Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives Nursing Hall of Fame Award

Altru Health System in Grand Forks, ND, presented its annual Nursing Hall of Fame Award to Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Nancy Klatt, RN, a manager at Altru Cancer Center. The award is given annually to nurses who, over the course of their career, have exhibited extraordinary achievement in nursing at Altru. Klatt is the 19th recipient of the award.

A nurse at Altru Health System since 1976, Klatt has shown continuous dedication to the system, its patients, and employees through her focus on oncology services. “Nancy has been relentless in her drive for excellence in the care of cancer patients. It isn’t everyday you find a nurse who has dedicated their professional career to one type of population; especially one that is so complex and has such evolving treatments,” said Chief Nurse Executive Margaret Reed, RN.

In her role as manager, Klatt led the charge for the renovation and expansion of Altru Cancer Center in 2009, while ensuring uninterrupted patient care throughout. The renovation has attracted new physicians, bringing with them advances in treatment through technology. “Nancy is one of the reasons I selected employment at Altru Cancer Center,” said Grant Seeger, MD, a radiation oncologist.

Altru Health System’s mission is to improve health and enrich life for its community. Altru provides health education, preventive care, and early interventions to more than 200,000 residents of northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

For more information, visit www.altru.org/about-us/news.

ONS Members Recognized for Oncology Nursing Excellence

McKesson Specialty Care Solutions/US Oncology recognized five exceptional oncology nurses from almost 2,400 nominees nationwide for their dedication to their profession and their passion for their patients. The Excellence in Oncology Nursing Award honors those in the United Network of US Oncology who exemplify competency, courage, and determination in providing the highest quality oncology nursing care to patients and their families.

The following ONS members received the 2011 Excellence in Oncology Nursing Award.

- Julia Carr Ober, RN, Texas Oncology–Arlington North
- Allison Freundberg, RN, OCN®, Florida Cancer Institute–New Hope, Brooklyn
- Robert Beach, RN, OCN®, Northwest Cancer Specialists–St. Vincent Office, Portland, OR
- Carrie Czech, RN, OCN®, Minnesota Oncology–St. Paul
- Heidi Hofmeister, RN, BSN, Maryland Oncology Hematology–Columbia, Maryland

“These extraordinary nurses play an integral part in so many patients’ lives,” said Smith. “This award was created to recognize and honor nurses for putting their patients first.”

MD Anderson Selects Outstanding Nurse Oncologist

Nancy Tomczak, RN, OCN®, a clinical nurse in the inpatient stem cell transplantation unit at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, received the 2011 Ethel Fleming Arceneaux Outstanding Nurse-Oncologist Award, presented by the Brown Foundation, Inc. A committee of MD Anderson’s clinical faculty, patient-care administration, and nursing staff reviewed nominations sent from peers and patients alike before selecting Tomczak as the choice for the annual award. Established by the foundation in 1982, the award is the institution’s highest nursing honor.

“I’m so honored by this award,” said Tomczak. “I’m truly overwhelmed.”

At age 8, after witnessing her grandmother succumb to lung cancer, Tomczak made it her mission to help fight cancer. Her passion increased after surviving a life-threatening car accident at age 16.