



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debra Thaler-DeMers Chosen 2005 OCN[®] of the Year

PITTSBURGH, PA – May 11, 2005 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has selected Debra Thaler-DeMers, RN, OCN[®], PRN-C, PHN, as the 2005 OCN[®] of the Year. Thaler-DeMers won the award for her significant contributions to oncology nursing and oncology nursing service and for supporting and promoting oncology nursing certification. She is a staff nurse IV at Stanford University Hospital and Clinics in Stanford, CA.

At her workplace, Thaler-DeMers teaches a multi-day oncology review course, conducts Oncology Nursing Series Education classes, is an ONS Chemotherapy/Biotherapy course trainer, teaches the End-of-Life Nursing Education Curriculum, facilitates the Strength for Caring Education and Support for Family Caregivers Program, and teaches a workshop on sexuality issues for women with cancer. She also teaches in the American Cancer Society's Biology of Cancer Lecture Series, teaches cancer advocacy for women through the US Oncology Life Beyond Cancer Program, lectures healthcare professionals on survivorship issues for the Centers for Disease Control, and trains nurses to provide cancer care through the Parish Nurses Association.

Thaler-DeMers presents an OCN[®] review course, teaches test-taking skills, develops practice questions for course participants, and teaches study strategies. She has developed a set of flash cards based on the test content areas, which she shares with all class participants, and the course outline is provided on CD-ROM.

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She currently is working with *Cure* magazine to organize regional conferences for oncology nurses, patients, and family caregivers. She edits portions of the Lance Armstrong Foundation Web site. She was instrumental in developing the Cancer Survival Toolbox, a joint project of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, the Oncology Nursing Society, and the Association for Oncology Social Work. In 2003, Thaler-DeMers was invited to address the President's Cancer Panel on the topic of survivorship issues for adults.

Thaler-DeMers is one of more than 21,000 nurses certified either as an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN[®]), Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON[®]), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN[®]), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AONCP), or Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS).

The OCN[®] 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 nursing profession; prepare an essay describing how they have promoted certification; summarize services offered that enhance oncology care and oncology nursing; and demonstrate accomplishments in one 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 the Oncology Nursing Society, administers and evaluates programs for certification in oncology nursing.