

Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives Prestigious Nurse-Oncologist Award

Patricia S. Ault, MSN, RN, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member and nurse practitioner in the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Department of Leukemia, is the recipient of the 2008 Ethel Fleming Arceneaux Outstanding Nurse-Oncologist Award.

Funded by the Brown Foundation, Inc., since 1982, the Arceneaux Award recognizes exceptional nurses at M.D. Anderson who are selected by a committee representing M.D. Anderson's clinical faculty, patient care administration, and nursing staff. Ault accepted a cash award of \$15,000, a crystal plaque, and a commemorative pin.

"I was honored to be nominated for the Arceneaux Award, shocked to be one of the finalists, and elated beyond belief to know I was the recipient," said Ault, an acute, adult, and family nurse practitioner in the hematology division of the institution's leukemia department. "The award is an endorsement of my goal to treat each patient with compassion while providing expert nursing care at M.D. Anderson."

Describing herself as a "walking billboard for M.D. Anderson" and its public education and prevention services, Ault is eager to put her \$15,000 prize money to work benefiting others. She is establishing a prevention clinic through a Weight Watchers® group that meets at her church. To encourage participants to follow through on their weight loss and health goals, Ault will reimburse their fees after a year of successful completion. In addition, during each participant's year commitment, Ault will monitor blood pressure, check glucose levels and discuss cancer preventive measures with healthy lifestyle choices.



From left: Assistant Treasurer of the Brown Foundation, Inc., Walter Negley; award recipient Patricia S. Ault, MSN, RN; and President of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center John Mendelsohn, MD; photo by Karen Hensley

Ault came to M.D. Anderson at the beginning of her oncology career in 1992. "Soon after becoming part of the M.D. Anderson team, I became aware that this is not just a hospital—it's an enormous family that has provisional assistance groups to meet the needs of all patients," she said. "Nursing is at the very center of this family, and I'm fortunate to be a part of those whose dedication to the good of the patient is unrivaled."

In 1999, Ault began working with Jorge E. Cortes, MD, professor of leukemia. She credits his support and encouragement throughout her professional advancement.

"Dr. Cortes has always recognized, appreciated, and valued everything I did for the patients," she said. "He taught me how to write manuscripts and conduct research. More important, he entrusts our patients into my care. Mutual respect is his calling card."

Ault became a nurse in midlife, enrolling in nursing school when her youngest child was in high school. A two-year degree at San Jacinto College led to a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) and a master of science from Texas Woman's University, where she is an adjunct faculty member. She received her Family Nurse Practitioner Certification from Texas Tech University Health Science Center. Over the years, Ault has continued to further her education, most recently enrolling in the clinical doctorate of nursing program at UTHSC-H.

"I can only fully serve my patients by continuing to learn and prepare myself to provide the best care possible—that's the least I can do for my patients and M.D. Anderson," she said.

Ault is recognized among the medical community for her work in clinical research and patient care. In 2007, she was selected as an international ambassador delegate to South Africa for professional specialization in oncology nursing. She has made dozens of presentations and has published prolifically. Yet she says the Arceneaux Award is the "most humbling honor I've received in my professional career."

"I never believed I would receive an award for doing something I love," said Ault. "We get so close to our patients, and to be recognized beyond the day-to-day business—it's spectacular."

Ault says she's proud to be a part of M.D. Anderson and its mission to eliminate cancer.

"I know I'm only one small part of the whole group sharing this responsibility," she said. "But I also know that my contributions to each patient, at each clinic visit, can make

a great difference in the outcome and the well-being of each of them. I do not take this lightly, and I remind myself every day of the privilege it is to work here and to have the opportunity to help. I will use the honor of this award to feed my resolve to contribute to this greater cause."

ONS Member Appointed to the National Cancer Institute's National Cancer Advisory Board



Victoria L. Champion, DNS, RN, FAAN, ONS member, associate dean for research, Edward W. and Sara Stam Cullipher Endowed Chair, and Mary Margaret Walther Distinguished professor at the Indiana University (IU)

School of Nursing recently was appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) by President George Bush. This is a six-year appointment, ending in 2014.

NCAB is an 18-member board that advises the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the director of the National Cancer Institute with respect to the activities of the Institute, including reviewing and recommending support grants and cooperative agreements following technical and scientific peer review. Members include leaders from the health and scientific disciplines as well as the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics and management and the environment.

Champion's program of research in behavioral oncology has provided a significant knowledge base from which to develop interventions that encourage primary and secondary cancer prevention activities, thus leading to the discovery of cancer at earlier and more curable stages. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than two decades, and she is using interactive technology to test format delivery and cost-effectiveness for breast cancer screening. Champion also is studying quality-of-life issues in breast cancer survivors and pilot testing interventions to increase patient and provider communication. Champion directs the Cancer Control Program for the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, serves as Associate Dean for Research at the IU

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School of Nursing and was just appointed to the Indiana Executive Board for Tobacco along with her recent NCAB appointment.

"This appointment is a reflection of the esteem in which Dr. Champion and her work is held. Her scientific contributions, her reputation for mentoring of young scientists across fields, and her high level of commitment to eradicating cancer through early detection is an inspiration to all of us. Early screening is the key to eradicating this disease which impacts the lives of so many in our country. Women with cancer, and those at risk for cancer, will benefit from Dr. Champion's involvement in this very important advisory council," said Marion E. Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN, distinguished professor and dean, IU School of Nursing.

To learn more about the IU School of Nursing, visit <http://nursing.iupui.edu>. To learn more about the IU Simon Cancer Center, visit <http://cancer.iu.edu>.

CURE Magazine Announces Winner of 2008 Extraordinary Healer Award

CURE magazine announced the winner and finalists of its 2008 Extraordinary Healer Award for Oncology Nursing during a reception at the ONS 33rd Annual Congress. Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., sponsored the award, which honors oncology nurses who demonstrate unwavering dedication, compassion and helpfulness. The finalists exemplify the exceptional efforts that nurses make in improving the lives of the patients and families with whom they work.

Almost 200 patients with cancer and caregivers submitted essays nominating oncology nurses. The winner, Karen Marchman, RN, OCN®, CCRP, a clinical research coordinator at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute in Orlando, FL, was announced during the second annual award reception alongside her patient, Sheila McThenia, a breast cancer survivor and mother of four young sons. Karen was described as a "priceless resource, trusted confidante and tireless advocate" who always answered a myriad of medical questions and thoughtfully addressed her patients' fears.

"The Extraordinary Healer Award for Oncology Nursing is an avenue for patients to express gratitude and publicly acknowledge their nurses for providing them with meaningful support and a steadfast commitment," said Kathy LaTour, editor-at-large, CURE and Heal magazines. "The hundreds of essays we receive reaffirm the important role that nurses play in a cancer patient's life."

The winning essay was featured in the Summer 2008 issue of CURE, a quarterly magazine for patients with cancer, survivors, and caregivers. A podcast of the essayists reading their nominations will be available on www.curetoday.com. In addition, the winning and finalists' essays are featured online at www.curetoday.com/healeraward.

ONS Garners Silver Awards for Publishing Excellence



The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) was honored by the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP) as a winner of the esteemed EXCEL Award in two categories at its 28th EXCEL Awards Gala in Washington, DC. The categories were

- Silver Award, Scholarly Journals—Feature Article category, "Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism," by Lynn M. Cloutier, RN, MSN, ACNP, AOCN®, published in the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing (CJON)*. "We are very honored to be recognized with this prestigious award," said Deborah K. Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN, editor of *CJON*. "Articles such as this one are instrumental in fulfilling our mission."
- Silver Award, Newsletters—Most Improved Newsletter to Magazine, *ONS Connect*. "The redesign of our newsletter has been a challenging and rewarding experience," said Debra M. Wujcik, RN, PhD, AOCN®, editor of *ONS Connect*. "To be recognized by SNAP in this way is quite an honor."

The ONS publishing division is a full-service publisher of resources designed to assist professional nurses and other members of the healthcare team to develop a foundation of knowledge about cancer care. For more information, visit www.ons.org.

The National Cancer Institute Launches New Portal on Web Site

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has launched a new portal on its Web site: Science Serving People. This new site will be updated often and provides the tools the public and advocates have asked for to effectively communicate about NCI and the impact of cancer research in the United States.

The public now can access information about NCI's budget, the burden of cancer in the United States, and stories of NCI's impact on real people in one place. Specific parts of the site you may be interested in are

- A brief slide set on why cancer research is important
- The cost of cancer
- Return on investment in NCI
- A collection of fact sheets that highlight the progress made in cancer research
- Two-page snapshots for each cancer type that discuss incidence, mortality, NCI funding, and key research initiatives
- By decade, descriptions of 100 years of advances in cancer research
- Success rates for grants in fiscal year 2007
- An overview of how the NCI budget is developed
- Examples of downsized and stopped programs
- A database of all cancer-related state-level legislation
- Four real stories about real people impacted by NCI research

Please send any feedback you have about additional information you would like to see highlighted on the site to nciadvocacy@mail.nih.gov.

Correction

In the article "Recruiting Breast Cancer Patients and Families to Behavioral Research in the Post-HIPAA Period" in the September 2007 issue of the *Oncology Nursing Forum*, the name of one author was inadvertently omitted. The correct list of authors should read Bowen, D.J., Fann, J.R., Andersen, M.R., Rhew, I.C., Gralow, J.R., Lewis, F.M., Hunt, J.R., Palomares, M., Moinpour, C.M., Alfano, C.M., and Ankerst, D.P. The author whose name was omitted was Catherine M. Alfano, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Public Health and Cancer Center at Ohio University in Columbus.

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? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for People and Events. Submissions can include a recent photo and should be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Diane M. Otte, RN, MS, OCN®, via e-mail at otte@mayo.edu or ottedm@charter.net.