

ONCOLOGY NURSING CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carlton Brown Named 2004 AOCN[®] of the Year

PITTSBURGH, PA -- April 7, 2004 -- The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has selected Carlton Brown, RN, MSN, AOCN[®] as 2004 AOCN[®] of the Year. Brown won the award for his accomplishments in oncology clinical practice, education, and research; for his significant contributions to oncology nursing and oncology nursing service; and for supporting and promoting oncology nursing certification. He is the Clinical Head Nurse at the US Army/Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

In his role at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Brown manages the oncology/bone marrow transplant unit and an outpatient chemotherapy unit that has approximately 1,000 patient visits per month. He coordinates care for inpatient chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant patients on a daily basis. He educates the nursing staff on cancer treatment and symptom management. Brown created a Chemotherapy Administration Course, which he teaches four times per year, and a Cancer and Symptom Management Course, which he teaches twice per year. As an End of Life Nurse Education Consortium graduate, he is qualified to teach end of life and palliative care, and presents a course on end-of-life care for the Army. He established, and continues to coordinate, a chemotherapy qualification process for inpatient and outpatient nurses.

As a researcher, Brown was the principal investigator for a \$130,000 funded research study that measured the effectiveness of different teaching methods on testicular self-exam among active duty soldiers. The outcome of his work was a 12-minute professionally produced video on testicular cancer and self-exam that can be distributed to every male military member entering or currently serving on active duty, thereby educating thousands of men who are at risk for this disease. The final study results are pending publication.

Brown encourages certification in a number of ways, including always using his AOCN[®] credentials with his name to help educate nurses, physicians, patients, and other healthcare professionals about certification. He encourages certification among his nursing staff,

teaches certification review courses, and coaches nurses in preparing for certification tests. In less than three years, he has increased the percentage of certified nurses at his facility from 0 to 30%. He also participates in ONCC's Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program, and is a contributing editor to the *ONS News*, the official newsletter of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

Brown is one of more than 21,000 nurses certified either as an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN[®]), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN[®]), or Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON[®]).

The AOCN[®] of the Year Award is supported by Novartis Oncology and is presented annually to an advanced oncology certified nurse. To win the award, nominees must obtain two recommendations from colleagues in the nursing profession; prepare an essay describing how (s)he has promoted certification; summarize services offered that enhance oncology care and oncology nursing; and demonstrate accomplishments in two of three areas of oncology nursing practice – clinical practice, education or research.

Recipients receive \$1,000 and a crystal award at the Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses at the ONS Annual Congress.

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation, an affiliated organization of ONS, administers and evaluates programs for certification in oncology nursing and maintains a Web site at www.oncc.org.

ONS is a national organization of approximately 30,000 oncology nurses and other healthcare professionals committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. ONS is the largest association of oncology professionals in the world and maintains a Web site at www.ons.org.