Get Ready to Vote in the New Year

Watch your email in February 2014 for your opportunity to select the next member of the ONCC Board of Directors.

Voting in the ONCC Board of Directors election will take place from mid-February to mid-March 2014. The timing of the election has changed. In recent years, the election took place from November to December. This year’s later date will accommodate a new process for slating candidates on the ballot.

Earlier in 2013, the ONCC Board of Directors approved a new nomination process that focuses on recruiting candidates who possess specific leadership competencies. These competencies have been identified as important in guiding the organization in the future. The leadership competencies include Universal Essential Competencies (e.g., advocacy, communications, mentoring, stewardship, relationship-building) that are important for all Board members to possess. They also include Collective Competencies, or competencies that are desirable for one or more Board members to possess. The Collective Competencies include business acumen, prior board experience, research expertise, and knowledge of test development.

Nomination candidates submitted a self-assessment of their skills related to the competencies. Each candidate also submitted references from two professional colleagues, each of whom described the candidate’s abilities in reference to the competencies. The Nominating Committee reviewed the nominations and selected candidates to be interviewed by telephone. After the interviews are complete, the candidates will be selected to appear on the ballot.

When the election opens, all certified nurses will be sent an email with a link to a personalized online ballot. All voting must be completed online. Watch your email, and get ready to cast your vote.

Winning Nurse Sets Shining Example as OCN® of the Year
Michele Farrington, BSN, RN, CPHON®

Janine Kokal, MS, RN, OCN®, was recognized as the 2013 Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®) of the Year at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses. Kokal is a leader in the oncology community who has been certified since 2009 and is well deserving of this honor.

According to Julie Ponto, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, AOCNS®, Professor for the Graduate Programs in Nursing at Winona State University in Rochester, MN, Kokal’s “enthusiasm for patients and families with cancer is captivating and conveys the importance of providing individualized and compassionate nursing care.”

Kokal is currently an educator in the Mayo Clinic Cancer Education Program in Rochester, MN. She coordinates Cancer Connections, a monthly cancer education program for multidisciplinary healthcare professionals. Physicians, nurses, social workers, and therapists benefit from this program, which focuses on a diverse range of oncology topics.

(See “Kokal” on page 8)
At this year’s ONS Leadership Weekend, held July 25–27 in Pittsburgh, PA, the ONCC Board of Directors, select committee chairs, and staff members came together to draft the strategic plan for 2013–2015. Having met the goals of our strategic plan for 2010–2013, the time had come to re-evaluate where we are as an organization and look at the driving forces that will shape our plan for the future.

Strategic planning is an organizational process that is used to define its direction, set priorities, focus energy, and allocate resources over a period of several years. This helps to ensure that employees and other stakeholders of the organization are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes and results, and assess and adjust the organization’s direction in response to a changing environment. Strategic planning is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what the organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. A strategic plan is a document used to communicate the organization’s goals, the actions needed to achieve those goals, and other critical elements developed during the planning process.

The group, led by a professional facilitator, was very productive during the two half-day sessions. We discussed several new goals, including implementing technology, enhancing the volunteer experience, and evaluating board structure and processes.

Implementing technology is our number one goal. The discussion of technology revolved around enhancing operational efficiency and meeting the needs of our certificants now and in the future. We will be looking at new software and technology with the goal of being more user-friendly for nurses and adaptable to future needs, while providing the staff with the infrastructure needed to support our work and provide more robust reporting tools.

We heard from committee chairs about the need to provide leadership training for their roles. They are recruiting, training, and mentoring their team members to prepare them as leaders for the future. Succession planning was a big topic with regard to maintaining these volunteers while preparing them for leadership opportunities in the future.

The Board of Directors looked at the current board composition and structure to see if it continues to meet the evolving needs of the organization. Moving forward, we will be looking at all Board positions including representation from other organizations and stakeholders. The Board is moving toward a competency-based Board, having adopted leadership competencies earlier this year to recruit highly capable leaders who have skills needed to move the organization along its strategic path.

Promoting the value of certification is a goal from our last strategic plan on which we want to continue to focus our energy. We will be looking at ways to enhance the understanding of certification while promoting the benefits to employers, patients and families, nurses, and student nurses. Focus groups were conducted at the last ONS Congress with non-certified nurses and employers to determine the barriers to certification and recertification. ONCC continues to support research linked to outcomes of certified nurses.

Last, we looked at ONCC’s staff structure to determine if it is sufficient to do the work of the organization. With technological improvements in the future, how might staff structure need to change to meet the new work demands?

While we identified our primary goals for the next several years, strategies need to be put in place to meet these goals. These goals will be guiding us and shaping the future work of ONCC that will directly impact our certificants. We are working hard for you!

Five Nurses Win Free Certification Renewal for Life

Congratulations to Emily Bellard, RN, OCN®, of North Carolina; Kristy Morgan, RN, CPON®, of Arizona; Karen Rosen, RN, OCN®, of New Jersey; Jacqueline Clarke, RN, OCN®, of North Carolina; and Mary Byrne Welch, RN, AOCN®, of California. Each of them has won a lifetime of free certification renewal from ONCC. Their names were chosen from the complete renewal applications that were received by June 15, 2013.
Marsha Richardson Honored as 2013 CBCN® of the Year

Marsha Richardson, RN, MSN, OCN®, CBCN®, was chosen as ONCC’s 2013 CBCN® of the Year. Richardson has been the Oncology Program Coordinator/Breast Cancer Navigator at Parrish Medical Center in Titusville, FL, for the past six years. She has been a nurse for 24 years, and all of those years have been spent in oncology nursing. In her current role, Richardson mentors nurses through leadership, knowledge, skills, and behavior modeling to influence practice. She facilitates resources and programs for all cancer survivors in Brevard County and is proud to have received her CBCN® certification two years ago!

Richardson’s leadership in breast care led Parrish Medical Center to earn The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification Gold Seal for Breast Health. Not only is she committed to encouraging oncology nurses to become certified, but she also has implemented quality improvement initiatives that resulted in dramatic reductions in the time a woman waits from screening mammography to diagnostic mammography to a definitive diagnosis.

Within her community, she is an active member of her local ONS chapter and serves on the board of directors for the Brevard County American Cancer Society. She has obtained more than $75,000 in grants from the Komen for the Cure Foundation to provide care for under-insured and uninsured women in the community.

Richardson is grateful to her nominators and was humbled when she learned she was selected as the CBCN® of the Year. “As an oncology nurse, we can affect—and perhaps even change—people’s lives. But sometimes it’s the patient that changes ours,” Richardson said. “I need only go to work to be inspired by the attitudes, strength, and perseverance that my patients show every day. The patients are amazing and gracious, and I am so very fortunate to be involved in their care.”

Richardson received recognition from the community, hospital foundation, and the American Cancer Society. The nominators wrote, “I have observed Marsha’s outstanding ability to lead clinical nursing practice with the utmost enthusiasm, compassion, and professionalism. She has spent countless hours educating the oncology nurses in our community and will come to work at 5 am to meet a patient undergoing a surgical procedure.”

Great work, Marsha! Congratulations on this award and for representing oncology nursing in a passionate way!

ONCC Board Update

Oncology Certification Continues to Grow

ONCC’s certification programs continue to grow despite economically challenging times. The number of nurses who are currently certified by ONCC has reached the 36,000 mark for the first time in history, with more than 30,000 of these nurses holding the OCN® credential. To support this effort, the Masons of California By Your Side Program offers grants toward pursuit of initial certification. This addresses one of the major barriers that nurses often cite for not pursuing certification—the financial burden. California oncology nurses have an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to quality oncology care by taking advantage of this program. Lead the way, California!

Long-Awaited Certification on Horizon

Oncology nurses working in the transplant setting will be happy to know that the Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN™) program is here. BMT nurses will have the first opportunity to take the BMTCN™ test in February 2014. ONCC is offering a discount of $50 off the usual fee for the February 2014 test. Nurses in this cohort will not receive immediate pass/fail results at the testing center. This group will receive its test scores in April, after extensive analysis has been completed to ensure that only fair items are counted as scored items on the BMTCN™ test.
A Work Vision Well-Lived: Georgie Cusack, MS, RN, AOCNS®

Jeri Ashley, MSN, RN, CHPN, AOCNS®

The recipient of the 2013 Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse of the Year Award is Georgie Cusack, MS, RN, AOCNS®, who serves as the Director of Research Nursing and Education for the Office of the Clinical Director of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In her award nomination and in the interview for Certification News, it became clear that Cusack exemplifies her personal work vision that she posted in her office:

“My passion for work is to educate healthcare professionals locally, nationally, and internationally about oncology, genetics, clinical research, and outcomes, and to empower others to value the profession of nursing.”

Cusack chose oncology nursing as the result of a series of events—two of those being deaths of people she loves. Her sister was diagnosed with Wilm’s tumor at age 10, followed by her death six years later. The day Cusack sat for her nursing boards, her father was diagnosed with lung cancer. These may in part relate to the third reason given for her choice: “I just felt drawn to oncology patients during my clinical rotations in school,” she said.

Her 28-year career journey has led her through a multitude of roles, including staff nurse, breast cancer research nurse, clinical nurse specialist, nurse consultant, oncology nursing educator, and director of research nursing and education. Initially, she obtained her OCN® in 1987, followed by her AOCN® in 2004 and AOCNS® in 2012. When asked to give an account of the professional achievement for which she is most proud, she talks of going to the Middle East to work with nurses in Jordan. There, she and a team of nurses—sponsored by the National

Extraordinary Advocate Named 2013 Pearl Moore Certification Champion

Michelle Ellis, RN, OCN®, CBCN®

ONCC offers a formal program for those who believe in the value of oncology certified nursing. The Advocates Program recognizes those who promote the value of certification in their workplace, chapter, or community. The Pearl Moore Certification Champion Award was created in 2007 by the ONCC Board of Directors to recognize and support an individual, group, or institution that is a true champion for oncology nursing certification. With more than 70 certified nurses crediting advocate Darla York, BSN, RN, CPON®, as their recruiter, York was a natural choice for the 2013 Pearl Moore Certification Champion Award.

York is currently the inpatient nurse manager for the Addison Jo Blair Cancer Center at Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville, KY. In addition to 21 years in oncology and hospice nursing, she has served on the ONCC Board of Directors. She also is the past president of the local Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) chapter, is past chair of the ONCC Appeals Committee, and serves on the planning committee for the national APHON conference.

When asked about her success in recruiting so many candidates for certification, she shares the credit with her employer and colleagues. “There is a really big push at my facility for nurses to achieve certification. I have the support of my CNO and the hospital’s foundation. It really helps that the physicians are on board as well.” During a

(See “Cusack” on page 9)

(See “York” on page 8)
Saint Peter's University Hospital, in New Brunswick, NJ, has been named the recipient of ONCC's 2013 Employer Recognition Award. Saint Peter's University Hospital is a 478-bed teaching hospital with a 24-bed inpatient oncology unit and an outpatient infusion center. Amazing advancements in support of oncology nurses have been made at the hospital since 2003, when a few nurses approached the hospital administration to request funding and support to attend the annual ONS Congress and take the ONCC certification test. Prior to 2003, nurses received limited reimbursement for conference attendance, which prevented many nurses from attending conferences and learning about the latest advances in oncology nursing.

Members of hospital administration listened and agreed, recognizing that providing support for nurses to attend Congress and take the certification test was important to the organization. Today, the hospital financially supports nurses to attend Congress each year. In exchange for the support, the nurses chosen must present an Oncology Nursing Grand Rounds at the hospital after returning to share what was learned.

The hospital has long rewarded nurses for obtaining specialty certification with increased hourly pay. However, prior to 2003, the pay differential for an oncology certified nurse was less than that for medical-surgical nursing certification. The pivotal meeting between oncology nurses and hospital administrators changed that. The number of certification advocates in the hospital increased. The advocates arranged on-site study sessions for nurses on the inpatient oncology unit and in the outpatient infusion center to increase the percentage of oncology certified nurses. In just two years, the total percentage of oncology certified nurses between both areas went from 4%–100%, and three-fourths (75%) of the nurses were also dual certified in oncology nursing and medical-surgical nursing. Because of the high level of dual certification, the hospital administration increased the hourly rate of pay even further for these nurses. The hourly pay differential for these certifications is currently $5 per hour, the highest in the state of New Jersey. Nurses also are reimbursed by the hospital for the cost of the certification examination.

Certification is recognized within this organization, too. A unit-based party is held each time a nurse achieves certification, but it does not end there. During the month after becoming newly certified, an announcement is made at departmental meetings, and the nurse wears a corsage and oncology certified tag along with his or her regular identification badge. Certified nurses also are recognized in the quarterly newspaper published by the hospital and in the hospital’s annual nursing report. The names of the certified nurses are visible to patients and families as well; framed certificates are on display at the entrance to the oncology unit and in the unit hallways.

Saint Peter’s celebrates Certified Nurses Day each year by entering certified nurses’ names into a prize drawing, displaying the names of certified nurses in a central hospital location, and taking out a full-page advertisement in the local newspaper to recognize its certified nurses. Wow! When hiring new staff nurses with prior experience, the hospital indicates a preference for oncology certified nurses. New graduates are expected to take the certification test as soon as they meet the eligibility criteria and receive support to help make this happen.

Congratulations to Saint Peter’s University Hospital for achieving a high certification rate and additional support for its oncology nurses over the past 10 years!
BMTCN™ Is for Pediatric Nurses, Too

Did you know the Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN™) examination is for nurses who provide care to pediatric BMT patients? Unlike the OCN® and CPHON® credentials, which are specific to the knowledge needed to provide cancer care to adult and pediatric populations respectively, the BMTCN™ credential focuses on BMT nursing principles in both adults and children.

Sharpen Your Test Taking Skills

Practice questions can help you strengthen your test taking skills, regardless of whether the content is population specific or in your subspecialty. Read the stem and the four completions. Focus on the information given when considering the possible answers. After you answer, be sure to read the rationale for the correct answer.

**Question 1:** In patients with sickle cell disease, immunization with the 23-valent-pneumococcal vaccine is instrumental in decreasing deaths from
A. acute chest syndrome
B. aplastic crisis
C. sepsis
D. splenic sequestration.

**Correct answer:** C

**Rationale:** Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in these patients. Although acute chest syndrome is a leading cause of death in patients with sickle cell, it is caused by the occlusion of lung vessels from sickled cells. The most common cause of aplastic crisis is infection with parvovirus B19. Splenic sequestration occurs when sickled cells are trapped in the spleen.

**Question 2:** The purpose of irradiating blood products that are administered to immunocompromised patients is to
A. kill cytomegalovirus
B. destroy bacteria
C. stimulate the immune system
D. prevent graft-versus-host disease.

**Correct answer:** D

**Rationale:** Radiation kills the t-lymphocytes. Destruction of t-lymphocytes by radiation is the most instrumental way of preventing transfusion-associated graft versus host disease.

Bibliography

More Nurses Sign on as Advocates

Thirty-five nurses recently joined the Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program. Advocates are certified nurses who voluntarily promote the benefits of certification in their workplace, chapter, or community. The number of advocates has grown to more than 800. Certified nurses who are interested in becoming advocates can apply online at http://www.oncc.org/Support/Advocates.

Please join ONCC in welcoming the following new program participants.

Emily Beard, Atlanta, GA
Pamela Caldwell, Beaumont, TX
Maritess Castilan, Houston, TX
Donna Clark, Pensacola, FL
Bente Cloud, Chambersburg, PA
Priyanka Devgan, Frederick, MD
Brigida Eberle, Charlotte, NC
Nickolaus Escobedo, Houston, TX
Canuto Gamulao, Sacramento, CA
Rebecca Grimmelt, Columbus, OH
Delores Hamilton, Vallejo, CA
Ronalee Harrington, Reading, PA
Julie Imani, Akron, OH
Mary Joji, Mesa, AZ
Denise Lederer, Philadelphia, PA
Sarah Lindsay, Fort Walton Beach, FL
Estella Loogman, Modesto, CA
Deborah Lorick, Santa Monica, CA
Melissa Luebbe, Zion, IL
Audry Moore, Austin, TX
Christine Morales, Washington, DC
Victoria Quinlan, Portland, ME
Kari Raiman, Zion, IL
Cassandra Raker, Mill Creek, WA
Kelly Roth, Middletown, NY
Susan Russo, Austin, TX
Sara Sargente, Middletown, NY
Beth Simoens, Green Bay, WI
Sara Sporar, New Orleans, LA
Titza Suvalcu, Clackamas, OR
Evelyn Taylor, Lewiston, ME
Rose Tupas, Houston, TX
Linda Wells, Yakima, WA
Paula White, Thomasville, GA
Susan Yancy, Louisville, KY
ONCC Recognizes Employers for Staffing With Certified Nurses

Ninety-two institutions recently received recognition plaques from ONCC for staffing their facilities with oncology certified nurses. ONCC provides these plaques free of charge to any patient care setting where the majority of RNs are ONCC-certified. To apply for a plaque, go to http://www.oncc.org/Support/Employers. Congratulations to the following employers.

Addison Gilbert Hospital, Oncology Clinic in Gloucester, MA
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 8 Tower Oncology in Park Ridge, IL
Advocate Medical Group—Beverly, Outpatient Oncology in Chicago, IL
Advocate Trinity Hospital, Infusion Center in Chicago, IL
Anne Arundel Medical Center, DeCesaris Cancer Institute, Outpatient Infusion in Annapolis, MD
Anne Arundel Medical Center, DeCesaris Cancer Institute, Radiation Oncology, Outpatient Infusion in Annapolis, MD
Antelope Valley Cancer Center in Palmdale, CA
Associates in Oncology/Hematology in Rockville, MD
Atrium Medical Center, Compton Infusion and Treatment Center in Middletown, OH
Audrain Medical Center, J.B. and Greeta B. Arthur Cancer Center in Mexico, MO
Aurora BayCare Medical Center, Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Green Bay, WI
Bassett Medical Center, Bassett Cancer Institute in Cooperstown, NY
Beverly Hospital, Oncology Clinic in Beverly, MA
California Pacific Medical Center, Bryan Hemming Cancer Care Center in San Francisco, CA
Cancer Center of Central Connecticut in Southington, CT
Center for Cancer Care in Duluth, GA
Central Care Cancer Center in Bolivar, MO
Children’s Hospital of New Jersey, Valerie Fund in Newark, NJ
Christiana Care, Radiation Oncology in Newark, DE
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center at Fairview Hospital, Moll Pavilion in Cleveland, OH
Coburn Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in St. Cloud, MN
Community Medical Center, Outpatient Infusion in Toms River, NJ
CVPH Medical Center, Fitzpatrick Cancer Center in Plattsburgh, NY
Dartmouth Hitchcock, Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Manchester, NH
Day Kimball Hospital, Hematology/Oncology in Putnam, CT
Ephraim McDowell Commonwealth Cancer Center in Danville, KY
Fletcher Allen Health Care, Vermont Cancer Center Hematology Oncology Clinic in Burlington, VT
Front Range Cancer Specialists in Fort Collins, CO
Georgetown Hospital System, Georgetown Infusion Services in Murrells Inlet, SC
Greenville Memorial Hospital, Cancer Center-Grove Office in Greenville, SC
Guthrie Cancer Center in Sayre, PA
Hematology-Oncology Associates of the Quad Cities, PC in Bettendorf, IA
Hematology Oncology Consultants of Pennsylvania in Lemoyne, PA
Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Cheryl Lindenbaum Cancer Center in Cortlandt Manor, NY
Integris Cancer Institute, SWMC in Oklahoma City, OK
Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center/Sibley Infusion, Medical Oncology in Washington, DC
Lakeland Regional Cancer Center in Lakeland, FL
Lash Group, an Amerisource Bergen Consulting Services Company, Clinical Services Oncology in Frisco, TX
Lawrence & Memorial Cancer Center in Affiliation With Dana Farber Community Cancer Center in Waterford, CT
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Medical Oncology MHC—Multipurpose Satellite in Bethlehem, PA
Levine Cancer Institute, Blumenthal Infusion Center in Charlotte, NC
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Feist Weiller Cancer Center in Shreveport, LA
Lowell General Hospital, Cancer Center in Lowell, MA
Main Line Oncology Hematology Associates in Wynnewood, PA
Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ
MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, Infusion Center in Olney, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Basking Ridge, NJ
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Leukemia Service—Howard in New York, NY
Mercy Hospital St. Louis, John F. Krey Cancer Information Center in St. Louis, MO
Methodist Richardson Cancer Center in Richardson, TX
Morristown Medical Center/Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Outpatient Medical Oncology Department in Morristown, NJ
Mount Auburn Hospital, Hematology-Oncology Department in Cambridge, MA
National Institutes of Health, Hematology, Cardiology, Pulmonary Outpatient Clinic in Bethesda, MD
NBMC Oncology Department in Coos Bay, OR
NorthShore University Health System, Glenbrook Hospital, Kellogg Cancer Center in Glenview, IL

(See “Institutions” on page 9)
Kokal Makes Impact on Patients With Cancer **(continued from page 1)**

Since 1992, Kokal has been an active member and leader of the Southeast Minnesota Chapter of ONS. During her tenure as president in 2010, she led a chapter effort to recognize newly certified oncology nurses with a credential pin and financial reimbursement to help cover the cost of obtaining certification. Financial reimbursement also was made available for nurses to renew certification.

Kokal also has focused on increasing the number of certified oncology nurses among nurses at the Mayo Clinic. She has been a featured speaker at their regular Oncology Review Course, presenting on the topics of psychosocial dimensions of care, survivorship, sexuality, and end-of-life care.

Kokal is passionate about the topic of cancer survivorship. She created the “Moving Forward After Cancer Treatment” survivorship education class for patients and families. For the past 10 years, she has chaired the National Cancer Survivors Day event. Average attendance at this event has grown from 135 participants at a small gathering to nearly 800 participants at a gala-type event. Participants represent patients with cancer from five Midwest states, including Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Kokal is an active volunteer for many local cancer education and awareness events, a founder and facilitator of support groups, and a volunteer leader for local organizations that provide meals and housing for patients and families undergoing treatment. For her many contributions to both her chapter and other local cancer-related organizations, Kokal received her Chapter Service Award, Chapter Community/Educational Excellence Award, and Chapter Oncology Nurse of the Year (voted on by chapter membership) multiple times.

On the local front, Kokal mentors nursing students interested in oncology nursing. Nationally, she has made numerous presentations at professional conferences. Her commitment has extended to the international arena as well. She has traveled to Japan several times to collaborate with nurses about educational aspects of oncology care. Kokal also has published in the areas of survivorship and symptom management.

Congratulations, Janine, on receiving the 2013 OCN® of the Year Award and making such a strong and positive impact on patients with cancer, their families, and healthcare professionals on a daily basis!

York Advocates for Lifelong Learning **(continued from page 4)**

recent American College of Surgeons visit, York said that the physicians boasted about the high percentage of certified nurses when meeting with the surveyor. Fifty-four percent of the nurses have achieved CPON® or CPHON® status, with several also being certified pediatric nurses as well. When nurses pass the certification exam, they receive plaques that are displayed on the unit, and it also increases their clinical ladder bonuses. Notices are sent out in unit newsletters, and the physicians are informed and encouraged to congratulate each successful candidate.

While she shares her success with others, York personally talks to the unit nurses about certification as early as the first interview. She includes certification as a goal from the beginning of employment—each nurse should attempt it. She has been asked by other nurse managers to help advocate for certification in other areas of the organization and does so with pleasure. York is enthusiastic in her advocacy. She believes that certification benefits everyone in the organization, saying, “From the moment of certification, it set me apart. I vastly increased my knowledge base, and I was a better nurse . . . more effective.”

Certification is not the only area in which York has furthered her effectiveness. She began her career with an associate’s degree, achieved a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and is currently pursuing her master’s degree. She advocates for lifelong learning for her staff as well. Of the 46 nurses on the unit, 13 are currently enrolled to advance their degrees. York describes her nurses as “very enthusiastic.” She says, “All of my nurses have a passion for what they do. They all want to be better nurses for their patients.”

Please join us in congratulating York—an extraordinary advocate and shining example—the 2013 Pearl Moore Certification Champion.
Institutions Receive Recognition Plaques *(continued from page 7)*

Norton Cancer Institute, Audubon Resource Center in Louisville, KY  
The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, Hematology and Transplant Clinic in Columbus, OH  
Oncology Hematology Associates of Southwest Indiana in Newburgh, IN  
Oncology Specialists, SC in Park Ridge, IL  
Prairie Lakes Healthcare System, Cancer Center in Watertown, SD  
Provena St. Mary’s Cancer Center in Bourbonnais, IL  
Providence Tarzana Medical Center, Oncology in Agoura Hills, CA  
Reading Health System, McGlinn Family Regional Cancer Center in West Reading, PA  
Regional Cancer Care in Durham, NC  
Regional Cancer Care, Southern Tier Oncology in Hornell, NY  
Riverside Shore Cancer Center, RSCC Medical Oncology in Nassawadox, VA  
Sanford Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Worthington, MN  
Seattle Children’s Hospital, Cancer Care Unit in Seattle, WA  
Scottsdale Healthcare, Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center, Clinical Trials in Scottsdale, AZ  
Shore Health System, Shore Regional Cancer Center in Easton, MD  
Smilow Cancer Center in Derby, CT  
Southwest Cancer Treatment & Research Center in Lubbock, TX  
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Regional Cancer Center in Bennington, VT  
Spectrum Health United Hospital, Cancer Center in Greenville, MI  
St. Rita’s Medical Center, 5K and OP Oncology in Lima, OH  
Strong Memorial Hospital, Radiation Oncology in Rochester, NY  
Tammy Walker Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Salina, KA  
Temple University Hospital Northeastern Campus, Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA  
Texas Oncology, South Austin Cancer Center in Austin, TX  
Trinity Medical Center, Trinity Infusion Center in Moline, IL  
University Hospital, 10H Bone Marrow Transplant in Syracuse, NY  
University of Colorado Health North, PVH Cancer Patient Navigator Program in Fort Collins, CO  
UVA Hope Cancer Care in Farmville, VA  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Infusion Clinic in Reno, NV  
The Valley Hospital, Ambulatory Infusion Center in Paramus, NJ  
Vannie Cook Children’s Cancer and Hematology Clinic in Edinburg, TX  
Washington University School of Medicine, Siteman Cancer Treatment Center in St. Louis, MO  
Wayne Memorial Hospital, Chemotherapy and Infusion Clinic in Honesdale, PA  
Western Connecticut Health Network Danbury, Chemotherapy Infusion Suite in Danbury, CT  
William Beaumont Hospital-Troy, Radiation Oncology in Troy, MI  
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Cancer Care Center, in WPAFB, Ohio  
Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Unit in New Haven, CT

Cusack Promotes Certification *(continued from page 4)*

Cancer Institute—trained 20 nurses in oncology nursing leadership, assisted in development of policies and procedures, and aided in creating committee structures. To quote Cusack, “It is a humbling experience to do international work, as the nurses are so eager for education and information.” She also describes being mentored by experts in ONS and at NIH who have left lasting positive memories.

As a passionate advocate for certification, she believes certification demonstrates a higher level of commitment to oncology nursing and a willingness to further educate oneself. Her most memorable experience as a certification advocate was through her work as a clinical nurse specialist. Cusack collaborated with the nurse manager of the Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Day Hospital. This collaboration led to more than 75% of the nurses becoming OCN® certified by “inspiring them to see the higher goals of clinical excellence in oncology and bone marrow transplant nursing.” She also was able to promote certification as the coordinator of the Oncology Nurse Internship Program, where she mentored 10 new oncology nurse interns to become certified, with a 100% response rate.

Her advice to new oncology nurses? “Be patient with yourself as you master skills, and recognize that nursing is an ever-evolving process. If you find you don’t enjoy oncology, don’t quit nursing! There are too many opportunities for you as a nurse out there.” Through these words, Cusack once again illustrates her personal vision. Congratulations to Georgie for her award as the 2013 AOCNS® of the Year and for a life well lived!
New Standards for Oncology Nurses Are Now Available

For the first time since 2004, you can refer to a new edition of the standards that have helped thousands of oncology nurses measure their work. Statement on the Scope and Standards of Oncology Nursing Practice: Generalist and Advanced Practice (http://esource.ons.org/ProductDetails.aspx?sku=INPU0620) incorporates the most current guidelines for both oncology RNs and advanced practice nurses and is the definitive resource for practitioners at all levels. ONS member price is $19, and nonmember price is $26.60.

Readers respond

How has certification of oncology nurses made a difference at your institution? Tell us how certification has made an impact at your organization. Send your replies to oncc@oncc.org.

Find ONCC on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/oncologycertification

Join friends and colleagues in finding and sharing the latest news, information, and resources about oncology nursing certification on the ONCC page on Facebook. It’s free and easy to create an account, and you control your privacy. Sign up today!