As oncology nurses strive to transform cancer care during the 21st century, the current shift in demographics coupled with the cancer profile of racial and ethnic minority populations will warrant special attention. Oncology nurse researchers, in particular, will be challenged to conduct research that will promote the provision of culturally competent care and the creation of health policies that will improve the cancer outcomes of racial and ethnic minority populations. The increased need for and interest in cultural competency in oncology nursing research is influenced, in part, by a number of factors, including (a) the projected changes in demographic trends in the United States; (b) the continuing disparities in cancer incidence, mortality, and survival among racial and ethnic minority populations; (c) the Oncology Nursing Society’s (ONS’s) commitment to diversity and quality cancer care; and (d) the increased emphasis on the need to include racial and ethnic minority populations in federally funded research. To this end, the purposes of this article were two-fold: to examine oncology nursing research published in the Oncology Nursing Forum from 1990–2000 using an adapted Oncology Nursing Society Multicultural Outcomes: Guidelines for Cultural Competence provides guidance for enhancing the next generation of oncology nursing research with ethnically and culturally diverse populations.

Key Points . . .

➤ Demographic trends reveal that growth will be tremendous in racially and ethnically diverse populations in the 21st century.
➤ The current shift in demographics underscores the need for and interest in cultural competency in oncology nursing research.
➤ The Oncology Nursing Society Multicultural Outcomes: Guidelines for Cultural Competence provides guidance for the conduct and reporting of oncology nursing research with racial and ethnic minority populations.
➤ The use of these guidelines, when designing and reporting oncology nursing research, may enhance the provision of culturally competent cancer care and the creation of health policies that will improve the health outcomes of racial and ethnic minority populations.