

PEOPLE & EVENTS

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US Oncology Honors ONS CEO and Members for Leadership and Service



US Oncology, one of the nation's largest healthcare service networks dedicated exclusively to cancer treatment and research, recognized several oncology nurses at its annual meeting held in

Houston, TX, in March. A special recognition went to 2005 US Oncology Honoree Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) in Pittsburgh, PA, for her 30-plus year career in oncology nursing.

Moore holds a BSN and MN from the University of Pittsburgh, with a clinical specialization in oncology nursing. She has published more than 20 editorials and is an international guest speaker. She has been described as a philanthropist, humanitarian, contributor, mentor, community leader, and, first and foremost, a caring, kind, compassionate, and intelligent person.

Moore is the namesake for US Oncology's Pearl Moore Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award, which was presented to ONS member Bridget Babu, BSN, RN, OCN®, an oncology nurse at Texas Oncology PA in Bedford. The Pearl Moore Award is given to an oncology nurse who personifies the qualities of Moore. Those qualities include courage and the ability to affect change and ensure that the needs of patients are placed before the needs of anyone else.



Babu was chosen because she emulates true leadership and serves as a role model and trusted mentor. She developed and facilitated new guidelines and systems, creating improvements in

patient flow, communication, and treatment, benefiting both patients and nurses. She also created and implemented guidelines for an injection clinic, allowing patients to wait only minutes instead of hours and giving them more time to spend with family.



In addition, ONS member Jan Draper, RN, OCN®, was announced as the winner of the Overall Excellence Award for the Betsy York Memorial OCN® of the Year Award. Draper is the lead staff nurse at Arizona Oncology Associates in Tucson, where she is responsible for patient assessment, education, and support to patients receiving radiation therapy treatments. She was chosen for the award based on her overwhelming recommendations and her instrumental role in the development of a Head and Neck Support Program, a support group for patients with head and neck cancer.

The Betsy York Memorial OCN® Award is given to a staff nurse who exemplifies excellence in oncology nursing. Recipients are chosen based on their ability to display the courage, determination, and character that was personified by Betsy York, an OCN®-certified nurse at the Cancer Centers of the Carolinas in Greenville, SC.

ONS Members Recognized for Work in Hospice and Palliative Nursing

Several ONS members were honored at the Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)/Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), which was held in Nashville, TN, in February.



Hazel Jackson, APRN, BC-CHPN, received the 2006 HPNA Innovation in End-of-Life Nursing Care Award. The award recognizes the work of an HPNA member who has made a major contribution in shaping end-of-life nursing care, improving some aspect of hospice and palliative nursing, and enhancing the practice of others.

A nursing veteran, Jackson was honored for her work at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Decatur, GA, where she

developed and helped to implement a comprehensive hospice program that improved quality of care and care options available to dying veterans. She was the only RN invited to serve on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Hospice and Palliative Care Initiative. She has shared her expertise in the development and implementation of contract hospice care with other VAMCs around the country.

Jackson holds an associate degree in nursing from Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY; a bachelor in nursing from Alfred University in Alfred, NY; and a master of nursing from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She is certified in hospice and palliative care nursing and is an HPNA-approved educator.



Maryjo Prince-Paul, MSN, APRN, BC-PCM, received the 2006 Outstanding Research Abstract at Annual Assembly Award. Each year, this award is given to a researcher who has positively

influenced end-of-life nursing care and has had his or her presentation or poster accepted at the AAHPM/HPNA annual assembly. The award recognizes the outstanding efforts that the recipient has made in identifying, clarifying, and investigating a research problem relevant to hospice and palliative nursing. This year, Prince-Paul provided a poster on "Understanding the Meaning of Social Well-Being at the End of Life."

Prince-Paul is a palliative care advanced practice nurse on the Palliative Care Team of the Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH, where she also serves as an advanced practice nurse and education coordinator. A full-time doctoral student in the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at the Case Western Reserve University, Prince-Paul recently received a \$60,000 grant from the American Cancer Society (ACS) to support her research in the area of social well-being at the end of life.

In addition, three ONS members were honored with the 2006 "Leading the Way" award at the assembly. In recognition of HPNA's 20th anniversary, the HPNA Board of Directors recognized all past Hospice Nurses

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Association (HNA) and HPNA presidents for their efforts in nurturing and building the organization and for their continued contributions in advancing the cause of hospice and palliative care.

During the term of Elizabeth Pitorak, RN, MSN, CHPN (1999), practice review audiotapes began to be produced, a Web master was hired, the Second Annual Educational Conference convened, and planning began for a collaborative conference between AAHPM and the National Hospice Organization.

Under the leadership of Connie Dahlin, MSN, APRN, BC, PCM, (2004), HPNA membership grew to more than 7,000, three new chapters were added, and three new position statements were released. Patient teaching sheets were developed, two grants were acquired, CD-ROMs for teleconferences were added, and the Diversity Task Force was established.

Linda Gorman, RN, MN, OCN[®], (2005), HPNA's immediate past president, guided HPNA through the restructuring designed by her predecessors. During Gorman's term, membership reached 8,034. Thirteen educational products were in various stages of development, the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care* was issued six times a year, and a strategic plan for 2006–2009 was crafted.

"The leadership demonstrated by these individuals has been outstanding," said Judy Lentz, RN, NHA, HPNA chief executive officer. "Through their dedication, skill, and commitment, HPNA has enjoyed great success to become the strong specialty nursing organization evident in 2006."

HPNA is a national nonprofit organization of nursing professionals specializing in end-of-life care and pain management. Its mission is to promote excellence in hospice and palliative nursing care. For more information, visit www.hpna.org or call 412-787-9301.

Marshall Receives "In the Know" Award for Work in Eliminating Health Disparities



ONS member Douglas C. Marshall, RN, BSN, MA, OCN[®], has been honored by The Prostate Net through its first annual "In the Know Awards for Eliminating Health Disparities" program.

Marshall was recognized for his efforts to increase cancer awareness, screening, and early detection of prostate cancer in African American men and for the women in their lives. Marshall is the community oncology services coordinator for the Fox Chase Virtua Health Cancer Program in Gibbsboro, NJ.

Marshall was honored for his persistence and commitment to providing cancer prevention, detection, and health services information throughout southern New Jersey. He was singled out in particular for collaborating with the Burlington County Health Department to create its "Faith in Action" initiative, which works with churches, religious leaders, and congregations to provide cancer-related education, screening, and health services, especially among African Americans.

Marshall is responsible for all community outreach activities in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties for the Fox Chase Virtua Health Cancer Program in New Jersey. Each year, Marshall speaks to approximately 3,000 high school students, conducts 30–40 health lectures for adult men and women, and facilitates many of Virtua's cancer-related support groups.

The Prostate Net is a nonprofit organization that provides male patients with cancer and their families with information to help them make informed decisions regarding treatment and to limit the impact of cancer and other diseases on the patient, family, and general community. For more information, visit www.prostate-online.org.

Priorities to Address Global Nursing Shortages Announced

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation recently released findings of a two-year study addressing the worldwide nursing workforce. *The Global Nursing Shortage: Priority Areas for Intervention* identifies top priorities for action in addressing the shortage of nurses worldwide.

The report presents an action plan for ICN and nursing, calling on national and global partners to engage in developing, implementing, and financing interventions in five priority areas.

- Macroeconomic and health sector funding policies
- Workforce policy and planning, including regulation
- Positive practice environments and organizational performance
- Recruitment and retention, addressing maldistribution within countries, and out-migration
- Nursing leadership

The report points to critically needed improvements in the work environments of nurses and capacity-building in health human resources planning and management. The report also highlights the need for greater national self-sufficiency in managing domestic supply and demand and for enabling fiscal environments supportive of nursing workforce development and improved public infrastructures.

Full details of the report can be found on ICN's Web site at www.icn.ch/global.

Hearst Foundation Funds Scholarships for First Nurse Social Work Practitioner Degree Program

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation has awarded the University of Southern California School of Social Work a \$200,000 grant to help recruit students to the first-ever Nurse Social Work Practitioner degree program. The grant will fund scholarships for nurses who want to pursue a new area of specialty practice that combines nursing with core social work skills.

The two-year program, which grants graduates a specialized master's degree in social work with a case management certificate, is designed to broaden a nurse's knowledge base and practice in case management and a chosen area of concentration. The curriculum uses a series of classes and immersion experiences to introduce students to a community-based social work perspective that conveys the range of social welfare problems and programs as well as the diversity and complexity of human behavior. The second year emphasizes interdisciplinary studies focused on a concentration area, case management, and leadership.

Applications currently are being accepted for the fall semester. For an admission application or scholarship information, contact Richette Bell at richettb@usc.edu.

American Cancer Society Launches Cancer Information Blog

ACS has launched a Web log, or blog, authored by J. Leonard (Len) Lichtenfeld, MD, the Society's deputy chief medical officer. Dr. Len's Cancer Blog (www.cancer.org/drLen) covers breaking cancer news and provides commentary on new research, scientific developments, and other cancer breakthroughs. The blog attempts to make complex medical and scientific information understandable for a general audience and is the latest tool from ACS to raise awareness of cancer risk, prevention, and early detection.

Lichtenfeld is a frequent spokesperson to the national and international news media and speaks on a wide range of cancer topics on behalf of ACS. In his daily activity, he manages the national ACS Cancer Control Science Department, which develops well-known and widely respected medical and scientific guidelines for the prevention and early detection of cancer.

Dr. Len's Cancer Blog is the Society's first official national medical blog. ACS's Web site, www.cancer.org, provides patients with cancer, survivors, caregivers, supporters, medical professionals, and other information seekers with detailed information on a variety of cancer topics. The Society also hosts the Cancer Survivors NetworkSM (www.acscsn.org), an online chat room and support network. 