



ONCC News

The Newsletter of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

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Due to Renew in 2007? Remember These Deadlines!

Nurses whose certification will expire in 2007, take note: Although ONCC certifications expire at the end of the year, applications for renewal must be received several months before then.

Nurses with OCN®, CPON®, and AOCN® credentials who are planning to renew by the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO) in 2007 should submit an application and ONC-PRO log by **September 15, 2007**, to save \$75 off the fee. All other ONC-PRO applications and logs must be received by October 15, 2007, with the full, nondiscounted fee.

Certified nurses who want to renew OCN® or CPON® certification by testing, please note the dates and deadlines in the table.

Dates and Deadlines for Computer-Based Tests

Test Date(s) (excluding Sundays)	First Application Deadline (Save \$75!)	Final Application Deadline (Full Fee)
OCN® and CPON®		
July 16–28, 2007	April 11, 2007	April 25, 2007
October 15–27, 2007	July 11, 2007	July 25, 2007
AOCNP and AOCNS	Offered year-round	Offered year-round

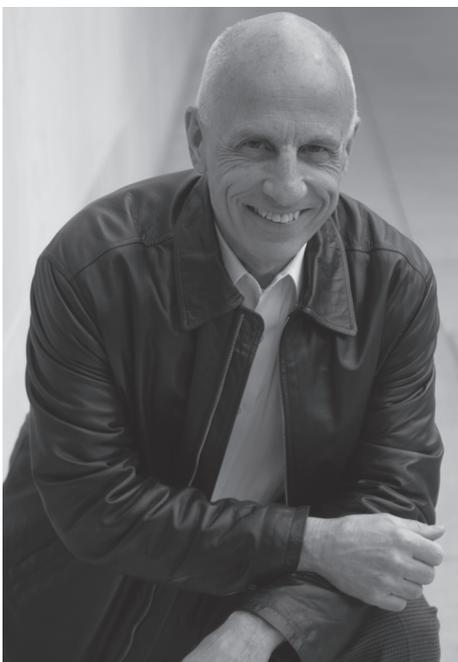
Apply online or learn more at www.oncc.org.

OCN®s and CPON®s who do not meet renewal eligibility criteria for practice may use the alternate renewal method, which requires passing the test and meeting ONC-PRO requirements. All deadlines for test applications and ONC-PRO submissions

must be met by candidates using the alternate renewal method.

Additional information about renewal can be found at www.oncc.org/renewal. Candidates may submit applications and ONC-PRO logs online at www.oncc.org.

Energy and Enthusiasm on the ONCC Breakfast Menu



Motivational speaker Nick Mezacapa

Well-known motivational speaker Nick Mezacapa will be the featured speaker at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, in Las Vegas, NV, in conjunction with the Oncology Nursing Society 32nd Annual Congress.

Mezacapa's presentations draw on his experiences as a teacher, coach, priest, husband, and father with passion and authenticity. His experiences as a prostate cancer survivor, radio personality, and active thespian combine to generate a style and urgency that are unique. Mezacapa is a frequently requested speaker on the topic of survivorship and spirituality. His presentations are motivating and uplifting.

In addition to Mezacapa's presentation, ONCC will present the 2007 OCN® of the Year, Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse of the Year, and ONCC Employer Recognition Award.

Reserve Your Ticket

Certified nurses may reserve tickets for the ONCC breakfast through an online reservation system that will be available at www.oncc.org beginning February 14, 2007. A reminder e-mail will be sent to certified nurses encouraging them to reserve their tickets.

Tickets are available to currently certified nurses only, and seating is limited to

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President's Message**Seasons of Change****Patricia Baldwin, RN, MS, OCN®**

Change certainly is something with which we all are familiar. Although change is a frequent occurrence in our personal and professional lives, many of us are not especially comfortable with it, tend to shy away from it, and sometimes have difficulty adjusting when it occurs. Despite the undercurrent of stress that often accompanies changes in our lives, few would disagree that some of the most remarkable, fulfilling, and meaningful aspects of our lives have been the result of changes—changes that resulted from sticking our necks out, taking chances, making commitments, becoming parents, pursuing further education, moving, or trying something new.

In biblically based lyrics written by Pete Seeger, the Byrds enthralled 1960s America with a song that extolled the beauty and symbolism of the ever-changing seasons of life, “Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season).”

*A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep
And a time for every purpose,
under heaven.*

Personally, this song summarizes the heart-wrenching yet life-affirming lessons that my patients have taught me over the years. It serves as the basis for my answer whenever I’m asked that dreaded question, “How can you be an oncology nurse? Isn’t it depressing?” I’ve learned that the privilege of accompanying individuals and their families on the journey as they struggle with life-threatening illness has been one of the most profound gifts that I have ever received. Through the journeys, I have come to understand what is truly important in life.

Like our own lives, the life cycle or history of ONCC has been filled with challenges and changes. Reflecting on the past 20 years of testing, the one constant has been change. ONCC has evolved from the fledgling organization that developed and administered the first paper-and-pencil certification ex-



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amination for basic adult oncology nursing practice, OCN® (Oncology Certified Nurse), in 1986 to the well-respected certification program that is recognized and occasionally envied by its peers as a leader in the testing industry. ONCC now administers paper-and-pencil and computer-based tests for basic adult oncology nursing practice, OCN®; advanced practice, AOCNP (Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner) and AOCNS (Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist); and basic pediatric oncology nursing practice, CPON® (Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse).

The certification renewal process has undergone many changes in the past 20 years. Initially, all renewals were based on retesting every four years. The process never was popular with certificants, but it was essential for maintaining a fair, valid, and psychometrically sound program. The Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO) was developed to allow certified nurses to earn points toward certification renewal by completing professional development activities. Initially, ONC-PRO could be used every other renewal cycle, with retesting required every other renewal cycle, or once every eight years. When a thorough review of the passing rates for renewal candidates indicated that more than 97% successfully retested, the ONCC Board of Directors revised the renewal policy so that ONC-PRO can be used to renew certification every time renewal is due by nurses who are currently ONCC certified and meet all eligibility criteria for renewal. The point system for

ONC-PRO is revised frequently to reflect new or expanded categories that are suggested by certificants.

In the past 23 years, ONCC has had 10 presidents and innumerable individuals who have served in a variety of volunteer capacities, such as on the Board of Directors and on committees and task forces for item writing, test development, passing scores, nominating, appeals, the newsletter, research, and recognition. ONCC advocates are the newest members of the legion of volunteers who are committed to oncology nursing certification and the difference that it makes in patients’ lives.

Changes in processes, programs, and individuals have been constant throughout ONCC’s history. What has not changed is ONCC’s commitment to excellence. The demonstrated commitment of the more than 23,000 oncology certified nurses provides the underpinnings for all that ONCC has accomplished.

As I write my final presidential message, I’d like to take a moment to share with you how grateful and honored I am to have had the opportunity to represent you as your president. I have been honored to have the opportunity to meet many of the ONCC staff and the individuals who have served as volunteers on our test development committees. Those individuals, along with those who have participated in item-writing workshops, deserve the gratitude, recognition, and support of all oncology certified nurses because they carry out the work that makes our certification program possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

ONCC Needs Input on OCN[®] Role Delineation Study

Heather Thompson Mackey, RN,
MSN, APRN, BC, AOCN[®]

In May 2007, ONCC will undertake a new role delineation study to ensure that the OCN[®] examination accurately reflects the roles and responsibilities necessary for competent performance in oncology nursing. OCN[®]s, this is *your* opportunity to participate in a way that will ensure that the OCN[®] examination reflects current oncology nursing across all practice settings nationwide. In preparation for this great task, the *ONCC News* editor sat down with ONCC Executive Director Cynthia Miller Murphy, RN, MSN, CAE, to discuss the specifics of the upcoming role delineation study.

What is an OCN[®] role delineation study?

Role delineation (also known as job analysis or practice analysis) refers to procedures designed to obtain descriptive information about the tasks performed on a job and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to competently perform the tasks. The OCN[®] role delineation study will identify the tasks and knowledge that are necessary for competent performance by OCN[®]s.

Why is it important?

Role delineation provides an important link between a certification examination and practice. The use of role delineation to define the content domain of an examination is a critical component in establishing content validity. Content validity refers to the extent to which the content covered by the examination is actually representative of the important components of a job, such as tasks, skills, abilities, and knowledge.

Who performs the study?

ONCC has contracted with Prometric, the testing company that currently assists ONCC in the development and administration of the ONCC certification examinations, to conduct the OCN[®] role delineation study. Prometric also conducted the most recent role delineation study for the CPON[®] and advanced certification exami-

nations. The ONCC staff will work closely with Prometric to facilitate the process.

Two panels of OCN[®]s will be selected to act as subject-matter experts. The first will provide the content expertise necessary to design the survey instrument, and the second will translate the results of the survey into a revised content outline, or test blueprint, for future forms of the OCN[®] certification examination.

How are they selected?

ONCC will send a call for participants via e-mail to all OCN[®]s. Those who are interested in participating will be asked to submit a resume or curriculum vitae. Panel members will be selected by ONCC staff and the chair of the OCN[®] Test Development Committee. About 18 participants will be selected. Each panel will consist of about 12 individuals, and half of them will participate on both panels. Participants will be selected in an effort to balance each panel with regard to geographic locations, nursing roles, workplace settings, subspecializations, educational levels, and years of experience. Both experienced and newly certified nurses will be selected for each panel. Ethnic and gender diversity also will be a consideration in selecting participants.

When will the survey be launched?

If all goes according to plan, the first meeting of the panel of subject-matter experts will be held in March, and the survey will be launched in May 2007. All OCN[®]s will receive an e-mail inviting them to complete the survey. A link to the electronic survey will be included in the e-mail.

It is extremely important that all OCN[®]s take responsibility for completing the survey. A high response rate will increase the validity of the examination and ensure that it is representative of actual current practice.

ONCC will offer incentives for nurses to complete the survey, such as five points toward certification renewal and the chance

to win one of ten \$100 gift certificates. This will require OCN[®]s to submit their names with completed surveys, but ONCC will not have the ability to link names with responses.

The testing company will keep track of those submitting completed surveys and submit the names to ONCC to award the ONCC-PRO points and gift certificates. ONCC will not review any individual responses. It will only review aggregate data.

What happens once the survey is performed?

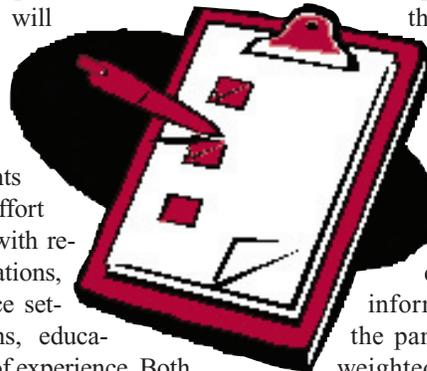
Prometric will summarize the data and submit it to the second panel of experts to review. That panel will link the tasks that are part of the survey with the knowledge areas that are part of the survey. In other words, panel members will link the specific tasks with the knowledge required to do the tasks. All of that information will be used by the panel to develop a revised, weighted test blueprint (content outline) for the OCN[®] certification examination.

How long does it take for the examination to change?

Again, providing all goes according to the schedule, the second panel will meet in July to revise the test blueprint. The new blueprint will be published in the *2008 ONCC Test Bulletin* in September 2007, and the revised examination will be administered starting in January 2008.

Watch for the e-mails inviting you to complete the survey. Remember that the role delineation study will be conducted via an online survey, which can be completed in multiple sittings.

Also, as mentioned earlier, a variety of incentives will be available to those who complete the survey, in addition to the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to ensure the high quality of the OCN[®] examination for years to come.



How Has Becoming Certified Changed Your Practice?

Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®

How has becoming certified changed my practice? Let's start with another, perhaps more relevant, question: Why did I bother getting certified in the first place? What possible difference could it make?

Attaining and applying knowledge in no way require the stresses inherent in the certification process. Many of us do not work in the major cancer centers and hospitals where certification is valued and expected. In the absence of obvious rewards, financial or otherwise, it might be easier to argue against the effort. It's time consuming—forms to fill out, time off from work, time to prepare for the test. In the absence of reimbursement, it's also not an inexpensive pursuit. Books for test preparation and examination fees may seem expensive on a nurse's income. There is also the possibility that the reverse of appreciation may be experienced. Colleagues may view the pursuit as somewhat pretentious . . . as if a nurse is somehow trying to show that he or she is "better" than the rest. Who needs or wants that?

For many years, I was among the detractors from certification, and all of those arguments rang true for me at one time. I clearly remember how I responded when encouraged to become certified while working in long-term care. With arrogance, I simply responded, "I don't need extra letters at the end of my name to feel good about myself." I knew that certification would not in any way affect my pay or professional image. My bosses, patients, and peers respected me without lettering. I really didn't give certification much further thought for several years.

So, with all of that said, allow me to share my experience since becoming an oncology nurse. In a way, it's a story of conversion. In 2002, while visiting my parents in Alabama, I was impressed with the care provided during a visit I made to Huntsville Hospital's medical

oncology unit. It was not long before I made the fateful decision to leave Massachusetts for the South. It was a huge move for me. It meant stepping out of a lucrative and intrinsically rewarding management position to begin a job as a staff nurse in a field I knew very little about—oncology. However, the benefits of getting back to bedside nursing as well as moving closer to my parents helped me to overcome my initial reservations. It seemed like the time was right for a change.

Within two months of my arrival, I was questioning the sanity of my decision. "What have I done?" was my recurring

With all of the new discoveries in oncology, the intellectual challenge alone makes it an exciting area to practice, but the ability to have an impact on the lives of those who entrust their care to us is nothing short of amazing.

question. I went from being an expert in my previous field to feeling like a new graduate all over again. Perhaps I was a little harsh on myself, but I felt like I didn't have a clue. Yes, oncology as a field was exciting, and yes, my coworkers were incredibly supportive. But there was no denying that I was practicing in an area in which I had absolutely no expertise. "Could someone tell me what neutropenia is?" I just nodded my head on first hearing the word and grabbed a dictionary at the first opportunity. (Arrogant self-assurance dies hard.) For all of the hiding of my insecurities, I couldn't lie to myself. It seemed hopeless. So what to do? My options were simple: quit or figure out how to be the nurse I wanted to be.

During my orientation, I had listened to the benefits of joining the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and of pursuing certification. My old cynicism reared its head, but I managed to keep my mouth shut. Realizing I needed to do something, anything, I forked over the membership dues for ONS and began studying everything that came my way. Basically, after recognizing how significant my knowledge gap was, I approached the matter as I would any course in college. Once again, I became a student. Needing a benchmark to measure my progress, I made the decision to pursue certification as a way to make sure that I was at least competent to keep working in oncology. The critical statement that set me on that path was one of definition. What does certification mean? OCN® certification simply means that a nurse has worked a specific amount of time with patients with cancer and has passed an examination that represents the basic knowledge a nurse practicing in oncology should have.

My conviction is that many do not pursue certification simply out of fear: fear that rather than validate their knowledge, the examination will demonstrate their inadequacy. So for those who are considering certification, remind yourself of what those letters do not mean. Specifically, the OCN® credential does not imply clinical expertise. I have been an oncology nurse for three years, and I obtained certification after eight months. I was not then, and I am not now, an expert in oncology. I am, however, competent.

What I rediscovered during the initial months working with patients with cancer was the joy of learning, of having "aha" moments when the nonsensical and impossibly complex suddenly appeared with clarity and simplicity in my mind. With all of the new discoveries in oncology, the intellectual challenge

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Certified

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alone makes it an exciting area to practice, but the ability to have an impact on the lives of those who entrust their care to us is nothing short of amazing. The enormous benefits of being able to apply and share my new discoveries with colleagues and patients soon became apparent.

This is how certification, and the journey toward becoming certified, has changed my practice. I'm not sure that I would have studied as hard as I did if I had not made certification my benchmark.

My patients now can see within a short time of meeting me that I have the ability to answer the questions they often are too afraid to ask. I can answer their questions with confidence. And let's be honest: Don't they deserve to have a nurse who can do that?

Beyond the clinical aspect, I also rediscovered what I had known during my years working in long-term care. When patients feel that they can trust you in helping them to understand the clinically confusing, they are much more willing to trust you in helping them with the psychologically devastating.

So, with humility, I realize that my views on certification were rather arrogant in the past. Certification represents, among other things, a commitment to excellence. Going through the certification process demonstrates recognition that oncology nursing requires a specialized subset of knowledge to best meet the needs of patients, as well as a commitment to ensure that knowledge is obtained. Becoming certified helped me to gain credibility in presenting myself to others and in evaluating the validity of my clinical judgments. In many ways, certification was just the beginning. I am still the student I should have always remained, but I no longer feel like that new graduate.

With newfound confidence, and the assurance that confidence is more than

Readers Respond

How Has Certification Changed Your Practice?

How has becoming certified changed your practice? E-mail your response to *ONCC News* at oncc@ons.org, or fax it to 412-859-6168.

vanity, I am a better oncology nurse. I continually learn and reevaluate myself, and the benefits continually emerge. I teach more effectively. I perform more efficiently and with knowledge of what strategies are likely to be advantageous. I am better able to advocate for organizational changes and for individual patients because my credibility is recognized by others.

That said, as I began talking with nurses around the country about their opinions, I was somewhat disturbed by a recurring theme, like an echo from my past. Too often, nurses state that their reason for not considering certification is that they feel nothing is in it for them. Their employers do not value it (or at least that is the impression).

My simple response is this: There are always more important reasons for pursuing a noble goal than recognition and reward from an employer. Nor does it matter if your coworkers think little of it.

Nurses who make the effort to become certified may be surprised. In my case, I had no idea that certification would be tied to tangible rewards. I learned, after the fact, that my employer would reimburse my certification fees because I passed the examination. I also received an increase in pay based on having attained certification. Within a month of obtaining certification, my hospital paid for me to attend ONS's

Institutes of Learning and sent me again the following year. This year, a scholarship through the ONS Foundation paid for me to go.

In part, certification played a role in the hospital choosing me for its new Emerging Leaders Program, and I've been chosen to participate in different hospital committees in which meaningful discussions continue to shape the future of my institution.

Outside the hospital, I have been given the chance to serve on this publication's editorial board and as editor of ONS's *Chemotherapy Special Interest Group Newsletter*. I had the wonderful opportunity to participate as an OCN® item writer in May 2006, which provided great insight into the rigorous process required to develop valid examination items.

Do not forget, however, that the most important reward is intangible. The gratitude patients demonstrate on realizing the high quality of care is almost palpable. Considering the fears they are dealing with, we have a professional responsibility and a moral duty to ensure the most competent care. Pursuing certification and encouraging it among our colleagues are ways to ensure that we deserve the trust so many patients grant.

I'll conclude with a brief story that I would not have been able to share had I not decided to take this journey.

The greatest reward I have ever received as a nurse came in 10 words spoken by a patient with terminal cancer. I hadn't seen her for months, but I remembered some of the conversations we'd had earlier in her disease course. She had been terrified then.

But because I dealt with her physical needs competently, she let her walls down to discuss the spiritual fears that were tearing her apart when we first met. Now, coming back to the hospital, knowing she was dying, she was at peace. What did she say?

"Michael, I want you to know, you changed my life."

Employer Spotlight

Chicago Hospital Exemplifies Excellence in Pediatric Oncology Nursing Certification

Janice Nuuhiwa, RN, MSN, APN/
CNS, CPON®

This issue's Employer Spotlight showcases the work of a leader in the field of pediatric hematology and oncology and how it has advanced pediatric oncology nursing certification along the way. In the past several years, Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL, has emerged as a supporter of CPON® certification and of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON). As the first pediatric hospital in the country to obtain Magnet status, the institution recognizes the importance of certification and its impact on patient safety as well as staff satisfaction.

The leadership promotes certification from the beginning, when interviewing potential employees. CPON® is introduced during the interview process as a way to demonstrate commitment to pediatric oncology nursing and strive for excellence in clinical practice.

The unit's staff development specialist works with nurses who pursue CPON® certification to provide learning assessments and develop individualized study guides. Resources, such as *Essentials of Pediatric Oncology Nursing: A Core Curriculum* (2nd ed.), can be borrowed from the clinical educator for test preparation. Candidates are guided through the ONCC Web site to learn about additional resources, including online practice test questions. Nurses interested in taking the CPON® review course offered by the Chicago chapter of APHON can seek monetary conference support offered by the institution. Many of the staff members who obtained CPON® certification used that support in the past several years.

Once nurses are successful in obtaining CPON® certification, the hospital reimburses them for their initial certification costs. Children's Memorial Hospital also recognizes the importance of highlighting CPON® certification. Along with recognition plaques posted in patient care areas,



Nurses at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL, receive support during the certification process and enjoy recognition when they achieve CPON® status. Above, Janice Nuuhiwa, RN, MSN, APN/CNS, CPON®, center, reviews pediatric oncology nursing texts with Leticia Valdiviez, RN, MSN, CPON®, as (left to right) Courtney Schwartz, RN, BSN, CPON®, Rebekah Maloney, RN, BSN, CPON®, and Jennifer Flynn, RN, BSN, observe.

the hospital highlights CPON® certification in many in-house publications, including the annual nursing report. CPON® successes also have been featured in philanthropic publications, which led a donor to designate funds for CPON® renewals.

To date, 28 CPON®s work in the inpatient unit, long-term follow-up clinic, oncology clinic, day infusion area, ambulatory stem cell unit, and quality and leadership depart-

ments. Practice areas range from RNs providing direct patient care to advanced practice nurses and managers. Children's Memorial Hospital also has the distinguished honor of having two CPON®s receive the CPON® of the Year Award, in 2004 and 2005.

Congratulations and thank you to Children's Memorial Hospital for all it has accomplished in advancing pediatric oncology nursing certification.

Breakfast

(Continued from page 1)

1,000 attendees. Those who are successful in securing reservations will receive their breakfast tickets in the mail with their Congress badges or other Congress-related

information. Attendees must bring their breakfast tickets with them to the event to be guaranteed their seats. Additional seating may be available after all ticket holders are seated.

Pediatric Nursing Group Turns 30

Janice Nuuhiwa, RN, MSN, APN/CNS, CPON®

The Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) celebrated its 30th anniversary during its annual meeting in Hartford, CT, in October 2006. The conference was enjoyed by more than 700 nurses, the largest APHON conference attendance to date.

The organization's name and logo were revised to include hematology practice. APHON (pronounced APON) recognized the importance of representing the spectrum of clinical practice of its membership and the mission statement in the logo, leading to a vote to add the hematology component. The mission of APHON is to provide and promote expert practice in pediatric hematology and oncology nursing to its members and the public at large.

Other noteworthy points of celebration included a variety of educational opportunities offered during the pre-conference as well as the general and concurrent conference sessions. They included infections management, novel therapies, fertility issues, hematology, and palliative care. Many of the nurses who have impacted the development of pediatric oncology nursing in general, APHON specifically, were on hand for the anniversary celebration.

ONCC provided a recognition breakfast for pediatric oncology certified nurses, which was attended by more than 225 CPON®s. The breakfast featured a presentation by Pamela Hinds, RN, PhD, CS, FAAN, of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Thanks to Merck & Co., Inc., for supporting the breakfast.

A special thanks to all members of APHON for their contributions and dedication to the field of pediatric hematology and oncology nursing.

Online Vote Names New Directors

Thanks to all who cast their votes in ONCC's first Web-based election for the Board of Directors. The results of the voting are in, and the newly elected Board members will begin their three-year terms on June 1, 2007. Congratulations to the winners. Julie Earle, RN, OCN®, is the

radiation oncology nursing supervisor at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Carol Brueggen, MS, APRN, BC, AOCNS, is an oncology clinical nurse specialist at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester and an assistant professor of Nursing in the College of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic.

In Your Own Words

Explain the Benefits of Certification

The fall issue of *ONCC News* asked, "How do you explain the benefits of certification to patients?" The following is a sample of the responses received.

I am fortunate that my employer allows our certification credentials on our name badges and business cards. Naturally, patients see the "OCN®" on my badge or card and inquire as to its meaning. I simply ex-

plain to them what the letters literally stand for and that my certification "keeps me on my toes" professionally, which allows me to provide the best and most up-to-date care for them. I tell them that I maintain it by continually educating myself about cancer, treatments, and other related matters.

*Melissa Clenin, RN, BSN, OCN®
Chesterfield, MO*

Include an Advocates-Only Event on Your Congress Schedule

Certified nurses who participate in the Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program (ONCAP) are invited to attend a special advocates-only event during the ONS 32nd Annual Congress in Las Vegas, NV (April 24–27, 2007).

Advocates will discuss ideas for promoting the benefits of certification and share their own tips and techniques for encouraging certification among their nursing colleagues.

More details about the event, including the specific date and time, will be distributed to advocates by e-mail. Watch your inbox for your invitation and plan to attend!

More Nurses Join Program

Twelve more certified nurses have joined ONCAP to promote the benefits of certification in their workplaces and communities. Please join ONCC in welcoming the newest advocate volunteers.

Lori Belote, Rehoboth, DE
Joan O'Hanlon Curry, Ossining, NY
Julie Earle, Rochester, MN
Alice Irons, Candor, NY
Jeannie Keith, Anchorage, AK
Eileen Milakovic, Pittsburgh, PA
Gloria Pollack, St. Joseph, MI
Barbara Prisco, Merritt Island, FL
Carly Schutte, Rockford, IL
Jean Silverman, Kensington, MD
Ila Sowins-Dunmire, Mesa, AZ
Hai VanThi Le, Orange, CA

Promote Your Review Courses Free

Certification candidates throughout the country are looking for review courses. If your organization or local chapter will be presenting a review course in 2007 or 2008, ONCC will promote it for free. Send the

course dates, title, location, and contact information to oncc@ons.org, and ONCC will post the information on the ONCC Web site at www.oncc.org/getcertified/reviewcourses.shtml.

ONCC Recognizes 37 Employers for Supporting Certification

ONCC recently recognized 37 institutions for staffing their facilities with oncology certified nurses.

ONCC provides plaques free to patient care settings where the majority of professional oncology nurses is certified by ONCC. To apply for a plaque or to request a replacement certificate for an existing plaque, visit www.oncc.org/awards/plaques.shtml.

Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Radiation Oncology, in Minneapolis, MN
 Bassett Healthcare, Regional Cancer Program, in Cooperstown, NY
 Centegra Health System, Sage Cancer Center, in McHenry, IL
 Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, Inpatient Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center, in Fort Myers
 Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, Outpatient Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center, in Fort Myers
 Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hematology/Oncology, in Hartford
 Connecticut Oncology Group in Middletown
 Copley Hospital, Ambulatory Care/Oncology Clinic, in Morrisville, VT
 Florida Cancer Specialists in Bradenton
 Guthrie Cancer Center at Corning Hospital in New York
 Hartford Hospital, Cancer Clinical Research Office, in Connecticut
 Hartford Hospital, Hematology/Oncology, in Connecticut
 Hartford Hospital, Radiation Oncology, in Connecticut
 Henry Ford Health System, Josephine Ford Cancer Center, Downriver, in Brownstown, MI

Hillcrest Hospital, Radiation Oncology, in Mayfield Heights, OH
 Ingham Regional Medical Center, Radiation Oncology, in Lansing, MI
 Kosair Children's Hospital, 7W/OSCU, in Louisville, KY
 Lehigh Valley Hospital Cancer Center at Muhlenberg, Multi-Purpose Satellite, in Bethlehem, PA
 Medical Center Clinic in Monroeville, PA
 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Basking Ridge Regional Network, in New Jersey
 Metrohealth Medical Center in Cleveland, OH
 New Bern Cancer Care in North Carolina
 North Broward Medical Center, Infusion Center, at North Broward Cancer Center, in Deerfield Beach, FL
 North Texas Regional Cancer Center, Texas Oncology P.A., in Plano
 Oncology Alliance in Wauwatosa, WI
 Oncology Alliance, Columbia Clinic, in Milwaukee, WI
 Oncology Alliance, Racine Clinic, in Wisconsin
 Oncology Alliance, South Clinic, in Milwaukee, WI
 Pacific Hematology Oncology Associates in San Francisco, CA
 Southwest Washington Medical Center, Radiation Oncology, in Vancouver
 Speare Memorial Hospital, Oncology Clinic, in Plymouth, NH
 St. Vincent Health Center, 8NE Oncology, in Erie, PA
 Texas Oncology in Pearland
 Texas Oncology P.A. in Amarillo
 Tri State Hematology-Oncology in Ashland, KY
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Clinical Protocol Office
 Washington University School of Medicine, Site-man Cancer Center Treatment Area, in St. Louis, MO

Nominate an Outstanding Nurse for the CPON[®] of the Year Award

Winner Will Receive \$1,000

ONCC is calling for nominees for the 2007 CPON[®] of the Year. The winner will receive \$1,000 and a crystal award at a recognition breakfast for certified pediatric oncology nurses, to be held during the 31st Annual Conference of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses. The CPON[®] of the Year also will be recognized in *ONCC News* and on the ONCC Web site. Candidates must demonstrate outstanding contributions

to pediatric oncology nursing practice, oncology nursing service, and promotion of certification in oncology nursing. Nominees must be currently certified as CPON[®]s at the time of nomination and award presentation.

Completed nomination packets must be received by March 1, 2007. Nomination forms are available at www.oncc.org/awards/cpon.shtml or by contacting ONCC at oncc@ons.org or 877-769-ONCC.



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ONCC Mission Statement

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation is to promote and provide oncology nursing certification for the enhancement of patient care and professional practice.

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation was established for the development, administration, and evaluation of a program for certification in oncology nursing. Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation, 125 Enterprise Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214 (877-769-ONCC or 412-859-6104, phone; 412-859-6168, fax; oncc@ons.org, e-mail; www.oncc.org, Web site)