

## Oncology Nursing Society Member Named Visionary Nurse Leader



The School of Nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) selected Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Claudette G. Varricchio, DSN, RN, as one of its 60

Visionary Leaders. UAB recognized alumni who are leading with a vision to improve quality health care around the world.

Varricchio, a former program director of the Community Clinical Trials Research Group in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Wakefield, RI, is an expert in the field of oncology nursing. She taught in the graduate program for nursing at Loyola University in Chicago and collaborated with colleagues to establish the doctoral program curriculum at that institution. As a program director at NCI and associate director at the National Institute for Nursing Research, she developed and promoted the research programs in symptom management, quality of life, and survivorship.

Varricchio was coauthor of the seminal publication *The Nurse and Radiotherapy: A Manual of Daily Care*, published in 1979. She has written numerous articles, book chapters, and other publications related to symptom management, quality of life, and research related to oncology nursing. She has coedited issues of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, which focused on quality of life, and *ONS's Study Guide for the Core Curriculum for Oncology Nurses*.

Varricchio is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and served on the National Institutes of Health expert panel at the State-of-the-Science Conference on smoking cessation. She has been an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society, having served as chair for the Nursing Professorship and Scholarships Committee.

Building on a century of nursing education on the UAB campus, the UAB School of Nursing prepares nurse leaders to excel as clinicians, researchers, and educators and advances knowledge and delivery of high-quality health care in Alabama and

worldwide. The school offers leading-edge bachelor, graduate, and doctoral programs and offers students the opportunity to learn with faculty and student teams across health disciplines at UAB.

For more information, visit [www.uab.edu/son60](http://www.uab.edu/son60).

## Mayo Clinic Appoints ONS Member to Social Media Board



ONS member Joni Watson, MSN, MBA, RN, OCN®, was appointed to the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media's External Advisory Board for Health Care Social Media along

with 12 other candidates. The advisory board includes representatives from various healthcare roles, including patients, who have been actively using social media, as well as representatives from other industries whose insights will help support the center's mission. Members will provide advice and feedback to leadership of the center and will contribute to advancement of practical social media application in health care.

Watson is the program director for the Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP) of the Texas Nurses Association/Foundation and a blogger for *ONS Connect*. She has a passion for healthcare, business, education, technology, and the interplay among those disciplines. As director of NOEP, she is responsible for numerous health education programs on educational needs assessment as well as the creation, development, dissemination, implementation, and evaluation of continuing nursing education on cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship. Watson works to integrate technology into traditional, online, and mobile continuing nursing education and nursing efforts.

For more information, visit <http://socialmedia.mayoclinic.org/about-3/advisory-board>.

## ONS Member Named Ambulatory Nurse of the Year

ONS member Meldyne Hersman, RN, BSN, OCN®, a nurse in the Oncology Department at Alaska Native Medical

Center (ANMC) in Anchorage, was named the 2010 Ambulatory Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes awards honor exemplary RNs whose leadership and contributions have made a significant impact in their community and the profession of nursing.

Hersman had previously received the ambulatory nursing award in 2005. She has 16 years of nursing experience and has worked at ANMC for six years. Hersman believes passionately that nurses should take personal responsibility for their own professional growth. When she applied for a nursing position, despite having no experience in administering chemotherapy, she excelled.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my position as an oncology nurse is to be a source of encouragement, as well as to help other nurses who are caring for our cancer patients," Hersman said.

Continuing in the vein of nursing professional development and growth, Hersman requested an opportunity to gain more knowledge and qualifications to teach ONS's Chemotherapy and Biotherapy training course. Since receiving the instructor credentials, Hersman has been instrumental in educating 86 nurse colleagues in the fundamentals of chemotherapy administration. She also has provided outreach to nurses throughout Alaska.

"For Meldyne to win a March of Dimes award is a remarkable achievement," said Richard Hall, Chief Nurse Executive at ANMC. "This is a tremendous honor, and we share her vision to continuously find new ways to advance patient care."

The ANMC operates a state-of-the-art, 150-bed facility providing comprehensive medical services to Alaska Natives



Meldyne Hersman, RN, BSN, OCN® (center), and the Alaska Native Medical Center Oncology Team

and American Indians. ANMC is jointly managed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation and includes the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center.

For more information, visit <http://anthc.org>.

## Oncology Nurse Named Chair of National Study Group



NCI appointed Georgia Robins Sadler, BSN, MBA, PhD, as chair of Study Section G. Sadler is a clinical professor in the Department of Surgery and an associate director

for the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Moores Cancer Center, where she directs the Community Outreach program.

Study Section G is one of NCI's 10 study sections. During the peer review process, research applications are evaluated for the significance of the problem to be addressed, the researchers' qualifications and experiences to accomplish the proposed research, innovativeness, the strength of the proposed methodology, and strategies for disseminating the findings that evolve from the research.

Sadler has been a member of Study Section G for two terms, based on her own success as a public health researcher. She has received numerous research grants from NCI and the California Endowment, the California Breast Cancer Research Program, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, the Alliance HealthCare Foundation, and the San Diego Foundation.

Sadler's research focuses on four main areas.

- Finding ways to promote the uptake of health promoting behaviors, particularly among communities that experience health disparities
- Increasing the pipeline of scientists and healthcare providers from underrepresented communities as one strat-

egy for reducing the nation's health disparities

- Increasing participation rates in clinical trials, particularly among communities that are traditionally underrepresented in research studies
- Finding behavioral interventions to help patients reduce the side effects of cancer and cancer treatments.

Sadler has received multiple grants to find ways to reduce barriers to accessing health information and care for the African American, Pan-Asian, Hispanic, and deaf communities. For each population, Sadler has developed innovative strategies to address issues of access and then tested the effectiveness of the strategies using rigorous scientific methods that produced sound evidence-based discoveries.

The UCSD Moores Cancer Center is one of only 40 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers nationwide. This designation acknowledges the magnitude of the center's scientific accomplishments in the basic, translational, clinical, and behavioral sciences, as well as its promise for creating significant future advances in each of those fields. For more information, visit <http://cancer.ucsd.edu>.

## Grant Supports Nursing Research on Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

The Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Foundation for Nursing and Hill-Rom will award a \$9,000 Quality Improvement/Patient Safety research grant to advance the science of nursing through research focused on the implementation of outcomes-based practice and quality within U.S. healthcare institutions. In 2000, only a handful of quality and accountability measures were in place at hospitals throughout the United States. To date, more than 24 accountability measures and six additional quality considerations have been implemented to ensure patient health, the Joint Commission said.

Online submissions for the 2011 Quality Improvement/Patient Safety research

grant will be accepted beginning April 1, 2011. Visit [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) to apply before July 1, 2011. To be eligible for the grant, nurses must hold a current RN license, have earned a master's or doctoral degree or be enrolled in a doctoral program, and be ready to implement the funded research project as soon as the funding is received. For more information about the grant, visit [www.nursingsociety.org/research](http://www.nursingsociety.org/research).

The Honor Society of Nursing, STTI, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in healthcare worldwide. Founded in 1922, STTI has 130,000 members in 86 countries. Members include practicing nurses, instructors, researchers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org).

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## Bravo! Job Well Done! Pat Yourself on the Back!

Have you been awarded recently for your dedication and commitment to oncology nursing? Have you been appointed to a new leadership position at your institution? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (ONF)

wants to share these achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for People & Events. Submissions can include a recent photo

and should be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Linda K. Morse, RN, MSN, via e-mail at [Linda\\_Morse@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Linda_Morse@dfci.harvard.edu).