Editorial

Anne Katz, RN, PhD • Associate Editor

Old Old Roots and New Growth

Spring is in the air as I write this, my first editorial for the Oncology Nursing Forum. I have been thinking about this column a lot over the past months; during the application and interview process I dreamed that this day would happen and, over the past few weeks as I dipped my toes into the reality of being the editor of this esteemed journal, I thought about what I would write. A new person in an established role is an opportunity for change, and hopefully growth, too. But the buds of spring cannot develop without the support and sustenance of the roots, and I want to begin this editorial by thanking Susan Moore, RN, MSN, ANP, AOCN®, for her leadership and grace during the past two years of her acting editorship. Over the past few months, she has been the warm voice at the other end of the telephone, often very early in the morning, when I needed guidance or practical assistance. As someone who loves words, I find myself searching for the right words to express my gratitude to her, and I am left with just two—thank you!

As editor, I am in the unique position of being able to use 800 or so words every issue to express myself and my opinions about oncology nursing, cancer, and anything else I choose. So I would like to use these next 600 words to tell you a little about myself and how I came to this spring of my career. Like many of you, I am a nurse to the very smallest cell in my body; this has been a most fulfilling work life for me. I have had an interesting career with many varied experiences, a Heinz 57 kind of career. My background is in women’s health practices and, in part, my desire to make a difference in the lives of other women and men with cancer. My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 47. I was living overseas at the time, and my memory of her journey with cancer began with a hurried phone call to inform me that she’d had a mastectomy. I was back home within two or three days, caring for someone who was fundamentally changed both physically and emotionally. Twenty years later, she was diagnosed with a contralateral breast cancer, this time treated with lumpectomy and radiation. Her experience has informed my life and health practices and, in part, my desire to nourish and take care of this journal with the help of you, the members and readers of this journal, aided by the Editorial Board, reviewers, and publishing staff at ONS. Please join me as I grow personally into my role—e-mail me and talk to me at Congress and other ONS meetings that I attend. Just as the new spring buds need the nourishment and warmth of the sun, so I, too, need your thoughts and opinions for this new season of growth.

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Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/12.ONF235