



News Release

E-mail: oncc@ons.org
Website: www.oncc.org

125 Enterprise Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15275-1214 • 412-859-6104 • Fax- 412-859-6168

CONTACT: Pamela Asfahani
Product Manager
412-859-6253
pasfahani@ons.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joan O’Hanlon Curry Chosen 2007 CPON[®] of the Year

PITTSBURGH, PA – October 9, 2007 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has selected Joan O’Hanlon Curry, RN, MS, CPNP, CPON[®] as the 2007 CPON[®] of the Year. Curry won the award for her significant contributions to pediatric oncology nursing and oncology nursing service and for supporting and promoting certification in oncology nursing. She is Administrative Nurse Manager/ Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in Bronx, NY. Curry was presented with her award at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurses on October 5, 2007, in Milwaukee, WI.

According to one of her colleagues, in just two years since joining the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), Curry has had “a major impact on the quality of care delivered, the research infrastructure, the administrative organization of the division (which has had far reaching impact on the hospital overall), the education of nurses/nurse practitioners, and establishing standards.” Curry is noted for:

- Developing an ambulatory chemotherapy program in which children receive chemotherapy as outpatients via pumps in backpacks. The program has been proven to be cost-effective and to have a positive impact on the quality of life for patients and families. She has been invited to instruct staff at other children’s hospitals on how to set up such a program.
- Serving as an instructor for the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) Chemotherapy Course in her area as well as in other parts of New York state, New Jersey, and Virginia; as a trainer for the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) course; and as a trainer for the ONS Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Course.
- Presenting at national APHON conferences and other nursing conferences.
- Presenting educational in-service programs at a community rehabilitation hospital in New York to teach staff about the special requirements for patients with cancer.

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- Developing a school re-entry program for children.
- Introducing town hall meetings where patients and families can discuss issues related to treatment and services.

Curry is an avid supporter of certification and participates in the ONCC Advocates Program. Currently 75% of the nurses in her division are certified, and 100% are expected to be certified by the end of 2007. She also encourages certification among nurses at neighboring facilities that provide care for children with cancer. Within her community, Curry is currently working to build a children's hospice.

Curry serves on numerous institutional committees, including co-founder of the Oncology Nursing Council, the Service Excellence Committee, the Infection Control Committee, the Pediatric Quality Committee, and the Bereavement Committee.

Curry is one of more than 25,000 nurses certified either as an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN[®]), Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON[®]), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN[®]), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP[®]), or Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS[®]).

The CPON[®] of the Year Award is supported by Novartis Oncology and is presented annually to an oncology-certified nurse. To win the award, nominees must obtain recommendations from two colleagues in the pediatric oncology profession; prepare an essay describing how (s)he has promoted certification; summarize services offered that enhance pediatric oncology care and oncology nursing; and demonstrate accomplishments in one of three areas of pediatric oncology nursing practice – clinical practice, education or research. Recipients are presented with \$1,000 and a crystal award at the Recognition Breakfast for Certified Pediatric Oncology Certified Nurses at the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses Annual Conference.

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation, an affiliated organization of the Oncology Nursing Society, administers and evaluates programs for certification in oncology nursing.