

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Kagan Receives MacArthur Fellow “Genius” Award



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Sarah H. Kagan, PhD, RN, has been awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, the so-called “genius” award. She is only the second nurse to receive the honor, which comes

with an award of support of \$500,000 over the next five years. Kagan is an associate professor of gerontological nursing and the Doris R. Schwartz Term Professor in Gerontological Nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

The MacArthur Fellows Program, sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is designed to emphasize the importance of the creative individual in society. Fellows are selected for the originality and creativity of their work and the potential to do more in the future. Candidates are nominated, evaluated, and selected through a rigorous and confidential process. No one may apply for the awards, nor are any interviews conducted with nominees.

“The fellowship offers highly creative people the gift of time and the unfettered opportunity to explore, create, and accomplish,” said MacArthur Foundation President Jonathan F. Fanton. “The new MacArthur Fellows illustrate the Foundation’s conviction that talented individuals, free to follow their insights and instincts, will make a difference in shaping the future.”

“I am mystified by the tremendous honor and the responsibility I believe comes attached with [the award],” said Kagan. “I hope it brings great visibility to nurses who dedicate their lives to working with older adults—both those who conduct research but especially those nurses who daily put their clinical expertise to work by caring for older adults with cancer.”

As one of 24 fellows for 2003, Kagan was selected for revising, through clinical research, mentorship, and personal example, standards and practices for delivering health care to older adults suffering from cancer.

According to Afaf I. Meleis, PhD, FAAN, RN, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, Kagan “epitomizes the commitment of nurses who blend true scholarship with the highest humanitarian levels of nursing care to produce evidence-based practice, providing expert care

to vulnerable patients. It is a very special day for nursing as well because this award highlights the significance of what nursing is for patients and for health care.”

Kagan is the author of *Older Adults Coping With Cancer: Integrating Cancer Into a Life Mostly Lived* (1997) and was a column editor for the *American Journal of Nursing*. In addition to ONS, where she is an active member of the Advanced Nursing Research Special Interest Group, Kagan holds memberships in the Gerontological Society of America and the Society of Head and Neck Nurses.

For more information on the MacArthur Fellows Program, visit www.macfound.org.

Frank-Stromborg Appointed to National Advisory Council for Nursing Research



Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy G. Thompson has appointed ONS member Marilyn Frank-Stromborg, PhD, JD, FAAN, to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research.

Frank-Stromborg holds a three-year term on the council, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The council’s 15 members, 7 of whom are professional nurses recognized as experts in clinical practice, education, or research, advise leaders of the HHS, NIH, and National Institute of Nursing Research. Matters of concern include the conduct, support, and dissemination of information including basic and clinical nursing research, training, and other programs in health care. Council members also make recommendations on applications for research and research training grants and recommend those applications for projects that show promise of making valuable contributions to human knowledge.

Frank-Stromborg has received numerous awards, including the ONS Excellence of Scholarship and Consistency of Contributions to the Oncology Nursing Literature Award, supported by SuperGen, Inc., and the ONS Award for Excellence in Cancer Nursing Education, supported by Ross Products, a Division of Abbott Laboratories. She also was a recipient of the ONS Foundation Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lectureship in 1986.

An active ONS member, Frank-Stromborg has served in many different roles, including

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serving on the ONS Board of Directors and as chair of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation’s Research Committee. Her contributions include 7 books, 34 book chapters, and more than 83 journal articles to the nursing and medical literature. She also edited *Cancer Prevention in Diverse Populations* (2nd ed.), along with ONS member Sharon Olsen, MS, AOCN®, published by ONS. Frank-Stromborg received her EdD in educational psychology from Northern Illinois University (NIU), her master of science degree in nursing from the Graduate School of Nursing at New York Medical College, and her bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry from NIU. She also holds a law degree from the NIU College of Law as a licensed adult nurse practitioner.

An NIU distinguished research professor, Frank-Stromborg also serves on the State of Illinois Board of Nursing as well as the National Cancer Institute Scientific Review Group—Subcommittee H, which reviews all cooperative oncology groups. She also chairs the research committee for the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

Summers Takes Nursing Lead at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center



ONS member Barbara Summers, PhD, RN, recently was appointed vice president and chief nursing officer and head of the Division of Nursing at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in Houston, TX. As she assumes her new leadership role, Summers will focus on three initial goals.

- Vigorously promote world-class oncology nursing practice that complements and enhances the practice of MDACC’s physicians and other caregivers.
 - Effectively partner with other clinical and administrative leaders to create a more collaborative framework for professional practice and research.
 - Create and implement a visionary strategic agenda for nursing at MDACC that links clinical practice, education, and research.
- “I believe oncology nursing is the most exciting, challenging, and gratifying of career choices for the nursing professional,”

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