Board Explores Radiation Certification, Approves 2010 Budget

Susan D. Bruce, BSN, RN, OCN

The ONCC Board of Directors held their fall meeting November 6–8, 2009, at the ONCC national office in Pittsburgh. One of the main topics on the agenda was continued discussion of subspecialty certification for radiation oncology. The role delineation study was completed in July 2009. The Board is still collecting data, so a final decision has not been made. The costs of developing a stand-alone or add-on examination are considerable, and concern exists over whether a sufficient number of candidates exist to sustain a program. This would involve an online continuing nursing education program that requires the participant to pass an examination at the end. The Board is exploring other possible options, such as an assessment-based certificate program. Focus groups were conducted with radiation nurses during the ONS Institutes of Learning and Advanced Practice Nursing conference to gather more information. The Board is conducting a survey of nurses who practice in radiation, including Radiation Therapy SIG members, in early 2010 to determine interest in a certificate program. Continued discussions and review of additional data will resume at the spring ONCC Board meeting in March 2010.

ONCC has rolled out efforts to go green, and you can benefit from the savings. Apply online via ONCC’s secure test registration site and save $25. Go to http://www.oncc/registration to apply online. Paper or faxed test registrations will require a $25 fee for processing. 2010 certification test bulletins are available online. Paper bulletins are available upon request.

Other work by the Board included approval of the 2010 budget. In 2011, the Board will recognize 25 years of oncology certification and will explore celebratory options to honor this milestone.

Renewal Candidates: Mark Your Calendars!

One of the first steps toward renewing your oncology nursing certification is to be sure you know the application deadline dates. If your certification is due for renewal in 2010, mark your calendar with these important application deadline dates.

If you’re renewing by Option 1 (Practice hours + Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option, or ONC-PRO):

- June 15, 2010—Deadline to submit renewal application and ONC-PRO logs, save $100 on the fee, and be entered to win a lifetime of free renewals.
- September 15, 2010—Deadline to submit renewal application and ONC-PRO logs, and save $100 on the fee.
- October 15, 2010—Final deadline to submit renewal application and ONC-PRO logs (full fee).

(See “Mark Your Calendars,” page 6.)
Cultivating Professional Growth
Janice Nuuhiwa, MSN, RN, APN/CNS, CPON®

For many organizations and institutions, program development initiatives and recognition efforts come to a screeching halt during lean budget years. Fortunately, this is not the case for certified oncology nurses. In this issue, you will find a variety of innovative programs that meet the needs of certified oncology nurses across the country. ONCC is exploring options for measuring competency in radiation oncology, potentially in collaboration with ONS. This forward thinking allows ONCC to forge ahead with new opportunities for certified nurses. Read more about this project on page 1.

ONCC continues its tradition of recognizing excellence in certification. From individual awards (read about the 2009 CPON® of the Year) to employer recognition (Oncology Associates of Bridgeport is featured in this edition), ONCC is dedicated to highlighting exemplary practitioners and institutions who support certification efforts. In addition to sustaining the existing recognition programs, ONCC recently implemented a new program—the chapter grant. Read about how two very different chapters utilized their grant funds to support certification and recognize certified nurses.

Combine the above programs with the “go green” initiatives and the ONS Evaluation Center/ONC-PRO link and you have an issue of Certification News that highlights how your certification organization is cultivating professional growth in a fiscally responsible manner.

Advanced Certified Nurses Set Passing Scores for AOCNP® and AOCNS® Tests

Twenty three advanced practice nurses participated in the AOCNP® and AOCNS® Passing Score Task Force meetings at the ONCC national office in Pittsburgh, PA, during November 2009. The purpose of the Passing Score Task Force meetings was to set the minimum passing score for new forms of the AOCNP® and AOCNS® tests.

These volunteers, all of whom are certified, reviewed the Test Blueprint and Task Statements for the specific certification and discussed which areas and statements are most critical for certification of a minimally-competent candidate. Using a technique known as the Angoff Method, each member of the task force reviewed each test item and estimated the number of minimally competent candidates they believed would be likely to select the correct answer. These ratings were discussed, and additional ratings were completed. This process was guided by staff from ONCC and the testing agency, Pearson VUE. The end result was the number of items a minimally competent candidate should answer correctly or the recommended minimum passing score. The recommended passing score was then presented to the ONCC Board of Directors for approval.

Thanks to these certified nurses who volunteered. AOCNP® participants included Kristi Bowser, RN, MSN, NP-C, AOCNP®; Ruth Chaplen, RN, MSN, APRN, BC, AOCN®; Lorinda Coombs, RN, MSN, APRN, AOCNP®, Gina Duggar, RN, MSN, ANP, AOCNP®; Susan Gorman, RN, MSN, CRNP, AOCNP®; Susan Kenslow, MSN, BC, FNP, AOCNP®; Kathleen Leonard, RN, NP-C, AOCNP®, Diane Tatro, RN, MSN, GNP, OCN®, AOCNP®; Tracey Tatum, RN, MS, FNP, AOCNP®, CBCN; Kathryn Waitman, RN, FNP-C, MSN, AOCNP®; Mary Kate Young, RN, MSN, AOCNP®. AOCNS® participants included Elizabeth Galvin, RN, MS, AOCNS®, Peggy Gray, RN, MSN, AOCNS®; Dale Grimmer, RN, MS, AOCN®; Kathleen Jablonski, RN, MS, AOCNS®, APRN-BC; Elizabeth Johnson, RN, MSN, AOCN®, AOCNS®, Caryn Kazanjian, RN, MSN, OCN®, AOCNS®, Colleen O’Leary, RN, MSN, OCN®, AOCNS®, Mary Ann Orlang, RN, MSN, AOCNS®, Kamala Potter, RN, MS, AOCN®, AOCNS®, Trudi Sabaj, RN, MS, APN, AOCN®, Marlon Saria, MSN, RN, AOCNS®, and Sheryl Zysk, RN, ANP-BC, AOCNS®.
Employer Spotlight

Oncology Associates of Bridgeport: A Small Center Shows Big Support for Certification

Ashley Leak, RN, MSN, OCN

Employers of all sizes support oncology nursing certification and understand the value of its recognition. For over 25 years, nursing staff and physicians of Oncology Associates of Bridgeport have been helping patients and their families confront cancer and serious blood diseases. Oncology Associates of Bridgeport in Connecticut is a small cancer center with four nurses and five physicians. Oncology Associates of Bridgeport has two cancer clinic offices in which patients can receive treatment.

Marilyn Foster, RN, BS, OCN®, a nurse at this facility for 23 years, has seen changes in cancer practice since working at the facility and applauds the efforts of evidence-based practice. Nursing certification is not a requirement to work at Oncology Associates of Bridgeport but is strongly valued by nurses, physicians, and patients. Being a member of ONS and being certified helps to validate competence in the care of patients with cancer.

“All four of our nurses are certified; we have 100% certification!” states an exuberant Foster, “We value certification and support nurses in advancing their oncology knowledge.”

The facility reimburses employees for certification and renewal, pays for certification review courses, and offers ongoing educational opportunities. The facility also provides annual monetary support for one nurse to attend ONS Congress.

Faye Willett, RN, BSN, OCN®, a nurse who has been working at the cancer center for eight years, described her reasons for becoming and remaining oncology certified.

Willett said, “I love my job. I enjoy meeting new patients and educating them. As nurses, we collaborate with physicians to provide the best cancer care to the patient and his or her family. Certification has validated my expertise and competency in the care of patients with cancer.”

Congratulations to Oncology Associates of Bridgeport for exemplary oncology nursing care!

Changes in 2010 AOCNP® and AOCNS® Tests

Changes in the Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®) and Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS®) Examinations will likely be welcomed by candidates planning to test in 2010. Both the AOCNP® and AOCNS® Test Blueprints have been revised for 2010 based on the most recent role delineation study of advanced oncology nursing practice completed in 2009.

Most notable among the changes is that the length of each examination has been reduced to 165 items (formerly 225 items). Because of the reduced number of test items, the test session also has been reduced from four hours to three hours. An analysis completed by ONCC and its testing partner, Pearson VUE, indicated the subject areas on the AOCNP® and AOCNS® Test Blueprints could be accurately evaluated by the shorter test length.

In addition, the lists of suggested references for each test have been reduced to include the references most frequently used to develop test items. Lists of supplemental resources are published on the ONCC Web site (http://www.oncc.org/getcertified/TestInformation/index.shtml) for candidates who are seeking additional reference materials.
In early 2009, ONCC announced a new program that provides up to five grants to assist chapters of the Oncology Nursing Society or the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses in activities to encourage, support, or recognize oncology nursing certification. Funding priorities were given to projects that have sustainability and projects that can be repeated, as opposed to one-time events. The Metro Detroit Chapter and the Missouri Valley North Dakota Chapter are two of the five chapters that received a grant in 2009. These two chapters reflect the diversity of the many chapters within ONS. One chapter has more than 150 members and the other has 14 members. Both chapters identified projects that target growth, yet the projects were unique to each entity.

The Detroit chapter held an educational and celebratory breakfast entitled “Certification Eye-Opener” for their currently certified members and potential certification candidates. This early morning crowd came from the many new oncology centers blossoming in the metro Detroit area. The program provided continuing nursing education which included experienced nurses sharing stories of the challenges, benefits, and successes that oncology certification afforded them. Participants enjoyed viewing the ONCC video, Oncology Certified Nurses Make a Difference, which shares the patient perspective on certification. That day brought about chapter growth—mentorship relationships were formed and oncology nursing certification blossomed in the metro Detroit area.

ONCC supported a very different blossoming in North Dakota. During their project day, the Missouri Valley ND chapter was enjoying growth of both the floral and spiritual variety. Their members planted a very special ONCC grant-funded garden. Their chapter project, The OCN®—A Rose in our Community, was created to be an inspiration to both staff and patients. Each certified chapter member was recognized in a community rose garden. Each rose bush symbolized the efforts of the certified nurse in the community. Garden signage attests to the chapter motto and oncology nursing values. Dotting the rose planted landscape you can find signs that say: "I can complain because rose bushes have thorns or I can rejoice that thorn bushes produce roses," “hope,” “courage,” “faith,” and “seeing courage, hope, and faith in others everyday . . . your local oncology nurses.”

ONCC chapter grants are fostering growth in Michigan and North Dakota. Future articles will highlight other grant recipients and their projects. How can an ONCC grant enhance certification growth in your chapter? Let ONCC help you blossom!
The creation of electronic logs for the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO), the professional development component of renewal Option 1, made keeping track of professional development activities easy. Now, there’s a quick way to update those logs with continuing nursing education (CNE) contact hours you’ve earned through the ONS Evaluation Center.

It’s easy. Begin by accessing your online ONC-PRO Logs (https://www.oncc.org/oncpro/default.aspx). If you have earned contact hours through the ONS Evaluation Center, click on the link that indicates CNE is available to be imported. Follow the on-screen instructions to select CNE entries from your Evaluation Center record, and import those contact hours to your Continuing Nursing Education ONC-PRO Log. It’s fast, easy, and accurate.

It’s a good idea to update your logs throughout your certification period, rather than waiting until renewal time. With the link between ONC-PRO Logs and the ONS Evaluation Center, it’s both convenient and efficient.

Meet Janet Cavitt: 2009 CPON® of the Year

Janet Cavitt, BSN, RN, CPON®, Hematology/Oncology Program Coordinator, is credited by Linda Shaffer, MD, Medical Director of the Hematology/Oncology Program at Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, as the “driving force” behind exceptional program development. Cavitt was awarded the distinct honor of being the 2009 CPON® of the Year during the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses 33rd Annual Conference and Exhibit in Orlando, FL, in September 2009. She was the first to obtain CPON® certification in her practice environment in 1995. The program now boasts 65% of their pediatric hematology/oncology nursing staff as CPON® certified. Cavitt acknowledges a strong institutional support for certification, which makes her role in advocating for certification among her peers and administration less cumbersome when addressing organizational philosophy. Her influence stretches beyond the medical center and into the pediatric hematology/oncology community at large as she continues to serve on the CPON® test development committee. As a past CPON® item writer, Cavitt’s knowledge and expertise as a clinician, manager, and educator make her an ideal member to move CPON® to CPHON™ in the coming year.

Cavitt’s service to the community includes providing up-front leadership for the Central Texas Childhood and Adolescent Cancer Coalition, a collaborative effort among the various support organizations, parents, and healthcare professionals in the Central Texas area. The group established a comprehensive resource list, community calendar, and telephone support groups and continues to advocate for mental health services. As an experienced nurse, Cavitt’s knowledge of the needs within the childhood and adolescent cancer community assisted in establishing the structural framework for program development that impacts the lives of the patients she serves. She also served on the board of the Austin area Candlelighter’s Foundation as well as lending her leadership abilities to her local chapter of APHON.

As an educator, Cavitt serves as an Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Chemotherapy and Biotherapy instructor as well as a facilitator for the Initiative for Pediatric Palliative Care interdisciplinary educational series for Dell Children’s Medical Center. Her zeal for education led her to participate in the Children’s Oncology Group project “Family Handbook for Children With Cancer,” which is available on the CureSearch Web site (www.curesearch.org). Cavitt also developed a Web site for her division that has easy access to multidisciplinary education materials to assist her colleagues in meeting the learning needs of the patients and families. A poster presentation on the process and product outcome was displayed during the APHON 33rd Annual Conference and Exhibit in Orlando, FL, in September 2009.

Congratulations, Janet Cavitt, our 2009 CPON® of the Year!
Certification Applicants Save by Going Green

Candidates who are applying for a certification test or renewal in 2010 are strongly encouraged to apply online, and have a financial incentive to do so. The 2010 certification fee for paper applications (those submitted by mail or fax) is $25 higher than the fee for candidates who apply online using ONCC’s secure online registration system.

According to Vicki Norton, RN, BSN, OCN®, ONCC President, “There are additional costs involved in the processing of paper applications, including increased data entry and paper handling, which we don’t incur with online applications. By applying online, candidates help to keep certification costs low and reduce our negative impact on the environment.” Candidates who prefer to apply by mail or fax have the option to do so, but will pay a $25 higher certification fee to cover the additional costs. “Most certification candidates currently apply online,” noted Norton. “The $25 fee will ensure that the additional costs associated with the processing of paper applications is not passed on to all candidates but is limited to those who choose to apply by mail or fax.”

Initial OCN®, CBCN™, and CPHON™ certification candidates (those who do not currently hold the desired credential) should keep in mind that details about the continuing nursing education required for eligibility must be entered during the online registration process. Candidates should have this information available when starting the online application process. ONCC offers a secure, online registration system that is available to candidates 24/7 at http://www.oncc.org/registration/.

Attend the Institutes of Learning and Advanced Practice Nursing Conference Virtually—CNE Available!

Whether you attended the ONS Institutes of Learning or Advanced Practice Nursing Conference and want to check out the sessions you missed, or you couldn’t make it to Tampa—make sure you don’t miss out on the information! Attend online using synchronized slides, MP3 downloads, handouts, and more. Earn up to 15 additional CNE contact hours for IOL and 10 additional CNE for the APN conference. Special pricing is available for conference attendees, or join us as a virtual attendee. View a demo and register now at http://www.ons.org/meetings/iol09/register/virtual.shtml!

SIGs Tackle the Certification Challenge

Which ONS Special Interest Group (SIG) has the highest number of certified nurses as members? The highest percentage? Which SIG has experienced the largest increase in certified members in the past year? The answers will be revealed soon when the SIG Certification Challenge is complete.

Last spring, the Nurse Practitioner SIG issued a challenge to all SIGs to see which group could attain the largest increase in certified nurses among their memberships by the 2010 Congress. Because the membership size of the SIGs varies widely, the results will be measured in actual numbers as well as percentages.

With OCN®, CBCN™, and CPHON™ certification test windows in February and May, as well as year-round testing for AOCNP® and AOCNS® candidates, the leader can change almost daily. Stay tuned for details.

Mark Your Calendars! (continued from page 1)

If you’re renewing by Option 2 (Practice hours + Testing) or Option 3 (Testing + ONC-PRO), please see the test application deadline dates on page 10. Whichever method you choose for renewal, be sure to apply by the application deadline date. Learn more about certification renewal at http://www.oncc.org/renewal/.
Employers Recognized for Staffing With Certified Nurses

ONCC recently awarded 148 recognition plaques to institutions for staffing their facilities with oncology certified nurses. These plaques are available free of charge to any patient care setting where the majority of professional nurses are ONCC-certified. To request your plaque, go to http://www.oncc.org/awards/plaques.shtml.

Abington Hematology Oncology Associates in Willow Grove, PA
Alphamed Physicians Group, Intermed Oncology Associates in Homewood, IL
Alphamed Physicians Group, Intermed Oncology Associates in Tinley Park, IL
Alpharetta Georgia Cancer Specialists in Georgia
American Health Network, Hematology-Oncology in Indianapolis, IN
Anne Arundel Medical Center, Radiation Oncology in Annapolis, MD
Arizona Oncology Associates, Deer Valley in Phoenix, AZ
Atlantic Health System, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Morristown, NJ
Bassett Healthcare, Cancer Institute in Cooperstown, NY
Beebe Medical Center, Tunnell Cancer Center in Lewes, DE
Bothwell Regional Health Center, Oncology Services Program in Sedalia, MO
Bryn Mawr Medical Specialists in Pennsylvania
Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Allene Broyhill Stevens Heilman Radiation Oncology Center in Lenoir, NC
California Oncology of the Central Valley in Fresno, CA
Cancer Centers of Southwest Oklahoma in Lawton
Cantor, Biermann, Fellin, Tropea, and Desnoyers, Chestnut Hill Infusion Suite in Philadelphia, PA
Capital Region Medical Center, Goldschmidt Cancer Center in Jefferson, MO
Caritas Good Samaritan Hospital, Foxboro Oncology in Massachusetts
Carolina Oncology Associates in Salisbury, NC
Carolina's Hospital System, Radiation Oncology in Florence, SC
Cascade Cancer Center in Kirkland, WA
Cascade Community Healthcare, Cancer Care of the Cascades in Bend, OR
CHC New Bern Cancer Care in North Carolina
Central Indiana Cancer Center, South in Indianapolis
Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center, Cancer Care Infusion Center in Columbus, OH
Chandler Regional Medical Center, Cancer Center in Arizona
Charleston Cancer Center in South Carolina
Children's Hospital Boston in Massachusetts
Christiana Care Health System-Graham Center, Cancer Outreach in Newark, DE
Commonwealth Hematology/Oncology in Concord, MA
Comprehensive Hematology Oncology Physicians, Nursing Dept, in Dearborn, MI
Covenant Cancer Treatment Center, Medical Oncology and Hematology in Waterloo, IA
CVPH, Fitzpatrick Cancer Center in Plattsburgh, NY
Daviess Community Hospital, Hematology/Oncology/Specialty Clinic in Washington, IN
DeKalb Medical, Cancer Services in Decatur, Georgia
Doylestown Hospital, Cancer Center in Pennsylvania
Duke University Medical Center, Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Program in Durham, NC
Eastern Carolina Internal Medicine, Mary Dale Bender Oncology Treatment Center in Polloksville, NC
Elmhurst Hospital Center, Chemotherapy Infusion Unit in New York
Emory Healthcare-Winship Cancer Institute, Ambulatory Infusion Center in Atlanta, GA
Flagstaff Medical Center, Cancer Centers of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff
Florida Cancer Specialists in Bonita Springs
Florida Cancer Specialists, Venice Healthpark in Venice
Georgetown University Hospital, 3BLES-Medical Oncology in Washington, DC
Glens Falls Hospital, CR Wood Cancer Center in New York
Greenville Hospital System, Multidisciplinary Cancer Center in South Carolina
Group Health Bellevue Medical Center, Oncology Infusion Center in Washington
Gundersen Lutheran, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders in LaCrosse, WI
Hallmark Health Cancer Center in Stoneham, MA
Harbin Clinic Medical Oncology in Rome, GA
Harold S. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Infusion Room in Dallas
Harrison Health Partners, Harrison Bremerton Hematology & Oncology in Washington
Hennepin County Medical Center, Comprehensive Cancer Center, GI, in Minneapolis, MN

(See “Employers Recognized,” page 8)
Employers Recognized (continued from page 7)

Henrico Doctors’ Hospital, Forest Campus, Advanced Diagnostic Breast Center in Richmond, VA
Henrico Doctors’ Hospital, Forest Campus, Infusion Center in Richmond, VA
Henrico Doctors’ Hospital, Parham Campus, Infusion Center in Richmond, VA
Highline Medical Center, Cancer Care Program in Burien, WA
Hillcrest Hospital, Hirsch Cancer Center in Mayfield Heights, OH
Howard Regional Health System, Community Oncology Center in Kokomo, IN
Internal Medicine Associates, Hematology-Oncology in Bloomington, IN
ITA Partners in Philadelphia, PA
JFK Medical Center, 3 North Oncology in Edison, NJ
John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Lewis Hall Singletary Oncology Center in Thomasville, GA
Kansas City Cancer Center, West in Kansas
Kansas City Cancer Center, North in Missouri
Kingsport Hematology/Oncology Associates in Tennessee
Lancaster Hematology Oncology Care in Pennsylvania
Lake Norman Radiation Oncology in Mooresville, NC
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Radiation Oncology, LVH-M Site in Allentown, PA
Louisville Oncology-Audubon in Kentucky
Louisville Oncology-Corydon in Indiana
Louisville Oncology-Jeffersonville in Indiana
Louisville Oncology-Old Brownsboro Crossing in Kentucky
Louisville Oncology-Shebbo in Kentucky
Louisville Oncology-Suburban in Kentucky
Lowell General Hospital, Cancer Center in Massachusetts
Mainline Oncology Hematology Associates in Wynnewood, PA
Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center, Division of Beaufort Regional Medical System in Washington, NC
Marshfield Clinic Cancer Care in Eau Claire, WI
Martin Memorial Health Systems, Infusion Suite in Stuart, FL
Martin Memorial Health Systems, Robert & Carol Weissman Cancer Center in Stuart, FL
Massachusetts General Hospital, The James & Ruth Clark Center for Radiation Oncology in Boston
Medical Consultants PC, Oncology in Muncie, IN
Medical Oncology & Hematology Associates of Northern Virginia in Fairfax
Medical Oncology & Hematology Associates of Northern Virginia in Reston
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Basking Ridge Regional Site in New Jersey
Mercy Hospital, Oncology Hematology Center in Portland, ME
Mercy Medical Center, Perrine Oncology/Neurosurgery Centers in Cedar Rapids, IA
Methodist Hospitals, Radiation Oncology in Merrillville, IN
Methodist Hospitals, Radiation Oncology in Gary, IN
Methodist Richardson, UT Southwestern Cancer Center in Texas
Moffitt Cancer Center, Clinic Administration in Tampa, FL
Moffitt Cancer Center, Nursing Professional Development in Tampa, FL
Monmouth Medical Center, Oncology Day Stay in Long Branch, NJ
Morehead Memorial Hospital, Smith McMichael Cancer Center in Eden, NC
Morristown Memorial Hospital, Franklin 4 in New Jersey
Morristown Memorial Hospital, Outpatient Medical-Oncology Dept in New Jersey
Mount Auburn Hospital, Hematology Oncology/Radiation Oncology in Cambridge, MA
National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center, 3 SE Day Hospital in Bethesda, MD
Naval Medical Center, Hematology-Oncology Division in San Diego, CA
New York Oncology Hematology in Gloversville, NY
New York Oncology Hematology in Rexford, NY
New York Oncology Hematology in Saratoga, NY
North Bend Medical Center, Oncology in Coos Bay, OR
North Colorado Medical Center, Oncology Services in Greeley
Northpoint Cancer Center in Dallas, TX
Northshore University Health System, Glenbrook Hospital, Kellogg Cancer Care Center in Glenview, IL
Norton Hospital Audubon, Cancer Resource Center in Louisville, KY
Norton Hospital, Infusion Center in Louisville, KY
Norton Hospital Suburban, Cancer Resource Center in Louisville, KY
Norton Hospital Suburban, 5A in Louisville, KY
Nuthakki & Associates in Troy, OH
Oncology Associates of Bridgeport in Trumbull, CT
Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Santa Cruz Infusion Center in California

(See “Employers Recognized,” page 9)
Do you know a Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON®) or Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse (CPHON™) who deserves recognition for contributions to pediatric oncology nursing, oncology nursing service, and promotion of certification?

Submit a nomination for the 2010 Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse of the Year Award. The recipient will be presented with $1000 and a crystal award at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses during the Association for Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses 34th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, from October 14–16, 2010. Nomination forms are available at http://www.oncc.org/awards/cpon.shtml. Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 2010.

Employers Recognized (continued from page 8)

Paris Regional Cancer Center in Texas
Parkwest Medical Center, Outpatient Infusion Center in Knoxville, TN
Pennsylvania Oncology-Hematology Associates, Chemotherapy Suite in Philadelphia
Premiere Oncology of Arizona in Scottsdale
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Oncology Unit in Mission Hills, CA
Queen’s Medical Center, Cancer Center in Honolulu, HI
Regional Cancer Care in Durham, NC
Retreat Doctors Hospital, Infusion Unit in Richmond, VA
Riverview Medical Center, 3 East in Red Bank, NJ
Rush Copley Medical Center, Outpatient Cancer Care Center in New Lenox, IL
San Juan Oncology Associates in Farmington, NM
Sanford Hematology & Oncology in North Carolina
Scripps Clinic, Department of Hematology/Oncology in Encinitas, CA
Scotland Health Care System, Scotland Cancer Treatment Center in Laurinburg, NC
Southeast Missouri Hospital, Infusion Services in Cape Girardeau, MO
Southern New Mexico Cancer Center in Las Cruces, NM
Southwest Fort Worth Cancer Center in Texas
Spectrum Health, Lemmon-Holton Cancer Pavilion, Multispecialty Team Coordinators in Grand Rapids, MI
Spectrum Health, Lemmon-Holton Cancer Pavilion, Radiation Oncology in Grand Rapids, MI
Spectrum Health United Memorial, Cancer Center in Greenville, MI
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Oncology 5 Central in Boise, ID
St. John’s Hospital of Health East, Cancer Care Clinic & Infusion Outpatient in Maplewood, MN
St. Luke’s Allentown Cancer Center, Infusion Center in Pennsylvania
St. Luke’s Hospital & Health Network, Oncology Clinical Trials in Bethlehem, PA
St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders in Lewiston, ME
St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Cancer Resource Center in Covington, LA
Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital, Alan P. Lyss Center for Cancer Care and Clinical Research in Missouri
Texas Oncology, Tyler Cancer Center in Tyler
The Christ Hospital, Cancer Center in Cincinnati, OH
The Miriam Hospital, Fain 3 Cancer Center in Providence, RI
Trinity Cancer Center in Moline, IL
Unity Health Systems, Outpatient Hematology/Oncology and Ambulatory Infusion Center in Rochester, NY
University of Chicago Medical Center, Oncology Care Center in Illinois
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Division of Hematology & Oncology, Sylvester Cancer Center in Miami, FL
University of North Carolina Women’s Hospital, Gynecology Oncology Clinic in Chapel Hill
UPMC Cancer Center in Beaver, Pennsylvania
UPMC Cancer Center-St. Margaret in Pittsburgh, PA
US Oncology, Innovent Oncology in The Woodlands, TX
Verde Valley Medical Center, Cancer Centers of Northern Arizona Healthcare in Sedona
Via Christi Cancer Center, Cancer Resource Center in Wichita, KS
Western Baptist Hospital, Outpatient Chemotherapy in Paducah, KY
Western Baptist Hospital, Radiation Oncology Department in Paducah, KY
Western Oncology Hematology Associates in Lakewood, CO
William Beaumont Hospital, Wilson Cancer Resource Center in Sterling Heights, MI
Winchester Hospital, Ambulatory Hematology/Oncology Clinic in Stoneham, MA

Nominees Wanted for Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse of the Year Award
Advocates Share the Benefits of Certification

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) recently welcomed 37 nurses into the ONCC Advocates Program. Advocates are certified nurses who voluntarily promote the benefits of certification in their workplaces, chapters, or communities. Find more information about joining the Advocates Program at http://www.oncc.org/support/advocatesProgram.shtml.

Kellei Agostinelli, Cary, NC
Heather Askren, Lafayette, IN
Monica Bachman, Boise, ID
Maureen Brannon, Tulsa, OK
Nancy Brauning, Cincinnati, OH
Gary Breckenridge, Mesa, AZ
Jessica Brodbeck, Medford, MA
Amanda Brown, Hilliard, OH
Dia Byrne, Boise, ID
Julie Carlson, Rockford, IL
Tiffany Clark, Rustburg, VA
Susan Damico, Sayre, PA
Stephanie DeRusseau, Round Rock, TX
Kimberly Johns, Loma Linda, CA
Sacha Kelly, Stillwater, MN
Heather Kirby, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Meredith Lahl, Cleveland, OH
Mary Leban, Grand Rapids, MI
Gloria Lohr, Kentland, IN
Ruth Lopes, Tacoma, WA
Tara Malbasa, Cleveland, OH
Cynthia Mattson, Turlock, CA
Shannon Merk, Kingsley, IA

Sara Moldenhauer, Madison, WI
Avena Panganiban, Sugar Land, TX
Megan Ploog, Minneapolis, MN
Marilyn Ramsey, Washington, NC
Aisha Reikow, Warrington, PA
Kimberly Rivera, Hackensack, NJ
Tonya Sanchez, Houston, TX
Lori Saunders, Oceanside, NY
Tonya Schroeder, Omaha, NE
Sherry Spiller, Pontiac, MI
Jena Srivasta, Bronx, NY
Stacy Stanifer, Lexington, KY
Mary Wagner, Mesa, AZ
Wilma Weber, Salem, OR
Gail Williams, Philadelphia, PA
Kathy Wroblewski, Schenectady, NY

Application Deadlines for 2010 Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCN®, CPHON™, CBCN™ Test Dates</th>
<th>Early Application Deadline (save $100)</th>
<th>Final Application Deadline (full fee)</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 2–31, 2010</td>
<td>April 7, 2010</td>
<td>April 21, 2010</td>
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Note. AOCNP® and AOCNS® tests are offered year-round. Candidates may apply at any time, and if eligible, will receive an authorization to test that provides for a 90-day testing window. Candidates must apply by September 1 to ensure testing opportunities in 2010.

Readers Respond

What are your favorite test preparation tips?
Certification candidates always should use the appropriate Test Blueprint as a basis for test preparation, but many certified nurses have additional tips for test success.

E-mail your responses to oncc@ons.org or fax to +1-412-859-6168. Please reference “Readers Respond” in your comments.