FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denise Desrochers Honored as 2015 Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse of the Year

PITTSBURGH, PA – Oct. 8, 2015 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has chosen Marie Denise Desrochers, BSN, RN, CPON®, as the 2015 Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON®) of the Year. Desrochers, of Cohasset, Mass., was selected for the award based on her contributions to pediatric oncology nursing and nursing service, and her support and promotion of oncology nursing certification.

Desrochers, a University of Massachusetts Lowell alumni, is a Clinic Nurse at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass. Prior to her experience at Dana-Farber, Desrochers, formerly of Cherry Hill, NJ, was a nurse at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for 21 years. As a promoter of certification, she was instrumental in initiating Certified Nurses Day™ at CHOP, and implementing ID “badge buddies,” which identified all certified nurses at the institution. In addition, Desrochers helped nursing leadership to recognize the BMTCN™ exam by successfully encouraging leadership to reimburse the cost when a nurse passes the exam.

In addition to her certification efforts, Desrochers is a dedicated volunteer. She has donated her time to Alex’s Lemonade Stand, CHOP’s Annual Beyond Cancer celebration, Parkway Run Cancer Fundraiser, and her local Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) chapter. Desrochers has been involved in APHON for 32 years, often serving on committees when needed. As the former Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia APHON Chapter, she has supported the initiative to provide monthly educational opportunities to the chapter.

Committed to education, Desrochers serves as a leader and promoter of ongoing education for fellow nurses and patients. As part of the CHOP Education Team, she taught new families general oncology information, and as the APHON Education Chair, she coordinates the CE paperwork to allow nurses to obtain CE credits. She has previously served as a chemotherapy/biotherapy instructor, as well as a CPHON® review course instructor for four years. She was also involved with teaching the new nurse orientation at CHOP.
“It is an honor to be CPON® of the Year. I am proud to be part of a network of nurses that work every day for the well-being of children with cancer and an organization that supports the nurses who care for these children professionally and emotionally,” says Desrochers.

Desrochers was honored at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Annual Conference in September.

The Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse of the Year Award is presented annually to an outstanding Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse or Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse. To win the award, nominees must have recommendations from two colleagues in the nursing profession; prepare an essay describing how (s)he has promoted certification; summarize services offered that enhance pediatric hematology/oncology care and nursing service; and demonstrate accomplishments in at least one area of oncology nursing practice – clinical practice, education, or research.

Desrochers is one of more than 37,000 nurses certified as an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®), Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON®), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN®), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®), Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Specialist (AOCNS®), Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®), Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse (CPHON®), or Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN™).

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties. ONCC administered the first Oncology Certified Nurse examination in 1986. Today, ONCC offers basic and advanced certification in adult oncology nursing, basic certification in pediatric oncology/hematology nursing, and specialty certification in breast care nursing and blood and marrow transplant nursing. Learn more about ONCC at www.oncc.org.

###

**Contact Information:**
Danielle Kory
Marketing Coordinator
ONCC
dkory@oncc.org
(412) 859-6369