Named Health Policy Fellow



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) selected ONS member Janice Phillips, PhD, RN, FAAN, as a Health Policy Fellow for 2010–2011. The program is a minimum of

one-year residential experience in Washington, DC, that allows exceptional midcareer health professionals and behavioral and social scientists to actively participate in health policy processes at the federal level and gain hands-on policy experience.

Phillips is a manager of nursing research at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Illinois, where she assumes primary leadership in facilitating research and evidence-based practice. In addition, she is a research associate and an assistant professor in the Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics and Global Health at the University of Chicago, where she conducts breast cancer research among African American women.

Phillips' career has focused on advancing breast cancer knowledge and reducing breast cancer disparities among African American women through service, education, research, and advocacy. The results of her work have been presented in the United States as well as worldwide and have served as a cornerstone for shaping numerous initiatives targeting minority and underserved women.

RWJF focuses on pressing health and healthcare issues facing the United

States. As the largest philanthropy in the United States devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, RWJF works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change.

For more information, visit www.healthpolicyfellows.org.

ONS Member Wins Nursing Alumni Award



ONS member Carolee Polek, RN, PhD, AOCNS®, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Delaware in Newark, received the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) Shirley Novosel Award for Outstanding Nursing Alumni. The award is conferred annually on a PSU graduate who exemplifies the spirit of nursing and demonstrates a caring, professional style.

As an oncology nurse, Polek has dedicated much of her career to helping patients with cancer and educating others on cancer treatment and prevention. Her research findings have been featured in the *Oncology Nursing Forum*, *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, and *Blood*, and she has made scholarly presentations on a variety of cancer-related topics.

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Polek is a volunteer media spokesperson and serves on the boards of the regional chapters of the American Cancer Society and ONS, the Delaware Cancer Consortium, and the Beta Xi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. She also is a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's speaker's bureau. In addition to her bachelor's in nursing from PSU, Polek earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate from Temple University. She joined the University of Delaware faculty in 2001.

For more information, visit www.udel.edu/udaily.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Awards 2010 Nurse Researcher Grants

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) announced the awarding of

the 2010 Nurse Researcher Grants. The grants, designed to improve the quality of care and life for young patients with cancer and their families, totaled more than \$300,000 and extended to institutions in seven states. ALSF is the only national childhood cancer charity that funds nursing research. The following ONS members received grants.

- Janet Deatrack, RN, PhD, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, for mothers' and fathers' perspectives on family management of young adult survivors of childhood brain tumors
- Mary Hooke, RN, PhD, CPON®, Children's Health Care, Minneapolis, MN, for yoga for children and adolescents after completing cancer treatment
- Lauri Linder, PhD, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT, for relationships between symptoms and the hospital care environment in children and adolescents with cancer.

"I am so grateful to ALSF for their generous support of nursing research and am honored to be a grant recipient," said Hooke. "Their funding will allow me to evaluate the potential healthy benefits of a fun yoga program developed for children and teens who have recently completed cancer treatment."

ALSF emerged from the front yard lemonade stand of Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996–2004), a pediatric patient with cancer. With the vision of finding a cure for all childhood cancers, Alex set out to hold lemonade stands to raise funds. The foundation bearing her name now sponsors medical and nursing research that aims to find better treatments and cures for all childhood cancers and to improve the quality of care and life for children and their families currently fighting the disease.

For more information, visit www.alexlemonade.org.

Cancer Survivor Wins Top Prize in Lilly Art Competition

Following her lung cancer diagnosis, a woman who had spent almost 30 years in nursing felt as if her life had been "cut up, rearranged and become a different

picture." An amateur artist, Annette Zalewski, of Peoria, AZ, sought to express her cancer journey on canvas by using a cut-up painting technique for the first time. Her mixed media entry, "Wild Water," took first prize among the more than 600 submissions to the fourth biennial Oncology on Canvas: Expressions of a Cancer Journey Art Competition and Exhibition.

Lilly Oncology on Canvas, which provides the cover artwork for the *Oncology Nursing Forum*, is presented by Lilly Oncology and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. The competition invites residents of the United States and Puerto Rico who have been touched by cancer—patients, family members, friends, caregivers and healthcare providers—to express through art and narrative the life-affirming changes that give their cancer journeys meaning. Winners' prizes consist of donations made in their name to the cancer-related charities of their choice. Since Lilly created the competition in 2004, more than 3,600 individuals have submitted artwork and narratives.

For more information, visit www.lillyoncologyoncanvas.com.

ONS Member Presents Distinguished Lectureship



ONS member Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD, MA, FAAN, FPCN, a professor and research scientist in Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope in Los Angeles, CA, presented the first James Distinguished Oncology Nursing Lectureship at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC-James) in Columbus.

Ferrell, who has written eight books and more than 300 publications during her 33-year career as a nurse, gave a

lecture entitled, "Issues and Trends in Survivorship Care."

"Cancer survivorship is global. The demand of oncologists in this country are exponentially increasing, but the supply is continually decreasing at a rapid rate," said Ferrell.

Survivorship is a public health issue, said Ferrell, adding that a critical need exists to efficiently care for and monitor patients with cancer during and beyond their treatment, particularly as more patients become long-term survivors who are living either cancer-free or with cancer as a chronic disease.

Ferrell also called for a systematic process for survivorship and cancer prevention, stressing a crucial need to educate patients and their families and caregivers about the importance of follow-up care.

OSUCCC-James is a comprehensive cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute. Ranked among the top cancer hospitals in the nation, the center is one of only seven funded programs in the country approved by the National Cancer Institute to conduct both phase I and phase II clinical trials.

For more information, visit www.medicalcenter.osu.edu.

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