The Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) Survey Team was formed by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Steering Council in May 2000 to conduct a survey of advanced practice oncology nurses. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the critical issues inherent in current advanced practice roles in oncology for the purpose of planning future ONS projects for this group. The target audience was determined to be APNs, with a larger audience of administrators, educators, legislators, and health policy decision makers.

The project team consisted of three members of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Special Interest Group (SIG) and three members of the Nurse Practitioner SIG. Team members included Mary Pat Lynch, CRNP, MSN, AOCN®, (chair), Melissa Craft, RN, MS, AOCN®, Molly Loney, RN, MSN, Diane G. Cope, PhD, ARNP-CS, AOCN®, Carole Heaney, RN, MS, and Kathleen Murphy-Ende, RN, PhD, AOCN®. The team was assisted by ONS staff members Lynne Suhayda, RN, MSEd, Linda Eaton, RN, MN, AOCN®, Judy DePalma, PhD, RN, and Jenny Brown.

The project team focused on current APN issues within the framework of the recommendations of the 1994 State of the Knowledge Conference on Advanced Practice in Oncology.