

## PEOPLE & EVENTS

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### Masny Tapped for National Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson recently selected Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Agnes Masny, RN, MPH, MSN, CRNP, to join the

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society.

Masny, of Roslyn, PA, a research assistant and nurse practitioner at Fox Chase Cancer Center and an adjunct assistant professor of nursing at Temple University, joins 12 physicians, scientists, and other experts on the newly appointed committee. At the department's request, the committee may consider the broad range of human health and societal issues involving the development, use, and potential misuse of genetic technologies and make recommendations as appropriate. The committee's charge includes considering the clinical, ethical, legal, and societal implications of genetic testing and other technologies, and its members include experts in each of those areas as well as consumer representatives.

### Brown Receives Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award



ONS member Jean K. Brown, PhD, RN, FAAN, was awarded the Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award at the 2002 convention of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). Sponsored by the

Foundation of NYSNA, this award recognizes continued excellence in nursing research.

Widely recognized as an expert in oncology research, Brown has published extensively in a variety of publications, including scholarly papers in *Clinical Nursing Research*, *Oncology Nursing Forum*, *Nursing Outlook*, *Research in Nursing and Health*, *Nursing Re-*

*search*, and *Cancer*. Her program of research focuses on cancer-related symptom management. She also is a collaborator on multisite studies of lung cancer symptom management.

Brown is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and an active member of ONS, where she has served in various leadership positions, including director-at-large, chair of the Education Committee, and, most recently, as a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel. She also has served as a peer reviewer for grants, awards, journals, and oncology-related conferences and has initiated programs to disseminate research to clinicians.

Brown currently holds a joint appointment at the State University of New York at Buffalo as an associate professor in the School of Nursing and adjunct associate professor of nutrition. In 2002, she was named the associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Nursing and received the Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award.

### ONS Members Receive Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania

ONS members Melanie Hurst, RN, OCN®, BSN, and Diane McElwain, RN, OCN®, MEd, are recipients of the 2002 Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania, which recognize the top nurses in six categories throughout the state.



Hurst, the oncology clinical research coordinator for Jennersville Regional Cancer Program in West Grove, PA, received the Clinical Practice RN Award. She is a BSN graduate of the University of Dela-

ware and began her involvement with patients with cancer as a research assistant. Hurst is president of ONS's Delaware Diamond Chapter, was instrumental in establishing a Web-based cancer information network for nursing colleagues through her chapter, and has given several poster presentations, the most recent at the 2002 ONS Congress. In her role as research coordinator, Hurst has implemented an oncology ambulatory care unit, a smoking cessation program, a pain resource program, and a protocol management office. She also is an event coordinator for Relay for Life.



McElwain, the outpatient oncology coordinator at the York Cancer Center of WellSpan Health in York, PA, was recognized in the Advanced Practice RN category. She is a diploma graduate

of Lankenau Hospital School of Nursing and a BSN graduate of York College, and she received her master's in health education from Pennsylvania State University. Her involvement with patients with cancer began when she was part of the hospice team for the Visiting Nurses Association in the 1980s. McElwain develops and coordinates outpatient services and support mechanisms for patients with cancer and is the liaison with the inpatient nursing staff to facilitate coordination of care for patients after discharge. Both in her professional role and as a volunteer, McElwain develops, organizes, and presents numerous educational programs for professional caregivers, patients, and the community. She is active in ONS and is a former president of its Pennsylvania Capital Region Chapter.

### Oncology Leaders to Serve National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Several oncology leaders have been appointed to serve the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS). Ada K. Jacox, RN, PhD, a professor of nursing at the University of Virginia and chair of the American Pain Society's Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee, was appointed as a member of the board of directors. A former psychiatric nurse for emotionally disturbed children, Jacox has taught in many of the nation's most respected nursing schools. She is a well-known expert in patient outcomes, pain, health policy, and urban health. Jacox has served on the boards of the American Nurses Association, American Pain Society, and American Health Quality Association and served as an advisor to the U.S. Pharmacopoeia Convention. Her extensive list of publications includes her book, *Pain: A Sourcebook for Nurses and Other Health Professionals*. She also has served on

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review panels for the *Journal of Professional Nursing*, *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*.

NCCS also appointed new officers to its board, including ONS members Catherine Harvey, DrPH, RN, an oncology nurse and partner in Oncology Associates cancer care consulting firm in Mount Pleasant, SC, who will serve as chair of NCCS's Board of Directors, and Debra Thaler-DeMers, RN, OCN®, PRN-C, a nurse in the Petersen Cancer Treatment Center, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, in Stanford, CA. Thaler-DeMers is a pain resource nurse and ONS chemotherapy trainer and has published and lectured on palliative care, long-term and late effects of treatment, and fertility and sexuality issues for cancer survivors. She also is a consumer advocate for the National Cancer Institute's Consumer Advocates in Research, Related Activities, program and recently completed the Nurse in Washington Internship program.

"We are extremely fortunate," said NCCS President and Chief Executive Officer Ellen Stovall, "to have such outstanding individuals serve on our board of directors. While their backgrounds and credentials are most impressive, we are even more moved by their passion for the issues we care about—much of that passion borne out of their personal experiences with cancer." For more information, visit NCCS's Web site at [www.canceradvocacy.org](http://www.canceradvocacy.org).

## North Carolina Nurses Receive Excellence Awards

ONS members Rose P. Dunaway, RN, CPON®, and Carmela S. Flores-Tan, RN, OCN®, were awarded University of North Carolina (UNC) Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's 2002 Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards. The annual award comes with a \$1,500 stipend for professional education activities.

"Nurses at the cancer center have a special job," said Shelton Earp, MD, director of the center. "They provide so much of a patient's care and become close to the patient and family. They form enduring and memorable bonds. These awards are one way of honoring their excellence and commitment to the field of oncology nursing."

Dunaway, who has worked as a pediatric oncology nurse at UNC for the past 17 years, was nominated by Julie Blatt, MD, chief of UNC pediatric hematology oncology, and Stuart Gold, MD, associate professor of pediatrics. Flores-Tan, who received the inpatient nursing award and who serves as an oncology resource nurse for UNC Hospitals, was nominated by Beverly Edmonds, RN, BSN, nurse manager for UNC's bone marrow transplantation unit. Flores-Tan has developed numerous teaching tools for new nurses and organized resources for new staff and families, according to Edmonds.

"It is nurses such as Dunaway and Flores-Tan that make UNC Healthcare System and UNC Lineberger's cancer programs so special," said Earp.

## Palliative Care and Pain Experts Receive Book of the Year Award

The *American Journal of Nursing* has bestowed "Book of the Year" recognition to *End-of-Life Care: Clinical Practice Guidelines*, which was written by ONS members Kim K. Kuebler, MN, RN, ANP-CS, Patricia H. Berry, PhD, APRN, BC, CHPN, and Debra E. Heidrich, MSN, RN, CHPN, AOCN®. Published by Saunders, *End-of-Life Care: Clinical Practice Guidelines* is the first textbook of its kind to address evidence-based clinical aspects of palliative care for advanced practice nurses (APNs).

The book specifically outlines clinical practice protocols to be implemented by APNs working in a collaborative practice regardless of setting. Comprehensive guidelines direct APNs through the physical examination, diagnostics, and interventions used for patients living and dying from advanced disease. Other chapters address the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of advanced disease and the role that APNs can make in the care of the fragile dying.

Kuebler is clinical coordinator of oncology at Emory University Hospital and affiliate faculty in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, GA; Berry is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City; and Heidrich is a nursing consultant in West Chester, OH.

## Major Cancer Center Groups to Host Joint Fall Meeting

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and the Cancer Center Administrators Forum (CCAF) will combine the AACI 2003 Annual Meeting and CCAF Fall 2003 Meeting this fall. The joint meeting will be held October 26–28 in Washington, DC.

AACI and CCAF each have established committees to craft their portions of the program for this joint meeting. CCAF's portion of the program will begin at 3 pm on October 26, with AACI's program following CCAF's at 1 pm on October 27 through 1 pm on October 28.

"CCAF members won't be forced to choose between these two important meetings because of time constraints or limited resources," said Jay McKay, vice president of

Fox Chase Cancer Center, "and the format makes it convenient for cancer center directors, especially those with many administrative responsibilities, to participate in CCAF sessions that address administrative and governmental issues and challenges." McKay serves as secretary-treasurer of AACI and is a founding member of CCAF.

Meeting updates about speakers and educational sessions for the program can be found on AACI's Web site at [www.aaci-cancer.org](http://www.aaci-cancer.org). Online registration is available.

## Web Site Offers Smallpox Information

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new Web site that contains information on smallpox. The Web site offers information about the national vaccine program, information about the disease, frequently asked questions, fact sheets from the World Health Organization, links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and MEDLINEplus®, information kits for different age groups of children, information on diagnosing and recognizing the signs and symptoms of infection, reference materials, images, Webcasts, and information about clinical trials. Much of the information also is available in Spanish. For more information, visit [www.smallpox.gov](http://www.smallpox.gov).

## DES Update Provides Resources for Healthcare Providers and Consumers

To raise awareness about the health risks of exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the DES Update, a comprehensive national education program for consumers and healthcare providers.

An estimated 5–10 million people were exposed to DES in the United States from 1938–1971, including women who were prescribed DES while pregnant and the children born of these pregnancies. Initially, DES was thought to be a safe and effective way to prevent miscarriages or premature deliveries. However, later studies revealed that DES was ineffective in preventing pregnancy problems and that exposure to DES was associated with increased health risks, including a rare vaginal cancer in female offspring.

CDC's DES Update provides the first comprehensive set of information about DES for healthcare providers and patients. Resources for healthcare providers and patients are available free at [www.cdc.gov/DES](http://www.cdc.gov/DES) or by calling toll free 888-232-6789.

### Publish Your Accomplishments!

The *Oncology Nursing Forum* accepts news of member accomplishments for "People and Events." Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Jane M. Fall-Dickson, RN, PhD, AOCN®, at 301-962-8281 ([jdickson@nidcr.nih.gov](mailto:jdickson@nidcr.nih.gov)).