Neumann Receives Outstanding Nurse Oncologist Award

Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Joyce Neumann, RN, MS, AOCN®, an advanced practice nurse at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, recently received the prestigious 2001 Ethel Fleming Arceancua Outstanding Nurse Oncologist Award. The award is presented annually by the Brown Foundation, Inc., to an M.D. Anderson nurse who demonstrates superior performance in all aspects of oncology nursing. The honor, which the foundation established in 1982, is accompanied by a personal award to the recipient of $15,000.

Dedicating to M.D. Anderson the last nine years of her 27-year nursing career as an advanced practice nurse in blood and marrow transplantation (BMT), Neumann marvels at the evolution of this treatment area over the last decade. From the scientific aspect, she now is working with not only patients with leukemia, lymphoma, renal cell cancer, and myeloma but also women with ovarian and breast cancers. From the human side, Neumann has learned to care for and help individuals triumph over their most difficult days of cancer therapy and sometimes face decisions about advanced life support or hospice care.

“Joyce exemplifies M.D. Anderson’s core values of caring, integrity, and discovery,” said Richard Champlin, MD, chair of the Department of BMT, in his award recommendation of her. “She leads by example in providing compassionate, highest quality patient care.”

Neumann is recognized internationally for her research and expertise. At M.D. Anderson, she wrote the standard for colleagues to reference in recognizing potential skin abnormalities of graft versus host disease. She has published and lectured extensively on non-melanoblastic BMT, complications of this treatment, and ethical issues related to cancer care. She also has been an active member of ONS and its Blood and Marrow Stem Cell Transplant Special Interest Group.

Neumann will begin work on her doctorate in nursing, with a focus on research, at the University of Texas at Austin. Neumann received her master of science and bachelor of science degrees in nursing from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

Tranin Receives Credential in Familial Cancer Risk Assessment and Management

The Institute for Clinical Evaluation has awarded ONS member Amy Strauss Tranin, RN, MS, AOCN®, with a credential in Familial Cancer Risk Assessment and Management until 2008. Tranin is a genetic cancer risk counselor for the Cancer Prevention Program at the Cancer Institute in Kansas City, MO.

Only 29 people in the United States have earned the same credential. Tranin is the only person holding a credential in Kansas City. The credential is based on meeting specific eligibility criteria and successfully passing an examination. Tranin’s eligibility is comprised of a current license, a master’s degree, formal education training in cancer genetics, and a logbook of 50 individual cases. The cases cover a variety of different hereditary syndromes for which Tranin provided services within the past two years. No more than 30 cases can be in the same hereditary syndrome.

The Familial Cancer Risk Assessment and Management examination tests the knowledge and skills of individuals who provide assessment and management services to individuals who are thought to be at risk for cancer.

“Her credential confirms that she is an extremely qualified specialist,” said Ronald Deisher, MPAH, administrative director of the Division of Cancer Control and Community Outreach for the Cancer Institute. “She is a real asset to our patients and physicians working with individuals who are potentially at high risk for cancer.”

Ash Appointed Associate Director for Cancer Control and Population Sciences at Shands Cancer Center

ONS member Carol Reed Ash, RN, EdD, eminent scholar and American Cancer Society professor of oncology nursing at the University of Florida (UF) College of Nursing, has been appointed associate director for cancer control and population sciences for UF Shands Cancer Center.

Ash will coordinate and implement all of the center’s cancer control activities. She also will collaborate with Director W. Stratford May, Jr., MD, PhD, and other associate directors as part of the senior leadership team.

Ash, who holds the Kirbo endowed chair in oncology nursing at UF, developed GatorSHADE, a skin cancer prevention program for elementary school students and their parents, and is the principal investigator of a National Cancer Institute-funded cancer education program for nurses in developing countries. The American Association for Cancer Education recently honored her outstanding contributions to cancer education with the Margaret Hay Edwards Achievement Medal.

Shands Cancer Center is an interdisciplinary initiative connecting healthcare professionals and scientists at UF Health Science Center’s Gainesville and Jacksonville campuses, Shands at UF, and Shands Jacksonville who are researching and enhancing clinical strategies for diagnosing, treating, and preventing cancer.

Heusinkveld Elected Chair of Texas Division of American Cancer Society

ONS member Karen Heusinkveld, DrPH, RN, FAAN, the Myrna Pickard Professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas at Arlington, has been elected chair of the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Texas Division.

The organization includes 260 units throughout Texas, raises more than $40 million annually, and assists thousands of Texans through research, education, advocacy, and service. Along with the president and other officers of the Board, Heusinkveld will help to map out the strategic directions for the Texas Division.