



certification/news

The Newsletter of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation
Volume XXV, No. 1

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Add ONCC Oasis and Breakfast to Your ONS Congress Itinerary

Certified nurses who will be attending the ONS Annual Congress will want to make the Certification Oasis one of their first stops in Boston, MA. The Oasis will be located in the North Lobby of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center near the Congress Registration Area and the ONS Foundation. The Oasis will offer certified nurses a quiet spot to relax away from the bustle of Congress activities as well as light refreshments and a limited number of chair massages. Nurses who are interested in certification will find answers to all of their questions about certification.

The ONCC Recognition Breakfast for Oncology Certified Nurses will be held Friday, April 29, from 6:30–8 am in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center Ballroom. In addition to presenting the 2011 award winners, Karyn Buxman, RN, MSN, CSP, CPAE, will present “Amazed and Amused: How to Survive and Thrive as a Nurse.” Buxman, a nurse, author, humorist, and

widely recognized professional speaker will discuss how surviving without thriving is not good enough. She’ll demonstrate how we can do our best when we create an attitude of amazement and a perspective that encourages amusement.

Breakfast tickets may be reserved online beginning March 14. Certified nurses should watch their e-mail for a message announcing the opening of the online reservation system or check the ONCC Web site. Tickets may only be reserved online and are limited to one ticket per certified nurse. Reservations will be taken on a first-come basis and limited to 1,000 participants. Those who are not successful in reserving a ticket may wait on-site and will be seated if space permits after all ticket holders have been seated.

Stay up-to-date on ONCC activities at the ONS Congress by checking the ONCC Web site at <http://www.oncc.org/Conferences/Congress>.

ONCC Celebrates 25 Years of Oncology Nursing Certification

Do you know how the idea for certification in oncology nursing developed? Do you know how many nurses passed the first OCN® examination in 1986 or how many have maintained continuous certification since then? ONCC is celebrating 25 years of oncology nursing certification, and answers to these questions and more are part of a year-long commemoration to mark this anniversary.

Anniversary information has been posted on the ONCC Web site including milestones from the past 25 years, trivia about oncology nursing certification, and other highlights.



Karyn Buxman, RN, MSN, CSP, CPAE, ONCC Breakfast speaker

(See “ONCC Celebrates” on page 8)



Editor's Message

Implementing Resolutions Beyond the New Year

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

A few months ago, at the beginning of the new year, I found myself reflecting on all that was accomplished last year as I planned for the months to come. A new year is full of possibilities and personal goals to be met. Just like you and me, ONCC has its own set of goals for 2011. The board members created a robust agenda for 2011, including continuing opportunities for the recognition of certified nurses as well as ONS and APHON chapters via the chapter grants program. One of the newer initiatives involves diving deeper into the certification renewal process and its relationship to continuing competency, specifically tailoring a nurse's continuing education to his or her learning needs through an individual learning needs assessment. While this initiative may

take some time to tease out, the benefit of targeting learning opportunities will only support the value of certification.

With 25 years of oncology certification under its belt, ONCC continues to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice. The organization's activities reflect the revised mission statement as it relates to the strategic plan. Dedication to oncology certification is evidenced by the variety of examinations available to nurses who provide care in an assortment of settings. From the diverse testing opportunities to the awards that are available (158 recognition plaques were sent out recently!), ONCC continues to provide an abundance of methods for seeking, maintaining, and recognizing certification.



ONCC Chapter Grant Awardees

Ashley Leak, RN, MSN, OCN®

Looking for ways to support your local chapter's certification efforts? Be inspired by these two ONS chapters that created innovative certification support initiatives and received an ONCC chapter grant in 2010! In 2011, ONCC will award up to five grants totaling \$5,000 to chapters of ONS or APHON to fund activities that encourage, support, or recognize oncology certification of nurses. Applications are available now at www.oncc.org.

Triangle ONS (TONS) of CERTS Program

The TONS chapter in Durham, NC, is an active chapter with 178 members. TONS proposed a "TONS of CERTS Program" in which they would match a certified nurse and certification candidate for a mentoring experience. TONS wants to increase the number of nurses who hold any ONCC certification from 44% to 60% by 2012. Additionally, TONS is encouraging area nurse managers to integrate certification into performance evaluations. TONS received \$1,000 for this chapter grant and was able to provide matching funds for this initiative. If a nurse successfully passes the certification examination, the nurse will receive a \$100 stipend. Members who have successfully completed certification since July 2010 were recognized through this program at the 2011 January meeting. Great work TONS!

OCN® Review Efforts Offered by Puget Sound ONS (PSONS)

Three Saturdays, 32 attendees, and 12 continuing nursing

education credits were the highlight of the PSONS chapter's OCN® review course in Seattle, WA, in October. The chapter was awarded \$1,500 to provide area nurses with focused study opportunities, test taking strategies, and informal peer support. Chapter members were able to attend the review course at no cost, and non-members paid \$45 for the three-day course. Attendees were motivated, responsive, and excited about meeting other nurses and reviewing oncology content. Receiving the ONCC chapter grant boosted morale as well as strongly encouraged others to take the certification examination. The coordinators of the OCN® review course plan to survey attendees and incorporate the feedback into future courses. This grant snowballed into another effort—PSONS is offering two scholarships for the cost of the examination for a chapter member for 2011. Way to go PSONS!

Gather your members together for a brainstorming session in preparation for your grant submission. Eligibility criteria include the submission of an application that describes the scope of the project including the expected outcomes. Priority will be given to projects for which the chapter will provide matching funds and those that are sustainable and/or can be repeated. Chapters that receive funding will be expected to provide a brief report on the outcomes of the project so that the ideas may be shared with other groups, and the projects can be highlighted in the *Certification News*.



ONCC Board Update

Strategic Plan Closely Tied to New Mission Statement

Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®

In November, members of the ONCC Board of Directors gathered in Pittsburgh, PA, to solidify the strategic plan as well as goals for 2011. As mentioned in the previous issue of *Certification News*, the Board updated the ONCC mission statement to read, “To promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties.” At this meeting, the Board also looked at how the strategic plan relates to the updated mission.

The concept of validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties is deeply embedded in the strategic plan for the next three to five years. Currently, most nurses utilize ONC-PRO in lieu of retesting for renewal. Although several categories

of points are acceptable, most nurses accrue points in the category of continuing nursing education (CNE). A minimum number of points is required to be oncology specific, depending on the credential; however, the topics of the CNE programs are selected by each individual nurse. Although benefits come from this approach, one concern is the inability to determine if the programs meet the learning needs of the individual nurse as they relate to continuing competency. An alternative under consideration is the use of an individual learning needs assessment to guide nurses in the types of educational programs needed to maintain competency. Pearson VUE is assisting ONCC in evaluating the feasibility and costs of implementing such a program.

In other action, the Board approved

the formation of separate Test Development Committees for the AOCNP® and AOCNS® examinations. Prior to this change, ONCC utilized the Advanced Practice Test Development Committee, comprised of four oncology clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and four oncology nurse practitioners (NPs), to develop both examinations. The new committees will be comprised of seven members, all of whom will practice in the role specified by the examination. The rationale behind the development of separate committees is to reduce the workload by having each seven-member committee work on only one program and although a common knowledge base exists among oncology CNSs and NPs, the knowledge is applied differently within the two roles.

Reinstatement Offers New Option for Certification Renewal

In 2010, ONCC introduced a new option for nurses who miss the application deadline date to renew their certification. The Reinstatement Policy provides nurses with an extended period of time to earn ONC-PRO points toward certification renewal and an extended period of time in which to submit their renewal application and supporting documents.

Here’s how it works—the final deadline to submit an application for renewal by Option 1, or the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO) is October 15 of each year. In the past, nurses who missed this

deadline could not renew and had to pass the certification test in a subsequent year to become certified again. Now, nurses have until December 31 to earn ONC-PRO points toward renewal and until March 15 of the following year to submit the application for renewal. Nurses who want to reinstate by testing must pass the test by February of the year following credential expiration.

A fee for reinstatement exists in addition to the applicable test or renewal fees. The certification expiration date for candidates who use the reinstatement policy will be retroactive. For

example, a candidate who was due to renew in 2010 and who reinstated in February 2011 will have a certification expiration date of 2014.

The advantage of reinstatement is that it allows candidates who miss the renewal application deadline date to maintain continuous certification. Without it, candidates would have no choice but to let their certification expire and then successfully test in the future to become certified again. Learn more about the ONCC Reinstatement Policy at http://www.oncc.org/media/oncc/docs/getcertified/reinstatement_aug2010.pdf.



Meet Vicki Fisher, RN, MSN, CNP, CPON®, 2010 CPON® of the Year!

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

Vicki Fisher, RN, MSN, CNP, CPON®, is a leader in the pediatric hematology/oncology nursing community. One of her colleagues commented that she “is the most remarkable person with whom I have worked in my 22 years as a blood and marrow transplant (BMT) physician.” This exemplary clinician-turned-entrepreneur was recognized by her peers as a consummate educator and promoter of excellence in pediatric hematology and oncology. Vicki earned that role largely through her strong belief in the need for and value of certification in the highly specialized field of pediatric oncology nursing. She has worked hard to promote certification and to use the knowledge and expertise from that designation to further educate nursing colleagues, physicians, medical students, patients, and families as well as members of the community. She goes far beyond participation and, in fact, beyond simply leading these activities—she is actually the initiator and innovator of numerous outstanding pediatric oncology educational programs.

Vicki’s role as an educator benefits both local and national pediatric hematology and oncology nurses. She has been instrumental in providing continuing nursing education (CNE) in-services, providing CPON® and CPHON® review courses, creating a bone marrow transplant core curriculum course, and serving as the co-editor of the first and second editions of the APHON/PBMTC core curriculum. Vicki has helped to produce numerous patient education publications and nursing tools and has collaborated with ONS to develop Web-based educational programs about BMT.

While serving as the nursing discipline chair for the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium, Vicki excelled in her role as professional mentor in the research and evidence-based practice arena. She encouraged nursing to have a voice in the development of new studies and clinical trials, which allowed for teachable moments with her colleagues. Vicki was then able to impact the professional advancement of fellow nurses by encouraging them to publish

and present their collaborative work.

Vicki became the chair of the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Nursing Committee. As Chair, she directed the Nursing Committee to create surveys, actively participate in the development of new studies and clinical trials, and to publish the results of their work. Vicki has raised the bar for nursing and has been a role model for nurses in BMT throughout the United States. As a co-editor of the BMT Core Curriculum for APHON/PBMTC, Vicki brought an evidence-based approach to patient care.

She insisted that pathophysiology be the platform for teaching about BMT. At Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, she acted as a mentor for the pediatric oncology nurses. She taught them to do research and coached them to present their work at national meetings. Vicki’s service also includes presenting to the public, including city firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians, librarians, and church groups on childhood cancer and bone marrow transplant.

Through her clinical practice, educational efforts and nursing advocacy, Vicki threaded the common theme of specialty certification. She provided personalized mentorship for individual nurses as well as prepared action plans for institutions, addressing certification renewal strategies and professional development for oncology certified nurses. Vicki also championed monetary support for certification and recertification to engage the institution in demonstrating the value for the certified nurse.

Vicki Fisher, CPON®, has been a role model as a pediatric oncology nurse, mentor, and educator throughout her professional career. In all of her work, she encourages nurses to become CPON® and/or CPHON® certified and promotes the advantages of certification. Ellen Olson, RN, MSN, CPNP, stated, “She is an outstanding educator and advocate for pediatric oncology and certification.” We agree.

Congratulations, Vicki Fisher, on receiving the 2010 CPON® of the Year award!



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www.facebook.com/oncologycertification

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



Boston's Biggest Hearts are Driven to Certification by their Youngest Patients

Michelle Ellis, RN, OCN®, CBCN®

Children's Hospital Boston (CHB) is an institution that is used to being in the spotlight. In partnership with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, it is the largest pediatric cancer program in New England treating more than 2,000 patients each year. CHB ranks as one of the nation's best pediatric facilities and was awarded Magnet designation for nursing excellence; therefore, it should come as no surprise that approximately 82% of the nurses at CHB voluntarily have become Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurses (CPON®) or Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (CPHON®).

CPHON® certification isn't mandatory, but it is strongly encouraged by the organization. When asked why certification is promoted at her facility, Colleen Nixon, MSN, RN, CPON®, the clinical educator for inpatient and outpatient oncology, stated, "Certification helps validate expertise and fosters a sense of accomplishment, professionalism, and pride among the nurses. Everyone works so hard!" One important aspect regarding certification is that no one is ever pressured to take the certification test.

"No pressure" doesn't mean "no support" however. Since 2001, CHB has provided an annual review course to prepare staff to take the test. The course fees and class conference days are paid for by the hospital. In addition, certification test fees are reimbursed. Once certified, each nurse receives a CPHON® pin and celebratory mention in the unit newsletter. There are plans to include added recognition from the Parent Advisory Group. To aid in maintaining certification, the hospital provides continuing nursing education opportunities

on a monthly basis. The unit educators offer additional hematology-, oncology-, and stem cell transplant-specific education sessions as well. The educators also are available to assist certified nurses in completing ONC-PRO logs for renewal.

The recognition at CHB is not the primary reason the nurses here become certified. The environment of excellence is infectious. When asked what drives them, the nursing staff had the following comments.

- "The patients and families I take care of deserve the best, and until I could say that I passed, I didn't feel like I was living up to that."
- "It's also reassuring to know that the majority of nurses I work with have the same impressive educational background and share the dedication."
- "I think that certification validates one's knowledge as well as their dedication to the field of pediatric oncology nursing and professional growth."
- "I wanted to be certified so that patients and families would have confidence in my care."

Congratulations to an exceptional facility and to the outstanding nurses who are driven to be the best through certification!



Approximately 82% of the nurses at CHB voluntarily have become CPON® or CPHON® certified—here are just a few.



Employers Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff

ONCC recently awarded 158 Recognition Plaques to organizations for staffing their facilities with certified nurses. These plaques are available free of charge to any patient care facility in which the majority of professional nurses (more than 50%) are ONCC certified. To request your plaque, go to <http://www.oncc.org/Awards/Plaques>.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 8 Tower Oncology in Park Ridge, IL
 Akron Children's Hospital, Outpatient Hematology Oncology in Ohio
 Arlington Cancer Center in Texas
 Atlantic Health at Goryeb Children's Hospital and OVH, Valerie Fund Children's Center in Morristown, NJ
 Atrium Medical Center, Compton Infusion and Treatment Center in Middletown, OH
 Bassett Healthcare Network, Cancer Institute in Cooperstown, NY
 Bayhealth Medical Center in Dover, DE
 Beebe Medical Center, Tunnell Cancer Center in Lewes, DE
 Cancer Care Associates in Oklahoma City, OK
 Cancer Center, Hematology/Oncology Division, in McMinnville, OR
 Cancer Center of Central Connecticut in New Britain
 Cancer Center of Central Connecticut in Southington
 Cancer Center of Thibodeaux Regional, Infusion Therapy in Louisiana
 Cancer TEAM at Bellin Health in Green Bay, WI
 Capital Health System at Mercer, Infusion Unit in Trenton, NJ
 Carolinas Medical Center, Blumenthal Cancer Center in Charlotte, NC
 CCHC New Bern Cancer Center in North Carolina
 CentraState Medical Center, 4 East

Oncology in Freehold, NJ
 CentraState Medical Center, Radiation Oncology in Freehold, NJ
 Central Indiana Cancer Center, South, in Indianapolis
 Cheshire Medical Center, 2nd Floor Inpatient Kingsbury Unit, in Keene, NH
 Children's National Medical Center, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders of Northern Virginia in Falls Church
 CMC-Northeast, Radiation Oncology in Concord, NC
 Coney Island Hospital, One Day Service Unit in Brooklyn, NY
 Dana Farber Cancer Institute/New Hampshire Oncology Hematology in Londonderry, NH
 Danbury Hospital, Chemotherapy Infusion Suite in Connecticut
 Dartmouth Hitchcock, Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Manchester, NH
 Defiance Clinic, Oncology in Ohio
 Duke University Hospital, Oncology Treatment Center in Durham, NC
 Duke University Hospital, Radiation Oncology in Durham, NC
 Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, Breast Center, in Huntington, WV
 Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, Medical Oncology, in Huntington, WV
 Epic Care, Pleasant Hill Office in California
 Fauquier Hospital, Infusion Center in Warrenton, VA
 Feather River Cancer Center in Paradise, CA
 Franciscan Health Systems, Radiation Oncology, in Federal Way, WA
 Fremont-Rideout Cancer Center, Medical Oncology in Marysville, CA
 Frontier Cancer Centers in Billings, MT
 Georgetown University Hospital, 2 Bles Hematology Oncology in Washington, DC
 Glendale Adventist Medical Center,

Cancer Services in California
 Good Samaritan Hospital, Outpatient Cancer Care in Cincinnati, OH
 Group Health, Oncology Infusion in Bellevue, WA
 Group Health, Oncology Infusion Center in Seattle, WA
 Gulfcoast Oncology Associates, Bardmoor, in Largo, FL
 Gunderson Lutheran, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders in LaCrosse, WI
 Hematology Oncology Consultants in Greenbelt, MD
 Henry Ford Health System, Josephine Ford Cancer Center, Downriver, in Brownstown, MI
 Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, Cancer Care Center in Clinton Township, MI
 Humility of Mary Health Partners, Cancer Center, in Warren, OH
 Interlakes Oncology and Hematology in Canandaigua, NY
 Interlakes Oncology and Hematology in Rochester, NY
 James G. Brown Cancer Center at Taylor Regional Hospital, Radiation Oncology in Campbellsville, KY
 Katmai Oncology Group in Anchorage, AK
 Keesler Medical Center, Hematology/Oncology Clinic, Keesler AFB, MS
 Knox Community Hospital, Center for Cancer Care in Mount Vernon, OH
 Lafayette Cancer Center in Indiana
 Lehigh Valley Health Network, John and Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center, Multi-Purpose Area in Allentown, PA
 Lehigh Valley Health Network, John and Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Allentown, PA
 Lehigh Valley Health Network, Cancer Services Muhlenberg Multi-Purpose Satellite in Bethlehem, PA

(See "Employers Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff on page 7)

Employers Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff *(continued from page 6)*

- Lowell General Hospital, Cancer Center in Massachusetts
- Madigan Army Medical Center, Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic in Tacoma, WA
- Marion General Cancer Care Center, Medical Oncology in Indiana
- Marshfield Clinic Oncology/Hematology, Stevens Point Center, Medical Oncology in Wisconsin
- Medical Oncology Associates of Long Island in Woodbury, NY
- Medical Oncology and Hematology, Meriden Office in Connecticut
- Memorial Cancer Institute, Breast Cancer Center in Hollywood, FL
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Basking Ridge Regional Site in New Jersey
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Brooklyn Infusion Center in New York
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Gynecological Service Nursing in New York, NY
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Sleepy Hollow in New York
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Thoracic Oncology Service in New York, NY
- Mercy Hospital of Bakersfield, Florence Wheeler Cancer Center in California
- Methodist Richardson Medical Center, UT Southwestern Cancer Center in Richardson, TX
- Ministry Door County Medical Center, Oncology Department in Sturgeon Bay, WI
- Minnesota Oncology, St. Paul Cancer Center in Minnesota
- Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center in Aventura, FL
- National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center, 5SE Day Hospital in Bethesda, MD
- National Naval Medical Center, Hematology Oncology Clinic in Bethesda, MD
- New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Zimmer Cancer Center in Wilmington, NC
- New York Oncology Hematology, Cavell Cancer Treatment Center in Hudson
- North Bend Medical Center, Oncology Hematology Unit in Coos Bay, OR
- North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Department of Radiation Medicine in Manhasset, NY
- Norton Cancer Radiation Center, Radiation Oncology in Louisville, KY
- Ohio State University Arthur James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, 2 James Chemo in Columbus
- Ohio State University Arthur James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, Hematology and Transplant Clinic in Columbus
- Ohio State University Arthur James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza 11th Floor Infusion Center in Columbus
- Oncology-Hematology Associates in Springfield, MO
- Oncology Specialists, S.C., in Park Ridge, IL
- Overlook Hospital, 3 AB Oncology in Summit, NJ
- Panhandle Cancer Center in Panama City, FL
- Parkview Comprehensive Cancer Center, Outpatient Infusion in Fort Wayne, IN
- Parkview Comprehensive Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology in Fort Wayne, IN
- Parrish Medical Center, Oncology Unit in Titusville, FL
- Paul Siebenmorgen Cancer Center, Infusion Center in Terre Haute, IN
- Pennsylvania Oncology-Hematology Associates in Philadelphia
- Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, Inpatient Unit in Pennsylvania
- Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, Cancer Center in Pennsylvania
- Provena St. Mary's Regional Cancer Center in Bourbonnais, IL
- Richard E. Winter Cancer Treatment Center in Ogdensburg, NY
- Riverside Cancer Infusion Center/Peninsula Cancer Institute
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, 5 North Medical Oncology in New Brunswick, NJ
- Saint Barnabas Medical Center, The Valerie Center in Livingston, NJ
- Sand Lake Cancer Center in Orlando, FL
- Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, 6 Central in California
- Sherman Hospital, Cancer Care Center in Elgin, IL
- Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, Infusion Center 7 Hematology Day Hospital in Connecticut
- Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, Infusion Center 8 Solid Tumor Oncology in Connecticut
- South Coast Gynecologic Oncology in La Jolla, CA
- Southeast Georgia Health System, Cancer Care Center in Brunswick
- Southeast Nebraska Cancer Center in Lincoln
- Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Gibson Cancer Center in Lumberton, NC
- Southern Cancer Center in Mobile, AL
- Star Hematology and Medical Oncology Associates in Phillipsburg, NJ
- St. Charles Healthcare, Cancer Care of the Cascades, in Bend, OR
- St. James Hospital and Health Centers, 2100 Oncology Unit, in Olympia Fields, IL
- St. John's Hospital, HealthEast Cancer Care Clinical and Outpatient Infusion in Maplewood, MN

(See "Employers Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff on page 8)



Employers Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff *(continued from page 7)*

St. Luke's Allentown Cancer Center, Infusion Center, in Pennsylvania
 Teton Oncology in Rexburg, ID
 Texas Oncology Cancer Center in Austin
 Texas Oncology-Plano East in Plano, TX
 Texas Oncology, Radiation Nursing at 8th Avenue in Fort Worth
 Texas Oncology, Radiation Nursing at Klabzuba in Fort Worth
 The Cancer Center at Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb, IL
 The Cancer Clinic, Tripathy, Jenkins and Fleener in Bryan, Texas
 The Medical Center of Central Georgia, W.T. Anderson Infusion Center in Macon
 The Miriam Hospital, Fain 3 Cancer Center in Providence, RI
 The Valley Hospital, Office of Oncology Clinical Trials in Paramus, NJ
 Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group in Beverly Hills, CA
 Trinity Hematology and Oncology Center PA in Fayetteville, NC
 Turville Bay MRI and Radiation Oncology Center, Radiation Oncology, in Madison, WI
 University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Chagrin Highlands Ireland Cancer Center in Orange Village, OH

University Medical Center at Brackenridge, The Shivers Center in Austin, TX
 University of California, Davis Cancer Center, Adult Infusion, in Sacramento
 University of Florida and Shand's Jacksonville Medical Center, Radiation Oncology in Jacksonville
 University of Illinois Medical Center, Cancer Center in Chicago
 University of Maryland, Central Maryland Radiation Oncology Center in Columbia
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lineberger Cancer Center – Clinical Protocol Office in Chapel Hill
 University of Texas Medical Branch, Infusion Room in Galveston
 University of Toledo Physicians, Infusion Center in Ohio
 UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Bone Marrow Transplant, in La Jolla, CA
 UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology, in La Jolla, CA
 UPMC Cancer Center in Beaver, PA
 UPMC Cancer Center, Jefferson, in Clairton, PA
 UPMC Cancer Center in New Castle, PA
 Upper Valley Medical Center, Cancer

Care Center, in Troy, OH
 USC Westside Prostate Cancer Center in Beverly Hills, CA
 UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Nellie B. Connally Breast Center in Houston, TX
 UW Cancer Center – Riverview in Wisconsin Rapids, WI
 VA Medical Center, Chemotherapy Clinic in Alexandria, LA
 VA Medical Center, Chemotherapy Clinic in Pineville, LA
 VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Infusion Clinic in Reno, NV
 Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Cool Springs, in Franklin, TN
 VCU Health System, Stony Point Hematology Oncology Clinic in Richmond, VA
 Warren General Hospital, Cancer Care Center in Pennsylvania
 Washington University School of Medicine, Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, MO
 Wentworth Douglass, Seacoast Cancer Center in Dover, NH
 Women's Oncology Center in St. Louis, MO
 Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, 7-West Pediatric Oncology in Guilford, CT

ONCC Celebrates *(continued from page 1)*

Special activities are planned for the ONCC Recognition Breakfasts for oncology certified nurses to be held during the ONS Annual Congress and at the APHON annual conference. ONCC volunteer leaders from the past and present will be invited to an anniversary reception in recognition of their contributions to the success of oncology nursing certification since 1986.

Nurses may find the anniversary information on the Web site to be useful in presentations about certification in oncology nursing within their chapters or

institutions. Many chapters are joining in the celebration by recognizing members who've been certified the longest or those who've reached milestones of holding 25, 20, 15, or 10 years of ONCC certification. Several institutions are utilizing the information in conjunction with celebrations planned for Certified Nurses Day (March 19) or Oncology Nursing Month.

Watch for additional stories about the history of ONCC and significant milestones from the past 25 years in upcoming issues of *Certification News*.

Readers Respond

How do you maintain clinical competency if your practice doesn't include direct patient care?

Many oncology nurses practice in areas that don't include day-to-day direct patient care, which can make it challenging to remain current with practice. What strategies do you use to keep up-to-date?

E-mail responses to oncc@oncc.org. Please include "Readers Respond" in your subject line.

Certified Nurses Sharing the Benefits of Certification

ONCC recently welcomed 54 nurses into the ONCC Advocates Program. Advocates are certified nurses who voluntarily promote the benefits of certification in their workplaces, chapters, or communities. Learn more about joining the Advocates Program at <http://www.oncc.org/Support/Advocates>.

Joan Aaron, Bethesda, MD
Eileen Belcolle, Delray, FL
Jesus Belonio, Atlanta, GA
Carol Blecher, Elizabeth, NJ
Denise Byrd, New Rochelle, NY
Carol Campbell, Birmingham, AL
Rosemary Chandler, Augusta, GA
Gayle Chapman, Springfield, MO
Crystal Cheney, Shreveport, LA
Karen Cortez, Houston, TX
Carrie Cote, Rochester, MI
Lynn Czaplewski, Milwaukee, WI
Bunnie Dalton, Huntsville, AL
Carol DeVore, Commerce Twp, MI
Christine Dunlap, Grand Junction, CO
Martha Evenson, Portland, OR
Katrina Fetter, Lancaster, PA
Vicki Fisher, Medina, OH
Ann Foster, East Stroudsburg, PA
Mary Gaston, Memphis, TN
Connie Gazmen, Honolulu, HI
Leslie Gervase, New Port Richey, FL
Susan Gosselin, Scarborough, ME
Jacquelyn Grandt, Long Beach, CA

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Pamela Jacobs, Louisville, KY
Rosario Jambalos, Burlingame, CA
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Mary Malone, Pikeville, KY
Debra McClung, Mason City, IA
Julie McFarland, Indianapolis, IN
Stephanie Ogaard, Fargo, ND
Cristina Pedulla, Sauquoit, NY
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Luz Pelayo, Tucson, AZ
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Wendy Sandager, Columbia City, IN
Cindy Schriever, Mason City, IA
Mary Schueller, Sheboygan, WI
Deborah Shook, Pensacola, FL
Susan Shaw, Dover, DE
Rebecca Sigrest, Pleasant Hope, MO

Malgorzata Sokolowski, Park Ridge, IL
Susan Stary, Houston, TX
Jean Sullivan, Arlington, VA
Shinyi Tang, Los Angeles, CA
Barbara Thoman, Cleveland, OH
Shannon Van Winkle, Crawfordville, FL
Jill Winther, Green Bay, WI
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Tracey Weddle, San Diego, CA
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ONCC Mission Statement

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation is to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties.

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 (+1-877-769-ONCC or +1-412-859-6104, phone; +1-412-859-6168, fax; oncc.org, e-mail; www.oncc.org, Web site)

Readers Respond to Questions About Test Content

The previous issue of *Certification News* asked “How do you respond when colleagues ask you about specific information from the certification examination?”

“It seems only natural for people to ask about the OCN® examination, and I think some response is appropriate. [My] honest response is that I cannot remember specific questions. I thought it

was a test that required specific knowledge, and I encourage preparation for the examination. I attempted attending an informal course taught by one of the CNSs at the hospital. I would highly recommend that. The study guides were also helpful.”

Emily Chase, RN, OCN®
Columbus, OH