

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Kagan Receives MacArthur Fellow “Genius” Award



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Sarah H. Kagan, PhD, RN, has been awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, the so-called “genius” award. She is only the second nurse to receive the honor, which comes

with an award of support of \$500,000 over the next five years. Kagan is an associate professor of gerontological nursing and the Doris R. Schwartz Term Professor in Gerontological Nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

The MacArthur Fellows Program, sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is designed to emphasize the importance of the creative individual in society. Fellows are selected for the originality and creativity of their work and the potential to do more in the future. Candidates are nominated, evaluated, and selected through a rigorous and confidential process. No one may apply for the awards, nor are any interviews conducted with nominees.

“The fellowship offers highly creative people the gift of time and the unfettered opportunity to explore, create, and accomplish,” said MacArthur Foundation President Jonathan F. Fanton. “The new MacArthur Fellows illustrate the Foundation’s conviction that talented individuals, free to follow their insights and instincts, will make a difference in shaping the future.”

“I am mystified by the tremendous honor and the responsibility I believe comes attached with [the award],” said Kagan. “I hope it brings great visibility to nurses who dedicate their lives to working with older adults—both those who conduct research but especially those nurses who daily put their clinical expertise to work by caring for older adults with cancer.”

As one of 24 fellows for 2003, Kagan was selected for revising, through clinical research, mentorship, and personal example, standards and practices for delivering health care to older adults suffering from cancer.

According to Afaf I. Meleis, PhD, FAAN, RN, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, Kagan “epitomizes the commitment of nurses who blend true scholarship with the highest humanitarian levels of nursing care to produce evidence-based practice, providing expert care

to vulnerable patients. It is a very special day for nursing as well because this award highlights the significance of what nursing is for patients and for health care.”

Kagan is the author of *Older Adults Coping With Cancer: Integrating Cancer Into a Life Mostly Lived* (1997) and was a column editor for the *American Journal of Nursing*. In addition to ONS, where she is an active member of the Advanced Nursing Research Special Interest Group, Kagan holds memberships in the Gerontological Society of America and the Society of Head and Neck Nurses.

For more information on the MacArthur Fellows Program, visit www.macfound.org.

Frank-Stromborg Appointed to National Advisory Council for Nursing Research



Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy G. Thompson has appointed ONS member Marilyn Frank-Stromborg, PhD, JD, FAAN, to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research.

Frank-Stromborg holds a three-year term on the council, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The council’s 15 members, 7 of whom are professional nurses recognized as experts in clinical practice, education, or research, advise leaders of the HHS, NIH, and National Institute of Nursing Research. Matters of concern include the conduct, support, and dissemination of information including basic and clinical nursing research, training, and other programs in health care. Council members also make recommendations on applications for research and research training grants and recommend those applications for projects that show promise of making valuable contributions to human knowledge.

Frank-Stromborg has received numerous awards, including the ONS Excellence of Scholarship and Consistency of Contributions to the Oncology Nursing Literature Award, supported by SuperGen, Inc., and the ONS Award for Excellence in Cancer Nursing Education, supported by Ross Products, a Division of Abbott Laboratories. She also was a recipient of the ONS Foundation Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lectureship in 1986.

An active ONS member, Frank-Stromborg has served in many different roles, including

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

serving on the ONS Board of Directors and as chair of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation’s Research Committee. Her contributions include 7 books, 34 book chapters, and more than 83 journal articles to the nursing and medical literature. She also edited *Cancer Prevention in Diverse Populations* (2nd ed.), along with ONS member Sharon Olsen, MS, AOCN®, published by ONS. Frank-Stromborg received her EdD in educational psychology from Northern Illinois University (NIU), her master of science degree in nursing from the Graduate School of Nursing at New York Medical College, and her bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry from NIU. She also holds a law degree from the NIU College of Law as a licensed adult nurse practitioner.

An NIU distinguished research professor, Frank-Stromborg also serves on the State of Illinois Board of Nursing as well as the National Cancer Institute Scientific Review Group—Subcommittee H, which reviews all cooperative oncology groups. She also chairs the research committee for the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

Summers Takes Nursing Lead at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center



ONS member Barbara Summers, PhD, RN, recently was appointed vice president and chief nursing officer and head of the Division of Nursing at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in Houston, TX. As she assumes her new leadership role, Summers will focus on three initial goals.

- Vigorously promote world-class oncology nursing practice that complements and enhances the practice of MDACC’s physicians and other caregivers.
 - Effectively partner with other clinical and administrative leaders to create a more collaborative framework for professional practice and research.
 - Create and implement a visionary strategic agenda for nursing at MDACC that links clinical practice, education, and research.
- “I believe oncology nursing is the most exciting, challenging, and gratifying of career choices for the nursing professional,”

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/04.ONF.17-19

Summers said. "Oncology nursing provides an ideal opportunity for developing collaborative working relationships to create a professionally, emotionally, and spiritually rewarding practice environment."

Summers holds a PhD in nursing with a specialty in healthcare services administration, as well as a master's degree in oncology nursing. Since her arrival at MDACC in 1997, she has served as center administrative director for the Hematology Care Center and, more recently, as associate vice president for clinical programs. She also is a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and recently was selected to be honored for outstanding contributions to nursing by the Texas Nurses' Association, District 9.

Summers previously served in a variety of leadership positions in hospital and ambulatory care administration for nonprofit and academic health centers. In collaboration with the National Cancer Institute, she designed and established a cancer nursing research program at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. She has received many professional honors and awards, including the National Institutes of Health's Director's Award for development of a national Nurse Scientist Training Program. Additionally, she has authored a number of published works about oncology nursing and professional practice.

Soldano Receives "Tribute to Nurses" Award

ONS member Debbie Soldano, RN, BSN, OCN®, clinical nurse manager in the Department of Surgery Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Cincinnati (UC) in Ohio, recently was awarded *The New York Times* Job Market inaugural "Tribute to Nurses" Award. Don Dilg, a patient with can-



Don Dilg (left), a patient with cancer at the University of Cincinnati's Barrett Cancer Center, nominated Debbie Soldano for The *New York Times* Job Market "Tribute to Nurses" Award.

cer at UC's Barrett Cancer Center, nominated Soldano for the award.

"I am deeply honored that Don and his family think so highly of the care we provide our patients at UC," said Soldano. "The nurses and doctors in UC's Division of Surgical Oncology are among the best in the country. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a great team and to have the ability to make a difference in people's lives every day."

The New York Times Job Market Tribute to Nurses awards program recognizes four nurses from across the nation (two nominated by their peers and two nominated by patients). The winners were recognized at the first annual *New York Times* Job Market Tribute to Nurses awards reception in New York City on October 31, 2003, and in a special section of *The New York Times Magazine*.

As clinical nurse manager for UC's division of Surgical Oncology, Soldano is often the first point of contact for patients who have recently learned they have cancer. This was the case for Don and Sharon Dilg when they learned that Don had appendiceal cancer and would have to undergo surgery.

"My first impression of Debbie put me immediately at ease. She was professional yet down to earth; she was compassionate and caring," said Don Dilg, a Spanish teacher, varsity golf coach, and director of special events at Bishop Fenwick High School in Middletown, OH. "Debbie is a highly trained medical professional, yet she was able to teach me how to manage my illness. From her I learned the key to limiting my cancer; I learned that cancer cannot conquer the spirit, it cannot shatter hope, it cannot cripple love, and it cannot silence courage. Through her example, Debbie has given me a new life, one filled with peace, a positive attitude, and a lot of hope."

Soldano's responsibilities include research, patient education, management of pre- and postoperative issues, and supervision of the daily operations of the Division of Surgical Oncology. Soldano is pursuing her master's degree at UC to become a nurse practitioner.

The New York Times Job Market Tribute to Nurses awards program provides an opportunity for healthcare organizations and patients alike to recognize nurses across the nation for their profound impact on the lives of those around them. For more information, visit http://surgery.uc.edu/news_oncology.html.

Oman Honored With AstraZeneca "Visions of Hope" Award

ONS member Sandra M. Oman, RN, OCN®, recently was honored with an AstraZeneca "Visions of Hope" Award at a special celebration to honor individuals and organizations nationwide that have demonstrated dedication in the fight against breast cancer in their local communities. The awards also distinguish those who have shown, through their work and spirit, that there is hope in the battle



Pictured (from left) are Joseph Purvis, MD, executive director of development for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; Johan Hoegstedt, vice president of Specialty Care, for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; Sandra M. Oman, AstraZeneca Visions of Hope Award recipient; Marvin Oman; and Steve Buckanavage, executive director for breast and prostate cancer, Commercial Operations, at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.

against breast cancer. The Visions of Hope Awards Program is part of AstraZeneca's Visions of Hope educational campaign, which features an interactive traveling breast cancer exhibit and community speakers program.

Oman, a nurse at Park Nicollet Health Services in Minneapolis, MN, is dedicated to making a difference in her local community. Her attitude, knowledge, and compassion are influential in the lives of her patients and their families. Oman has been serving patients at Park Nicollet Health Services since 1989 and prior to that spent many years working in the oncology department at Methodist Hospital. As part of her position as treatment room coordinator, she developed the system used at Park Nicollet for teaching patients complete self-care in areas such as drug use, pain control, nutrition, medical costs, and coping with the loss of a loved one. Oman also started a support group for patients with lymphoma and leukemia and their families. She has worked behind the scenes at the Park Nicollet Golf Marathon, where she has helped to raise more than \$25,000 each year for vital programs and quality medical services for the emotional and psychological aspects of cancer.

For more information about Visions of Hope initiatives, visit www.visions-of-hope.com.

Kessler Named Chair of Association of Community Cancer Centers' Palliative Care Committee



Recognizing the recent growth in the palliative care movement, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) has named David Kessler, RN, as its first chair of its Palliative Care Committee.

Kessler, director of palliative care for the Citrus Valley Health Partners and Citrus Valley Hospice in California, is best known as author of *The Needs of the Dying*, which received praise by Mother Teresa. His second book, *Life Lessons*, he cowrote with famed death and dying expert Elisabeth Kübler-Ross.

Kessler's unique background not only in palliative care but also as an author, grief and loss specialist, reserve police officer, and American Red Cross aviation disaster volunteer makes him a very compelling and insightful choice for ACCC. The association provides a national forum for addressing issues that affect community cancer center programs. ACCC's goal is to promote the continuum of quality cancer care from research and prevention through screening and diagnosis all the way to rehabilitation and hospice care.

For more information, visit www.davidkessler.org.

American Cancer Society Gives "Trish Greene Quality of Life Award" to Article on Cancer Pain Control

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recently bestowed its annual award for the best quality-of-life manuscript to "Implementing Cancer Pain Education for Medical Students." The article was published in the September/October 2001 issue of *Cancer Practice*, which has ceased publication.

This article describes a study to develop and pilot test a cancer pain education course for medical students consisting of a one-hour structured home hospice visit. The authors concluded that the use of actual patients with cancer, rather than simple didactic lectures, improved the educational value of the program. The authors of the study from the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine, Lexington, are Paul A. Sloan, MD, associate

professor, Department of Anesthesiology; Margaret Plymale, RN, Department of Surgery; Mitzi Johnson, PhD, associate professor, Department of Behavioral Science; and Christopher Montgomery, MD, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology. The authors from the Hospice of the Bluegrass, also in Lexington, are ONS members Pat LaFountain, RN, and Janet Snapp, RN, MSN, OCN®.

The Trish Greene Quality of Life Award honors the life and work of the late Patricia (Trish) Greene, RN, PhD. Greene, who was an active ONS member, served in a variety of roles as a volunteer and professional staff member during her 20-year association with ACS. Before her untimely death in August 1999, Greene received numerous awards for her lifelong contributions to improving and expanding patient and family services, establishing pain management as a foundation of cancer care, securing scholarships for oncology nurses and social workers, and recognizing and fostering the excellence of care being provided by all disciplines throughout the country.

ACS is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering, and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. For more information, call 800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

New Journal Validates Role of Integrative Medicine in Cancer

Prime National Publishing Company recently announced the launch of an important new cancer journal to meet the pressing need for scientific research in the rapidly growing field of integrative medicine. Led by Kristine A. Nelson, MD, and supported by an impressive cadre of established and highly regarded specialists, the *Journal of Cancer Integrative*

Medicine is uniquely positioned to meet the overwhelming demand from patients and healthcare providers for solid information on nontraditional cancer therapies.

The new journal advances a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care, bringing together clinicians and scientists from many arenas to establish a reliable body of research. The premier issue, which debuted in October 2003, included the following topics.

- Complementary medicine and the scientific method
- An overview of non-Western medical systems
- Lycopene efficacy as a preventive cancer therapy
- Nutritional status and medulloblastoma in children
- Acupuncture to reduce anxiety and pain during brachytherapy
- Defining clinically relevant effects in quality-of-life measures
- Patient and physician ability to distinguish authoritative from misleading complementary and alternative medicine Web sites

Each issue also will have the latest news from the field along with conference information and literature reviews. For more information, visit the journal's Web site at www.cancerintegrativemedicine.com.

Publish Your Accomplishments!

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