The Middle East (ME) is an economically diverse region that includes countries in Central Asia and Northern Africa. Regardless, cancer is a major health concern in the ME, and pain management is an essential component of cancer care across the disease trajectory. This column will provide background on opioid use for pain management in the ME and highlight the collaborative work of the Middle Eastern Cancer Consortium, Omani Cancer Association, and the Oncology Nursing Society to increase pain assessment and management capacity in the ME.

Brant is an oncology clinical nurse specialist and a nurse scientist at the Billings Clinic in Montana. Newton is the vice president of oncology commercial solutions at QuintilesIMS in Dayton, OH, and Maurer is a policy program manager and researcher for the Pain and Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center and the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Pain Policy and Palliative Care in Madison.

Brant has received payment for lectures, including services on speakers bureaus, from Genentech and Insys, and is funded by Carevive. Newton has previously received honorarium from the Oncology Nursing Society for serving on the board of directors. Mention of specific products or opinions related to those products do not indicate or imply endorsement from the Oncology Nursing Society.

Brant can be reached at jbrant@billingsclinic.org, with copy to editor at ONFEditor@ons.org.

Keywords: Middle East; opioid consumption; pain management; International Narcotics Control Board

ONF, 44(4), 403-405.
doi:10.1188/17.ONF.403-405