

## WCO-ONS BOARD

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WEST CENTRAL OHIO  
CHAPTER OF THE  
ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Reese, RN, BSN, OCN

Congratulations to the WCO-ONS Chapter for Celebrating 30 years! What a wonderful evening we had with such a distinguished panel of physicians that shared and celebrated our paths in oncology. This will be an evening that each of us will remember and cherish for years to come. I was asked to recap my welcome from the evening so decided this would be my message for this newsletter. Here you go...

What comes to your mind when you hear the word cancer? Do you think instantly that one has been handed a death sentence or ok, they have a fight ahead but they can do this. They will not let cancer win. There is no right or wrong way to feel about cancer. What matters is not how you feel but what one does with what they feel. Most of us have heard the poem "What Cancer Cannot Do" .....please read below.

### What Cancer Cannot Do (Author Unknown)

Cancer is so limited...  
It cannot cripple love,  
It cannot shatter hope,  
It cannot corrode faith,  
It cannot eat away peace,  
It cannot destroy confidence,  
It cannot kill friendship,  
It cannot shut out memories,  
It cannot silence courage,  
It cannot invade the soul,  
It cannot reduce eternal life,  
It cannot quench the spirit,  
It cannot lessen the power of God.

Each patient that I have the privilege to meet and help along their journey receives a copy of this poem. It is a reminder for them that there are many things that cancer (and their treatment) cannot do.

Oncology is such a rewarding but challenging field to work in. Whether you have had the pleasure of being in oncology for one year, four years, or twenty plus years, we each have been drawn to the field of oncology for a reason. This is the journey that we have been led to. We all have those

\*\*\*Continued on next page\*\*\*

patients, and families, that have touched our lives in ways that we will never forget. Their story is imprinted on our hearts. We get to embrace the joys of a patient going into remission, being able to provide a hug when one is feeling down, providing reassurance as one comes into the office for their next treatment, finding transportation for one that has no family to help care for them, offering support –and maybe some tears-when one realizes their cancer has reoccurred, to even holding one’s hand. These are experiences, to name a few, that an oncology nurse has the pleasure to share with our patients. Being diagnosed with cancer turns one’s life upside down in a way that we never thought possible. They are on a journey they did not choose, and we as nurses are here to hold their hand along the way from providing education about their diagnosis and treatment, how to cope/manage side-effects, where to receive a wig or find a support group to help them along the way. Each of our patients fight with tenacity and exude a feeling of hope that is felt by all. We are all better nurses for this. We are more compassionate, understanding, kind, and appreciate all that life offers to each of us every day.

The field of oncology has changed so much over the years. Fortunately for the better-not only for our patients and family members, but for us as nurses and physicians. Oncology is challenging in that we are each learning about new drugs to treat cancer, and how to manage the side-effects.

Our theme for the evening was “Lessons from the Past...Inspiration for the Future.” The celebration was a way for each of us to reflect on how the profession of oncology has advanced as well as how the collaboration between an oncologist and oncology nurse have improved patients overall care.

There is a poem that I ran across that was published in CJON (December 2013) titled “After Cancer” by Genie Gravelin

We learn to take the “little things” in stride.

We concentrate on positive energy and the beauty that surrounds us.

We rush less, laugh more, and live with greater intensity.

Our focus shifts.

Material things become less important, and the people in our lives become more dear.

We derive our greatest pleasures from our relationships.

We become more tolerant of imperfections, and more appreciative of the special moments we share with the people we love.

We have a deeper understanding of how quickly the years pass, so we try to get as much as we can out of every day.

This poem talks about a patient after the completion of treatment, but I feel it is true for us as oncology nurses. Thank you for giving of yourself, and your heart, to each patient you touch along the way.

I would love to hear from you....you can reach me at [sjzcreese@earthlink.net](mailto:sjzcreese@earthlink.net) or call me at 470-2380.



*Congratulations!*



**ELENA MIKALAUSKAS, RN,MS,AOCNS**

She is the winner of the 2014 Alice Jordan Mentorship Award Winner

# FUTURE MEETINGS

June 19, 2014

Please check our website or  
contact a member of the board for additional information

Registration begins at 5:30pm

Program begins at 6:00pm

RSVP to Nan no later than Monday, June 16th

July 17, 2014

Please check our website or  
contact a member of the board for additional information

A presentation will be given concerning breast cancer

Registration begins at 5:30pm

Program begins at 6:00pm

RSVP to Nan no later than Monday, July 14th

September 25, 2014

Vendor Fair

Presidential Banquet Center

Vendors will be set up from 5:00p – 6:15p

Program begins at 6:30pm

RSVP to Nan no later than Monday, September 22nd

WCO-ONS members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**Contact Mary Murphy @ 937-256-4490 x4417**

**Go green as efforts are made to carpool to the event with other members**

# BOARD RETREAT

The next Board Retreat is on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am at Hospice of Dayton.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### LISA WALTERS, RN, OCN

Lisa Walters is our featured member this quarter. She works part time (2 – 3 days per week) at Cancer Specialists of Greater Dayton. Lisa has been an oncology nurse for 28 years and began in the field of oncology after Dr. Dale Hines asked her to work for him. It is her love of her job and the people that she works with that inspires her. A few of the benefits that Lisa likes as being a member of WCO-ONS are the CEUs, seeing new and fun people as well as learning about new oncology drugs.

## CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY WESTERN OHIO

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT with the intent that all CSCWO participants, instructors, facilitators, partners, donors and referral agents are informed with regard to a major decision that has been made by the CSCWO Board of Trustees.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Cancer Support Community Western Ohio announced the following action by the Board of Trustees. It is with regret we inform you that as of, Monday, June 30, 2014 operations at the Cancer Support Community of Western Ohio will be suspended. Cancer Support Community Western Ohio is proud to have provided *Education and Hope* to individuals with a diagnosis of cancer and their caregivers since October 2011. In this time we have touched the lives of 3,500 individuals.

There is an unfortunate reality in Dayton, Ohio; the need for service to the community surpasses the availability of funding. This has created a challenge for many, including our organization.

As we took a look out over the next few weeks and months, the decision was made to suspend operations to allow thoughtful planning for the future. Please know, the Trustees & Staff are not taking this decision lightly and are working diligently to make this transition as gentle as possible.

**We extend our most sincere appreciation** to the many Volunteer Instructors and Presenters who offered their expertise without remuneration; weekly Volunteers who graciously provided hospitality and clerical support along with those who offered technology and electronic services. Our donors were few but mighty and were dedicated to *ensuring that no one face cancer alone*. We thank each of you, for your time, talent and treasure.

We encourage you to refer or attend other community programs that offer services to individuals with a diagnosis of cancer and to take advantage of the following Cancer Support Community offerings:

The **Cancer Support Helpline** is open Mon-Fri from 9 am- 8 pm ET. This Helpline will assist those recently diagnosed, individuals in active treatment and those facing a recurrence and their families. Please call 1-888-793-9355.

Cancer Support Community-online community, **The Living Room** offers support and education by way of professionally led support groups, informational bulletin boards and the ability to create your own, personal website.

To take advantage of these free services, visit

[www.cancersupportcommunity.org/onlinesupport](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/onlinesupport).

Cancer Support Community **Open to Options**® is available to anyone facing a treatment decision. Please call 1-888-793-9355 to request a session with one of CSC's counselors.

In-person **Education and Support** are available to you at the Cancer Support Community Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky, located in Blue Ash, Ohio at: 4918 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Please call 1-513-791-4060 or find them on the web at [www.cancersupportcincinnati.org](http://www.cancersupportcincinnati.org)

**All programs are available free of cost.**

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees and Staff of CSCWO

# *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to our very own Mary Murphy! She is the newest member of the Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health's Alumni Wall of Fame. This award is presented to graduates who personify a distinguished level of achievement in the nursing profession and possess a high standard of integrity and character. Members are inducted once every five years in conjunction with the College's anniversary celebrations. The presentation was held on Thursday, March 20, 2014 in Wright State University's Student Union Pathfinder Lounge



\*Congratulations also to Joyce Russo who won a \$25.00 gas gift card in a drawing for her participation in voting for the National ONS election.

\*Congratulations to Doris Murph for the Ohio Outreach Award



## NEW SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Robin Arthur has accepted the position of Scholarship Chair. Thank you to Susie Newton for her years as Scholarship Chair.

## ONS FOUNDATION



Basket our chapter made and donated to the ONS Foundation for their raffle

# POLITICAL UPDATES

BY MARY MURPHY, RN, MS, AOCN, ACHPN

WCO POLITICAL ADVOCACY CHAIRPERSON

BOARD MEMBER, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

**Tobacco Control Funding-** The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark 1964 Surgeon General's Report as a platform for the persistent messaging through 2014. The critical message:

Evidence-based strategies and outcomes work

Continue to challenge the tobacco industry

Tobacco still remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death

In the future 3 proven tobacco control strategies

1. funding prevention and cessation
2. Increasing taxed,
3. Protecting environmental smoke and tobacco policies.

**Oral chemotherapy Parity the oral chemo parity bill (SB99)** – was called for hearings for the Senate Insurance Committee. The actions of the ACS Can and a coalition of patient advocate group, pharmaceutical companies and cancer clinics, have brought movement to this bill. The bill passed on 12/4/2013 but will reach the Senate floor after the holiday recess. The majority of the party members of the committee were very vocal in expressing shame and disappointment that they had not taken taking on the bill.

**Youth Access to Alternative Nicotine Products (HB144)** -Youth access to alternative Nicotine Products is passed out the House and is being championed and introduced across the country but the tobacco industry as a means of mudding the waters to the definition of e/cigarettes. The ACS is in opposition of this bill due to its long term effects on indoor and taxations. Watch for more on this as you speak with your patients!

**Tanning Booth Access for Minors (SB 113)** - the bill will be stalled in the House Health Committee despite many supports efforts to pass this bill. The bill will now be moved to the Senate versions and ask for testimony in late October. Stay tuned this is when we will need your help!

Palliative Care Updates

HR BILL 1666 and HR 1339/S641 is focus on the quality of care and life act and the Palliative Care and House deduction and training act:

The focus is:

Advanced patient, family, and public understand of how palliative care improves the quality of care and quality of life

Develop well trained workforce to ensure sufficient numbers of health care professions with appropriate training and skills are available to teach and direct palliative care.

Invest in research to provide Evidenced Based Research

Expand the delivery of palliative care in hospital, nursing homes, community setting through improved data collection, quality measurement and provider payment.

To ensure timely access to prescription medication for effective management of pain and distressing systems.

## CANCER PATIENTS CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT



In many cases Ohio cancer patients are being charged much more for their treatment than cancer patients in 33 other states. Ohioans pay more for cancer treatment simply because the chemotherapy their doctor recommends for them comes in a pill instead of through an IV. This difference prevents some patients from affording life-saving care.

[We need your help today to change this.](#) The Ohio House of Representatives will vote soon on a bill that would ensure the cost to cancer patients for chemotherapy that comes in a pill is not more expensive to patients than more traditional IV chemotherapy.

33 states and the District of Columbia have already passed similar laws to help cancer patients access the treatment their doctor recommends. [Take a moment right now to let your lawmaker know that you want Ohio to be the 34<sup>th</sup> state to pass this law.](#) Ohio's cancer patients can't afford to wait.

Jeff Stephens  
Ohio Government Relations Director

## ANA FORM LETTER FOR DME

Here is another site for anyone who wants to send a letter or has a concern about cancer related topics.

[http://www.rnaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=nstat\\_take\\_action\\_home](http://www.rnaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=nstat_take_action_home)

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the ONS Foundation, and the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) are dedicated to the professional development of oncology nurses around the world. Through the awards, scholarships, and research grants described in this section of [www.ons.org](http://www.ons.org), these organizations seek to recognize those nurses devoted to the care of individuals with cancer and to the speciality of oncology nursing.

### **ONS Excellence Awards**

*ONS Excellence Awards provide members with unique opportunities to be recognized for their contributions and achievements within their field of expertise.*

- [Excellence in Blood and Marrow Transplantation](#)
- [Excellence in Cancer Prevention and Early Detection](#)
- [Excellence In Care Of The Older Adult With Cancer](#)
- [Excellence in Medical Oncology](#)
- [Excellence in Surgical Oncology](#)
- [Excellence in Survivor Advocacy](#)
- [Excellence in Patient/Public Education](#)
- [Excellence in Radiation Therapy Nursing](#)
- [Linda Arenth Excellence in Cancer Nursing Management](#)
- [Mary Nowotny Excellence in Cancer Nursing Education](#)
- [Excellence in Oncology Nursing Health Policy and Advocacy](#)

Information can be found by logging into ONS, scroll over the Practice Resources tab and select Scholarships and Awards. (<http://www2.ons.org/Awards>)

## GET CERTIFIED FOR FREE IN 2015

### Roberta Scofield Memorial Award

Are you due to renew your Oncology Certification in 2015? Do you pay for the exam yourself? If so, here is a way to get your exam or renewal for free. Some years, there are some awards that go UNAWARDED because of not having enough applicants. ONCC will award up to 100 Roberta Scofield Memorial Certification Awards for 2015. The award includes a free registration for a 2015 ONCC certification test or renewal by ONC-PRO. To apply, nurses must submit an application form that includes a brief biographical sketch and an essay of up to 250 words describing how certification will help the individual achieve his or her professional goals.

Applications are due August 1, 2014. Applicants will be notified of their status in fall 2014. The award only may be used for a certification test or renewal registration in 2015. Applications are available at [www.oncc.org/Awards/Awards/Scofield](http://www.oncc.org/Awards/Awards/Scofield).

**EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE NURSING  
ASSOCIATION  
CINCINNATI TRI-STATE CHAPTER**

Wednesday, July 9, 2014  
Pain Management

All meetings are located in the Plaza A Conference Room at the West Chester  
Hospital

5:30p – Sign in, dinner, and brief business meeting  
The program begins around 6:15p

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) is a membership nationally recognized organization created to establish a network and support for nurses working in the specialty of palliative nursing across the lifetime continuum. It provides resources and support for advance practice nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nursing assistants and administrators who care for individuals with serious or life-threatening illnesses.

The Cincinnati Tri-State Chapter meets bimonthly at the West Chester Hospital, West Chester, Ohio 45069. The contact person is Debbie Heidrich ([debbie.heidrich@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.heidrich@gmail.com)).

Please consider joining the local tri-state chapter; the presentations are excellent and the opportunity to network is always beneficial.

**UPCOMING WCO-ONS 2014 BOARD MEETING DATES:**

Members are invited, welcome and encouraged to attend!

**WHEN:** September 9, 2014  
November 4, 2014

**WHERE:** Hospice of Dayton

Meetings are on Tuesday evenings unless otherwise specified. Complimentary dinner is served at 5:30 pm. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm following dinner. Please contact Mary Murphy at 937-256-9507 ext. 4417 to make reservations for the meal.



Log on to our WCO-ONS website at

[www.wcoho.vc.ons.org/](http://www.wcoho.vc.ons.org/)

Log on to our national website at

[www.ons.org](http://www.ons.org)

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