Celebrating the Excellence of Oncology Nurses
Ashley Leak Bryant, PhD, RN-BC, OCN®

I am pleased when we are able to recognize oncology certified nurses and the excellence they bring to their role when interacting with patients, their families, and the interdisciplinary team.

This theme is evident throughout this issue. We are highlighting the recipients of ONCC’s 2014 OCN®, AOCNS®, CBCN®, and Employer Recognition Awards. Read about the recipients to learn what makes them noteworthy. (Also watch for a profile of the 2014 CPON® of the Year Award winners in our next issue.)

Erica Fischer-Cartlidge, MSN, RN, CBCN®, presents practical strategies to overcome limited time and constrained finances in part two of her series “Creating a Roadmap to Certification Success.” Michelle Farrington, RN, BSN, CPHON®, our pediatric oncology expert, interviews Tamryn Fowler, MSN, RN, CNL, BMTCN™, about her passion for BMTCN™ certification.

We’re also sharing a list of oncology certified nurses who recently have received other awards and honors. So many certified nurses are doing great things. All of these stories highlight the excellence in oncology nursing care provided by certified nurses.

The Editorial Board also would like to thank Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®, for his contributions during the three years he has served as the ONCC Board of Directors liaison to Certification News!

Application Deadline Dates Eliminated for Most 2015 Tests

Many nurses long have lamented the time period between applying for a certification test and the actual test date. The wait time between application and testing will be shortened considerably for candidates who apply for a 2015 test, thanks to the elimination of most test application deadline dates.

In 2015, certification tests will be offered from February through December, and candidates can apply to test whenever they are ready to test. If eligible to take the test, the nurse will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) within just a few weeks. The ATT will provide the candidate with a 90-day personal testing period. The candidate must test within the 90-day testing period, but transfers to a later testing period may be available to candidates who meet certain criteria. The elimination of most of the deadline dates will make testing sooner after applying easier for nurses. Some candidates could take the test within a few weeks of submitting an application. For that reason, candidates being ready to test when they apply is important.

Although most candidates will be able to apply at any time, application deadline dates will apply in some circumstances. Candidates who wish to test before the end of 2015 must apply by September 1 to ensure a 90-day testing window before the year ends. Also, ONCC will continue to offer testing outside North America in November only, and an application deadline date will be in place for candidates who wish to test at an international test site. Test application deadline dates are required for these situations to ensure that ONCC staff can process candidate applications in time for the desired test dates.

Test information for 2015 will be available on the ONCC website in late September, and registration will open in November.
Find CE for Renewal by ILNA

If you’ve passed an ONCC test since 2012 or taken your Individual Learning Needs Assessment (ILNA), you may be on the lookout for continuing education (CE) programs to meet your learning needs for your next certification renewal.

A new resource from ONCC can help you find accredited CE programs and identify how those programs can be applied to specific ILNA point categories.

At www.oncc.org/ILNA/WhatCounts, click on the link for “ILNA Categories & Points for CE.” You’ll find a chart of popular CE offerings and how they can be applied for ILNA points. The list is not all-inclusive; many other accredited CE offerings can be used for ILNA points.

Also keep in mind that renewal candidates are not required to complete any of the programs listed but may choose to earn points for renewal through a variety of professional development activities.

If you have questions about how a CE program can be used for ILNA points, contact ONCC at 877-769-6622 or oncc@oncc.org.

It’s Your Time to Shine: 2014 OCN® of the Year Gives and Gets Recognition

Theresa Gannon, BSN, RN, OCN®

Lorraine McEvoy, RN, MSN, DNP, OCN®, has devoted 35 years of her life to nursing—25 of those years in oncology nursing. She evidently loves what she does. Her commitment to the profession is underscored by the accolades from colleagues who have been touched by her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for teaching. ONCC selected McEvoy for the 2014 OCN® of the Year Award based on her outstanding contributions to oncology nursing and the promotion of certification.

I caught up with McEvoy two weeks after the ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses, and she was “still on cloud nine.” When asked how being recognized by your peers and your specialty feels, she responded: “I had no words. It was so lovely—beautifully done. I was not aware of this award nomination. I knew I was being nominated for another award, and this one took me by surprise! I have come home and unpacked, and I still have a big smile across my face!”

ONCC has presented the prestigious OCN® of the Year Award since 1994. This award is presented to an OCN® who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments in clinical practice, education, or research in addition to promoting oncology nursing certification and service. This year’s recipient has demonstrated creative efforts over the course of a quarter century to educate, mentor, and participate in the development of nurses.

McEvoy has a special affinity for the geriatric patient population and strengthening the nurse’s expertise. Her nominator, Nancy Houlihan, RN, MA, AOCN®, wrote that McEvoy has a “particular recognition of the needs of geriatric oncology patients and devotion to establishing standards of care and educating nurses about that care.”

As leader of the 65+ Program at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York, NY, McEvoy describes it as “a multidisciplinary initiative encompassing experts from various fields that collaborate to enhance the care that geriatric patients receive from their oncology team.” From this program, she has developed a useful health screening tool for geriatric patients that is used in the ambulatory setting.

In charge of 13 services at MSKCC in four different locations over more than five years, McEvoy may be causing a paradigm shift in the way nurses see themselves. When nurses from cardiac, ophthalmology, neurology, and other specialties caring for patients with cancer do not recognize themselves as oncology nurses, McEvoy is the first one to remind them that they are. When she received feedback that they believe they do not know cancer as well as they know their primary specialty, she designed a curriculum for non-oncology-specific nurses to get up to speed. This program has been well received by nurses.

Find CE for Renewal by ILNA

Lorraine McEvoy, RN, MSN, DNP, OCN®, left, receives the 2014 OCN® of the Year Award from former ONCC President Susan Bruce, RN, MSN, OCN®.

(See “McEvoy” on page 10)
Recognizing a Friend: 2014 AOCN® of the Year
Jeri Ashley, MSN, RN, CHPN, AOCNS®

Just mention the name “Deborah Boyle” to any seasoned oncology nurses, and recognition will light their face. A personal relationship won’t necessarily bring the familiarity, but she has touched thousands of nurses. More likely, they have heard her speak, have read something she wrote, or have acknowledged her achievements over the years. And for oncology nurses, those things make her a friend. So, now is the time to honor our colleague and friend, Deborah A. Boyle, RN, MSN, AOCNS®, FAAN, as the 2014 Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse of the Year. Read on to be inspired by the life she has lived thus far and the extensive reach of her accomplishments.

Boyle has been a nurse for 40 years and has covered a lot of ground in that time. She has spoken nationally and internationally, as well as having written book chapters and journal manuscripts on the role of clinical nurse specialists (CNSs).

By personal invitation, she served as the oncology visiting nurse professor in Melbourne, Australia, to assist in curriculum development of the CNS graduate education and to teach the first cohort of students at the University of Melbourne.

At home, her time has been focused on precepting graduate students and serving as a consultant to colleagues on topics related to CNS practice. Her commitment to enhancing knowledge about advanced practice nursing was cited as an important factor for her induction into the American Academy of Nursing in 1999.

In alignment with her commitment to oncology nursing, Boyle has volunteered to serve in multiple leadership posts in ONS and has assisted with activities in her ONS chapter.

Further, she has completed quality improvement initiatives, served as the principal investigator of funded research projects, led diversity efforts, and consistently called attention to the psychosocial realm of oncology nursing practice. Boyle works as a CNS at the University of California Irvine Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center in Orange, CA.

Contained in the letters from her nominators are notations of how she has inspired those who work with her or know her well.

She has been a certified oncology nurse for 25 years—first as an OCN® in 1988, which she maintained until she became certified as an AOCN® in 1997, and then most recently as an AOCNS® in 2010. In encouraging her colleagues to become certified, she teaches OCN® review courses, increasing the numbers from two OCN®s in 2011 to nine OCN®s in 2014. An additional 14 are sitting for the certification test this year.

One nominator described the adeptness with which Boyle “sees the patient in the full context of their lives—not just their oncology diagnoses, but their familial, spiritual, economic, and geographic lives.”

A colleague of more than 30 years described her as “an advanced oncology certified nurse extraordinaire” whose emphasis on clinical practice, service, and education consistently demonstrates that she is “a forward thinker who challenges each of us.”

On a more personal note, Boyle lost her father and her husband to cancer. I asked her if the death of these two important people in her life changed her motivation or beliefs about patient care and the power of certification for advancing knowledge. Her answer is so revealing of her heart.

“Being on the opposite side of the bed was a real eye-opener for me. While I always considered myself to be an extremely empathetic and compassionate oncology nurse, knowing firsthand the lived experience of being a family member has had an enduring impact on me. As a daughter and wife, I was the recipient of exemplary oncology nursing care, and this further solidified my opinion about the need to confirm this through certification. I did then, and most certainly do now, perceive certification to be an emblem, a badge of honor that explains to others that a mastery of one’s field is indeed ingrained in one’s practice.”

Thank you, Debi Boyle, for these words and for your service and contributions to oncology nursing and oncology nurses. Collectively, we applaud you as the 2014 recipient of the ONS Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse of the Year Award.
ONCC has named Theresa Johnson, RN, BSN, CBCN®, as the recipient of the 2014 Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®) of the Year. Johnson is the nurse manager of the Breast Center at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. As a 14-year employee of MD Anderson, she oversees a busy clinic staffed by 19 nurses who assist patients who are being evaluated and diagnosed with breast cancer. Johnson was nominated for this award by a coworker who credits the center achieving a 100% certification rate to her tireless efforts. According to her nominator, “Theresa provided the tools, encouragement, and, most notably in our hectic work setting, the time for nurses to pursue this goal and to support and mentor one another in doing so.”

Johnson says a successful partnership with the center’s nurse educator and administrator allowed her to develop lunch sessions in which nurses could address key objectives of the CBCN® Test Blueprint. She then engaged hospital physicians who were experts in various areas to assist by presenting core content, teaching the nursing staff in mini sessions to help prepare them for the exam. A rotation system ensured that all staff members were able to take advantage of these courses without disrupting the flow of patient care. The result was a greater than 90% pass rate on the first attempt if nurses attended all review sessions.

Johnson is a visionary leader who has spearheaded a project to develop a triage phone line, staffed by nurses, to quickly assist patients who might have questions or concerns. The goal is to reduce hospital emergency department admissions.

As a dedicated advocate for the care of patients with breast cancer, Johnson is actively involved in her community, working with the Pink Ribbon Project and coordinating a team from MD Anderson to participate in the Komen Race for the Cure. She says, “I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for us to walk side by side with the patients and families we serve as a sign of support and solidarity for their care.” For her, the opportunity to be involved in the care of men and women with breast cancer carries personal rewards as well. “To participate in the care of these men and women is a humbling experience. It allows us the opportunity to be able to impact their lives in a positive way at a time when it is critically needed.”

Johnson is tireless in her efforts to make a positive impact wherever she goes. At MD Anderson, she serves on the Clinical Safety and Effectiveness program, the institution’s Joint Commission readiness team, and is a Magnet champion, energizing nursing staff with an appreciation of Magnet designation and an appreciation for the many contributions that nurses make to the success of the institution. As a colleague summed it up, “Theresa embodies the best of what we aspire to in our nursing community—a commitment to patient engagement and nursing advocacy to ensure that the needs of both staff and patients are addressed and supported.”

When asked how being honored with the award felt, Johnson replied, “To me, this is the highest honor that could be bestowed upon breast cancer nurses. To be associated with such a great group of dedicated professionals is wonderful. I am thrilled and humbled to be chosen and I will always cherish this recognition.”

Congratulations to Theresa on an honor well deserved!

Creating a Roadmap for Certification Success: Part 2

No Money? No Time? No Problem!
Erica A. Fischer-Cartlidge, MSN, RN, CBCN®

The two most popular reasons I hear from nurses as to why they don’t pursue certification are time and money. "The test is so expensive!" "The kids always have me running." "Between the prep classes and the test, I just can’t afford it." "I’m too busy." These are only a few of the things I hear on a regular basis. So, for the second installment in my mini-series on overcoming the barriers to becoming certified, I’m tackling (See “Employer” on page 6)
The recipient of this year’s ONCC Employer Recognition Award, recognizing the organization’s exceptional support of oncology nursing certification, is Baptist Health Lexington (BHL) in Lexington, KY.

BHL’s vice president of clinical services, Kay Ross, RN, MSN, AOCN®, accepted the award on behalf of BHL at the 2014 Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses, held May 2 during the 2014 ONS Congress in Anaheim, CA. BHL, a Magnet status, 383-bed hospital, has achieved the remarkable accomplishment of 100% of eligible oncology RNs becoming certified through ONCC.

In accepting the award on behalf of BHL, Ross noted, “It’s not really about the organization. It’s about our nurses.” Six BHL nurses were able to attend the breakfast, and their excitement and pride regarding their accomplishment was apparent. Ross said, “How can you not support them? They are so important with what they do!” BHL has achieved a culture of expectation related to oncology nursing certification. The following are measures they have taken to accomplish this.

- Employment advertisements state a preference for certified nurses, and all new oncology RNs are expected to become certified within one year of meeting eligibility requirements.
- Certified Nurses Day (March 19) is honored and celebrated. On that day, nurses wear an “OCN®” sash, while those who are not yet eligible to become certified wear an “OCN® in Training” sash. Patients are given a sticker to wear that says, “My nurses are OCN®.”
- Meeting the certification goal was celebrated. Cupcakes with “OCN®” icing were distributed.
- RNs are provided with paid time off to prepare for the exam. A free nine-week series of courses is offered.
- Plaques are displayed to recognize certified nurses.
- Financial incentives are tied to certification.
- Study sessions are encouraged—even during work hours.
- The cost of certification and renewal is fully reimbursed.

Susan Yackzan, RN, MSN, AOCN® ARNP, clinical director of oncology at BHL said, “Like ONCC, we believe that certification makes a difference. Our oncology nurses are better prepared to anticipate and meet the needs of our patients as a result of our certification efforts. We are grateful to our nursing staff for their dedication to achieving oncology certification, and to our leadership for fully supporting our oncology certification efforts. This award demonstrates our organization’s dedication to supporting high-quality oncology nursing care. We are thrilled to receive this recognition.” Yackzan, an oncology nurse since 1986, was also the recipient of ONCC’s AOCN® of the Year award in 2008.

Advocates Program Welcomes New Members

Several oncology certified nurses recently joined the ranks of the Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program, bringing the number of advocates to 862. Advocates are oncology certified nurses who voluntarily promote the benefits of certification at their workplace or in their community.

Learn more about the program at http://www.oncc.org/Support/Advocates. Welcome to these new advocates.

- Parisa Aalami, Seattle, WA
- Anita Bishop, Charleston, SC
- Lauren Bradshaw, Houston, TX
- Darcy Burbage, Newark, DE
- Tracy Collins, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Bonita Gentry, Dixon, KY
- Celestine Gochett, Lexington, KY
- Ghufran Hawaj, Dammam, Saudi Arabia
- Judith Johnson, Nashville, TN
- Bevann Kubala, Lewes, DE
- Tonya Mann, Newark, DE
- La Krystal Player, Benton, LA
- Catherine Serra, Jacksonville, FL
- Mary Slatten, Kansas City, MO
- Libby Stell, Little Rock, AR
both of the big ones! Both of these hurdles are very similar to training for a race. It’s nearly impossible to wake up, tie your sneakers, and run a marathon. Sure, you can try, but the chances that you successfully will complete the race are low. The skills and routines that I share with you here are how you can “train” for the certification race.

Let’s start off with some of the reasons why the tests cost what they do. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to be a member of the Passing Score Task Force for the CBCN® test. During my visit to ONCC headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA, I learned about how the certification tests are created electronically and scored by the Pearson VUE systems. Many components go into it—from item-writing teams, to analyses for determining passing scores, to regular research and updates addressing the content and blueprint so that the tests remain current with what is happening in oncology nursing.

I had no idea about all the moving parts needed to ensure that the tests truly measure knowledge in these areas and maintain the integrity of what being a certified nurse means. As my best friend always says when we are out shopping, “Fabulousness does not come cheap!” It’s no less true here.

Many employers provide reimbursement for certification testing, either as part of tuition reimbursement or as its own benefit. This is great! If you are unsure if your employer offers this benefit, reach out to your manager for guidance. He or she can direct you to the right area for more information, but that doesn’t mean that is the end! Many employers only reimburse for the exam after you have passed, which still leaves us with how to pay for the test upfront.

Let’s crunch the numbers. As a member of ONS or the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses, the cost of a certification test is about $286. I recommend that every nurse take about six months to prepare for any of the certification tests, which means that if you only saved during the time you prepared, you would need to set aside $47.50 a month—just under $12 a week, or $1.69 a day! Packing lunch instead of buying it once a week; skipping one dinner out per month; making coffee at home instead of a Starbucks run 50% of the time; or saving gas by walking, riding a bike, or carpooling are just a few ways to save $12 (or more) a week. Need to take the test sooner? The time from registration to the test-taking window is three months. So even on the faster preparation plan, you only need to put aside $24 a week, or about $3.50 a day.

If those methods don’t meet your needs, you still don’t need to worry! ONCC awards 100 free registrations every year for nurses looking to become certified or renew their certification. The application involves a short essay on why certification is important to you and how it will help you achieve your goals. The deadline for the 2015 Roberta M. Scofield Award was August 1. Other scholarships for certification also may be available through your local chapter or other nursing organizations. Take a few minutes to search the Internet for those you may be eligible for.

Once certified, renewing by Option 1 (currently the ONC-PRO method) costs about $220, but this cost is only every four years! This means saving $4.60 a month from the time you become certified to when you submit your renewal. Some employers provide a financial differential for certified nurses (either an hourly increase or yearly bonus), and other institutions require certification for promotion or advancement on the clinical ladder. Clinical ladder advancement and promotions also almost always are associated with increased pay. Regardless of which scenario you are in at your place of employment (hourly pay differential, yearly bonus, eligibility for promotion, or clinical ladder advancement), certification is practically guaranteed to earn you more than $220 over the four years before you renew. This means that becoming certified pays for itself and the renewal!

Whether you are putting aside the money for your initial certification test or your renewal, you physically can do it in three ways.

1. The “under the mattress” method: Each week (or paycheck), take the money and put it in a jar, an envelope, or just right under the mattress! Some people find that removing the money from their bank account helps them not to spend it.

2. The “it was never there” method: This involves having direct deposit and a separate account in which to save your professional development funds. Some people like to open a savings account at their bank. Others prefer an online account, like Capital One 360 (formerly ING). Either way, look for an account that does not have a minimum balance requirement. You then complete a form for your direct deposit (you can get this from your human resources department), which sends the money you allot ($48 every two weeks, for example) automatically to that separate account, and the rest of your pay goes to your regular account. Because you don’t have to withdraw the money and it never goes to your
I can pinpoint the exact moment I knew I would dedicate my life to oncology. I was a junior nursing student on a clinical rotation, assigned to a patient with breast cancer who was recovering from a mastectomy and axillary lymph node dissection. During my morning assessment, the patient shared with me that her mother and her sister were breast cancer survivors and she had cared for them during their surgery and treatments.

The timing was fortuitous because the week before, I had attended a lecture on lymphedema. I mentioned to the patient that she was probably very knowledgeable about lymphedema prevention because this was the third time she was going through this—before as a caregiver and now as a patient.

She looked at me quizzically and asked, “What’s lymphedema?” I was shocked that no one had shared such important information with neither her nor her family members. The idea of surviving cancer but living with chronic pain or swelling because of a lack of patient education was unthinkable for me.

I went to the nurses’ station and asked where I could find the patient education materials on lymphedema and was told they had none. Even as a 20-year-old nursing student, I knew this wasn’t a good enough answer. I spent my lunch break that day in the hospital’s medical library, printing patient education materials about lymphedema from the Internet.

When I returned to the floor, I went to the patient’s room, taught her about lymphedema, and gave her the materials I had printed. When I finished, she looked up at me with tears in her eyes, thanked me, and gave me a hug. In that very moment, I truly understood the impact that nurses have in oncology.

The same empowerment to make a difference in patients’ lives was what I felt after earning my Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®) credential. I had been out of school for about two-and-a-half years when I learned about the CBCN® test being offered for the first time. I was excited to see the subspecialty of breast care being recognized as a unique area within oncology care.

My knowledge base of breast care at the time was primarily in the imaging, diagnosis, and surgical care of that population, but I hungered to know more. My day-to-day job involved interfacing with those in radiation oncology, medical oncology, chemotherapy, and all the other facets within breast care, and I knew only snapshots of what they involved.

Although I was nervous at the prospect of being tested on those foreign topics, I welcomed the opportunity to widen my knowledge base. It was one of the greatest experiences of my nursing career. Not only did I learn so much during the preparation phases of becoming certified, but it also shaped the future of my career, as I wanted to make sure as many nurses as possible felt that same excitement and empowerment that I did.

That fire and passion for certification has led to many of the projects I’ve worked on within my role at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY, first as a staff nurse and still now as an advanced practice nurse. As the clinical nurse specialist for the outpatient breast medical oncology service, a large part of my role is supporting nurses who are thinking about, or are in pursuit of, certification and other professional development achievements. (You may have read my article in the last issue about this.)

Although I can quote the literature on why being certified matters, the personal impact certification had for me is what I normally share. Many nurses don’t understand that the biggest benefit of going through the process and earning these credentials is the personal satisfaction and growth until they have achieved it. The most fulfilling moments in my career are when nurses come back and share how becoming certified has changed their lives.

Seeing the passion for the profession of nursing reignited, the increased confidence, and the pride that glows around them makes me realize how far the impact of my own certification has stretched. I honestly can say I didn’t realize all that I would gain either when I first embarked upon the journey.

The ripple effect that one patient caused in my world was immeasurable. Not only did she affect the direction and focus in my nursing career, but she left a Post-it® on my heart, always reminding me of the importance of truly understanding all the facets of a diagnosis, even when they extend beyond my primary area of work—to always take an extra moment in the room and ask, instead of assume, and that even just one nurse has the power to make a difference.

I wish I remembered her name, or even knew at that time how monumental that clinic day would be in my career. That patient will never know how she changed my life, or all the lives she has changed through me during my journey as an oncology nurse.
Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Nurses: Interested in Certification?
Michele Farrington, RN, BSN, CPHON®

The first testing period for the newest certification offered by ONCC, Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN™), occurred in February. The test was developed for nurses routinely caring for adult or pediatric patients undergoing blood and marrow transplant, to demonstrate basic-level knowledge in the care of these patients and their families. Results were disseminated in April and indicated that 291 nurses from across the United States had passed, representing an 87% success rate. Of these 291 nurses, 38 marked that they routinely care for the pediatric patient population.

Tamryn Fowler, MSN, RN, CNL, BMTCN™, a clinical nurse III on the pediatric blood and marrow transplant unit at Duke University Hospital and faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, is a pediatric nurse who serves on the BMTCN™ Test Development Committee. Fowler has worked with pediatric patients with cancer and their families for her entire nursing career, currently five years. She graciously agreed to provide insight on why she believes so strongly in this new certification and its perceived benefits in the daily care she provides for this patient population.

Why did you want the BMTCN™ certification?
The BMTCN™ certification is invaluable to the progression of nursing practice within the unique population of patients undergoing blood and marrow transplant. As a nurse, I push myself and my colleagues to achieve high standards to identify ourselves as experts within a nursing specialty. My colleagues and I provide exceptional care to patients and families.

We grow with them through one of the most difficult times of their lives. We listen to their stories and their journeys in arriving to transplant and help them understand the reality and impact of their illness—all the while preserving hope. The new BMTCN™ certification shares with these patients and families that I have a mission and purpose to continually educate myself on all the changing dynamics of this specialty so I can provide the most compassionate and best care possible.

What do you see as the benefit of the BMTCN™ credential?
The new BMTCN™ credential is essential to our practice because it reminds us, as nurses, that we are placing patients at the center of everything we do. Nurses who have achieved the BMTCN™ credential are demonstrating competency, expertise, and passion for serving this population. It shows that nurses are knowledgeable about the entire process of blood and marrow transplantation, including complications, long-term effects, preparative regimens, and how to help patients get through the process. As a clinical nurse who provides care at the bedside, I understand how important nurses are in the coordination of a patient’s complex care. Nurses work collaboratively, using a team-based approach, to bring our expertise, knowledge, and concerns to the entire team. With the credential, nurses are demonstrating competency in educating patients and each other on evidence-based practices for this patient population. Teaching is a continuous developmental skill in the nursing profession, and my goal is to continue to obtain knowledge about oncology nursing and evaluate my patients’ learning outcomes to better advocate for their needs. Nurses teach patients how to care for themselves, get them ready for discharge, and help enable them to have a fresh start to life.

How has the BMTCN™ credential transformed your clinical practice and educator roles?
Caring for pediatric patients undergoing blood and marrow transplantation is a rewarding experience filled with new opportunities. These opportunities include being a part of new clinical practice and education research initiatives. Having the BMTCN™ credential informs our patients and colleagues that we place a high priority on specialty oncology care. Nurses are experts, leaders, and generators of change, and change is a constant reality in today’s healthcare environment. In preparing for the BMTCN™ certification, I had access to new literature about blood and marrow transplantation. As a BMTCN™, I feel better equipped, more confident, and more knowledgeable in my nursing practice and in my role to educate nursing students. This is an exciting time for nurses, and each of us should encourage our peers to pursue certification.

Now that she holds the BMTCN™ credential, Tamryn gladly has accepted (See “Certification” on page 9)
Employers Recognized for Staffing With Certified RNs

The following organizations recently were presented with ONCC Employer Recognition Plaques for having a majority of their professional nursing staff certified in oncology. ONCC offers these plaques free of charge to any patient care setting where the majority (more than 50%) of RNs is ONCC certified.

- Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Ambulatory Care in Hinsdale, IL
- Baptist Health Lexington, Cancer Care Center in Lexington, KY
- Baptist Health Lexington, Richmond Infusion Clinic in Richmond, KY
- Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, PA
- Cleveland Clinic—Wooster Family Health Center, Hematology/Oncology in Wooster, OH
- Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Huntington, WV
- Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care in Augusta, ME
- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Radiation Oncology in Philadelphia, PA
- Indiana University Health Cancer Center, Ball Cancer Center at Forest Ridge in New Castle, IN
- Indiana University Health Cancer Center, Ball Memorial Cancer Center at Jay County in Portland, IN
- Indiana University Health Cancer Center, Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, IN
- Lexington Medical Center, Cancer Programs/Nurse Navigators in West Columbia, SC
- Medical Oncology Associates of Li, PC in Woodbury, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Ambulatory GI Surgical Nursing in New York, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Chemo 1275 in New York, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Commack, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Leukemia Service in New York, NY
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Outpatient ABMT in New York, NY
- MetroWest Medical Center, Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology in Framingham, MA
- MidHudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center, Redl Center for Cancer Care in Poughkeepsie, NY
- MidMichigan Medical Center, Infusion Center in Midland, MI
- Moffitt Cancer Center, Infusion Center in Tampa, FL
- Montana Cancer Center, Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, MT
- National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, 3SE Day Hospital in Bethesda, MD
- Norton Cancer Institute in Shelbyville, KY
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in New Brunswick, NJ
- Sanford Health, Roger Maris Cancer Center in Fargo, ND
- Smilow Cancer Center in Derby, CT
- SSM St. Mary's Health Center, SMHC Chemo Center 2 in St. Louis, MO
- SSM St. Mary's Health Center, SMHC Infusion Center in Fenton, MO
- Susquehanna Health Cancer Center in Williamsport, PA
- Swedish Cancer Institute/Edmonds in Edmonds, WA
- Texas Oncology in Bedford, TX
- Texas Oncology in Grapevine, TX
- Turville Bay MRI and Radiation Oncology in Madison, WI
- University of Colorado Health, Cancer Care and Hematology in Fort Collins, CO
- University of Illinois Hospital and Health Science Center, Oncology Center in Chicago, IL
- UTMB, Victory Lakes Cancer Center in League City, TX
- UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Bay Area Regional Care Center in Houston, TX
- Wilcox Memorial Hospital, Infusion Center in Lihue, HI
- Women and Infants Hospital, Infusion Unit in Providence, RI
- Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Children's Transplantation Unit in New Haven, CT
- Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Unit in New Haven, CT

Certification Brings Professional Growth and Development (continued from page 8)

a new role as a certification advocate. Tamryn shares her passion for certification with her coworkers and touts the benefits that certification will have on their professional growth and development. Having certified nurses tends to result in the emergence of positive patient outcomes. Tamryn also is quick to point out that the examination was geared to both adult and pediatric nurses caring for patients undergoing blood and marrow transplant.

Consider applying for an upcoming BMTCN™ exam if you meet the eligibility criteria, so you can be a BMTCN™ like Tamryn! Congratulations, Tamryn, on your recent certification and for being a tremendous advocate for certification!
Nurses in the News

Congratulations to these oncology certified nurses who recently were honored with awards and recognition.

Cindi Cantril, RN, MPH, OCN®, from Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation in Santa Rosa, CA

2014 CURE Extraordinary Healer Award winner
Julie Moser, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockport, ME

2014 Daisy Award winner
Rebecca O’Shea, RN, MS, OCN®, AOCNS®, CBCN®, from Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Denton in Denton, TX

2014 Texas Health Resource System Community Service Award winner
Noelle Paul, RN, OCN®, CAPA, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY

2014 Cure Extraordinary Healer Award finalist
Anne Todd, RN, OCN®, from Indiana University Health Southern Indiana Physicians in Bloomington, IN

2014 Cure Extraordinary Healer Award finalist
Debra Baldassarre, RN, MSN, OCN®, from Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Eastern Regional Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA

Kendra Calawerts, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL

Julie Campbell, RN-BC, BSN, OCN®, from Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Zion, IL

Claire Carmody, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY

Nancy Corbitt, RN, BSN, OCN®, CRNI, from University of Maryland Medical Center and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center in Baltimore, MD

Lisa Marie Doyle, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA

Mary Kate Eanniello, RN, MSN, OCN®, CPHN, from Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT

Rosemary Catherine Ford, RN, BSN, BA, OCN®, from Seattle Cancer Care Alliance in Seattle, WA

Sara Hollstein, RN, MSN, AOCNP®, CRNP, ANP-BC, from Mainline Healthcare Paoli Hospital in Paoli, PA

Keith W. Hoshal, RN-BC, MSN, OCN®, from Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA

Nancy Houlihan, RN, MA, AOCN®, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY

Shannon L. Koty, BSN, CPN, CPHON®, from Cardon Children’s Medical Center—Banner Health in Mesa, AZ

Altagracia Mota, RN, MSN, OCN®, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY

(See “Nurses” on page 12)

McEvoy Advances the Knowledge of Nurses (continued from page 2)

McEvoy’s colleague Carolyn McGuire, RN, BSN, OCN®, expressed beautifully what this candidate has provided for so many. McGuire wrote, “I have never had a mentor whom I look up to as much as Lorraine. She makes me want to be a better nurse every single day. She makes me want to pursue my dreams and goals in the nursing profession, as well as other areas of my life. I know many of my colleagues feel the same way about her. I am grateful for having had the chance to be mentored by such an outstanding person.”

McEvoy inspires and motivates. “I’m in the twilight of my career now,” she said. But those many, many nurses she continues to inspire, encourage, and motivate are taking root and, like a tree, will branch out, grow, and continue the work of oncology nurses.

“When leading a staff meeting, I had an agenda item titled, ‘The Door HasOpened.’ I wanted my staff to know that with all their knowledge and expertise, it was their time to walk through it. I wanted them to know, ‘It’s your time to shine.’”

Well, Dr. McEvoy, all of us oncology certified nurses want you to know, “It’s YOUR time to shine!” Thank you for being a nursing leader among us and for inviting so many to join the ranks.
Maximizing Your Time for Certification Preparation (continued from page 6)

3. **The “camouflaged” method**: For this method, you don’t do anything special. You don’t actually separate the funds from the rest of your money at all. You just maintain a vigilant awareness of the amount you need and when you need it, while exercising the suggestions outlined for saving. This method requires willpower and restraint in spending.

Remember that the costs for certification tests, membership to professional organizations, license renewal, and other professional development activities that are not reimbursed by your employer are tax deductible, so don’t forget to save those receipts!

With all the extra money you now are saving, buying some extra hours would be great! Unfortunately, I can’t sell you more hours per day or days per week, but I can give you skills to maximize the time you do have. See which technique, or combination of techniques, you can implement within your regular routine.

Make your workday work for you. What better time to focus on strengthening your oncology knowledge than when you’re already in the oncology mindset? Bring study materials with you for your lunch break each day. You may choose to read your preparation book, do practice questions, or have a coworker quiz you. If another colleague is also preparing for a certification test, that can be a great opportunity to help each other study. Even if you only have 20–30 minutes, that adds up to one to two hours of study time per week.

The same concepts can be applied to those who commute using public transportation. As a commuter myself, I’ve found that my time on the train, bus, or subway can be some of the most productive time I have. Pause your quest to master Candy Crush or Angry Birds, leave out the ear buds, and use your commute. That is built-in, uninterrupted time each day that often is quiet—especially during the morning hours. This is a great time to sneak in studying or practice questions. After all, few other things can be done with this time that would be more useful. Can’t bear the thought of not finishing that great book you are reading? You don’t have to! Pick one direction of your commute for certification prep, and keep the other for whatever you normally do to relax.

What about all the parents out there? Those of you with school-age children have the opportunity to use certification as a tool to bond with your children. Sharing homework time is a great way to show children how important lifelong learning is and helps you carve out time at home for preparation. For those with smaller children, it can be more challenging. Naptime or after bedtime may be the only time you have for your normal responsibilities around the house.

Sharing your pursuits with your friends and family is a great way to be successful. Engaging those around you in your goals allows them to support you and provide respite to your normal home tasks during your preparation time. Now isn’t the time to do it all. Share your goal and identify the help you need from those around you and the timeframe in which you need the help. Don’t be shy!

You also may want to engage the help of a “parent’s helper,” friend, or family member to donate time child-sitting once a week to give you dedicated study time. You wouldn’t run a race without a cheering squad, right? This is no different! The encouragement of those around you will propel you forward on the days you are feeling too tired or discouraged to continue your prep.

Schedule time for yourself. Putting an appointment on the calendar is a great way to make sure you have time set aside without any conflicting obligations. Just be sure to take the time as seriously as an appointment with your boss. Find it too challenging to do this at home? Go into work an hour early or stay an hour late to do your studying. Finding a quiet area at work, or even the hospital library, for that hour can be just what you need. Creating this routine may feel difficult at first, but repeating a behavior for 21 days makes it a habit, and in the blink of an eye, it’s part of your normal routine.

No single suggestion here is foolproof or even magical in nature. Success is about remodeling your thought process, having confidence in yourself, and integrating combinations of these suggestions and behaviors into your normal routine. Thousands of nurses just like you successfully have crossed this finish line, and so will you! Let the training begin!

New Book on Oncology Nurse Navigation Now Available

Stay on the cutting edge with the first book focusing on oncology nurses as navigators.

**Oncology Nurse Navigation** provides an in-depth review of the emerging specialty of oncology nurse navigation while providing you with concrete examples and tangible tools used by various nurse navigation models across the cancer continuum.

The ONS member price is $65 and the nonmember price is $91. To order this and other ONS books, visit the books section of the ONS Store at www.ons.org/store/publications.
Nurses in the News (continued from page 10)

Theresa M. Pinto, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC
Linda W. Ritter, RN, CPON®, from Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford in Palo Alto, CA
Kate Wentzel, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA

2014 Dallas Fort-Worth (Texas) Great 100 Nurses
Danita Baker, RN, OCN®, from Medical City Dallas
Beverly Hughes, MS, RN, CNS, CHPN, AOCNS®, from Texas Health Allen
Joyce Lee, MSN, RN, OCN®, from Texas Health Dallas
Jackie Neal, RN, OCN®, from JPS Health Network—Center for Cancer Care

Michelle Phillips, RN, OCN®, from Texas Health Dallas
Allison Vo, RN, BSN, OCN®, from Methodist Dallas Medical Center

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Oncology Nursing Excellence Award Recipients
Trish Dennigan, RN, BSN, OCN®
Beth Savage, RN, MSN, CPNP, CPON®

Susan Bruce Continues Legacy of Volunteering

ONCC extends special thanks to Susan Bruce, RN, MSN, OCN®, who recently completed six years of service on the ONCC Board of Directors. Bruce most recently served as the 2013–2014 President.

Susan, who is a clinical nurse specialist at Duke Raleigh Cancer Center in North Carolina, will continue to serve ONCC as an active volunteer. She recently joined the ONCC Nominating Committee, where she’ll put her experience to work in recruiting and slating candidates for the ONCC Board of Directors.

Bruce also will continue as a member of the Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program, to promote the benefits of certification at her workplace and in her community.

Breast Care Certification Review Book Now Available From ONS

ONS is now offering Breast Care Certification Review, published by Jones and Bartlett, for resale.

The book is the first all-inclusive learning package designed to prepare oncology nurses to become certified in caring for patients with breast cancer.

The essential guide offers nearly 500 practice questions and comprehensive answer rationales with associated selected readings to help prepare you or your staff members who are planning to take the certified breast care nurse exam.

ONS member price is $76.45 and nonmember price is $84.95. To order, visit the books section of the ONS Store at www.ons.org/store/publications.

Find ONCC on Facebook!
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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!