

Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives Franciscan Skemp Healthcare Education Award

As part of the annual celebration of National Nurses Week, nurses from across Franciscan Skemp Healthcare system gathered in Marycrest Auditorium in La Crosse, WI, for the “Your Excellent Service” awards ceremony. The awards were presented in four categories: team, research, education, and practice.

Among the winners was Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Mary Kron, RN, BSN, OCN®, who received the award in the education category. Those who nominated Kron for this award said she “consistently demonstrates a commitment to the development of colleagues and students by sharing her knowledge. Her real life examples are great for helping the students integrate the new knowledge. Part of Mary’s role as a chemotherapy nurse is to provide education to patients regarding their chemotherapy and possible side effects. She does this teaching in a manner which is specific and sensitive to the unique needs of that patient.”

Other recipients included the Emergency Medical and Trauma Care/Urgent Care Nurses in the team category, Sharon Trussoni, RN, for research, and Mary Fisher, RN, for practice. Special recognition also was given to Marjorie Resler, RN, a continuing care coordinator, who retired after 38 years of service to Franciscan Skemp and the nursing profession.

Visit www.mayohealthsystem.org for more information.



Franciscan Skemp Healthcare Education Award recipient Mary Kron, RN, BSN, OCN® (left), and Vice President of Patient Care Services Diane Holmay, RN, MS (right)

American Pain Society Announces Recipients of Clinical Centers of Excellence in Pain Management Awards



Judith Paice, PhD, RN, FAAN, president of the American Pain Society

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH; the Pediatric Pain Management Center at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland; the Productive Rehabilitation Institute of Dallas for Ergonomics in Texas; the Stanford Pain Center in Palo Alto, CA; the University of Minnesota Fairview Pain and Palliative Care Center in Minneapolis; and the University of Wisconsin Health Pain Care Services in Madison.

Forty-nine applications were judged by a panel of prominent pain management experts. APS established the program in 2006 to recognize progressive teams of health professionals who address critical, sometimes unmet, needs in pain management within their communities. Multidisciplinary programs in the United States offering direct patient care in pain management are eligible to apply. Award recipients were honored at a gala on May 8, 2008, at the APS Annual Scientific Conference in Tampa, FL.

“In our second year, the Clinical Centers Excellence Awards drew applicants from every part of the country with excellent performance in relieving suffering and restoring everyday function to those whose lives are burdened with persistent pain,” said APS President Judith Paice, PhD, RN, FAAN, director, cancer pain program, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and ONS member.

A recurring quality of leading pain programs, according to Paice, is success in helping patients enhance overall function and quality of life. “Combining cognitive-behavioral and physical therapies with medi-

cations and other approaches is the major advantage of the multidisciplinary approach. We treat the whole person, not just the pain. The award recipients and other centers are proving every day that integrated, multidisciplinary pain care yields the best long-term outcomes medically, psychologically, and socially,” she said.

APS is a multidisciplinary community that brings together a diverse group of scientists, clinicians, and other professionals to increase the knowledge of pain and transform public policy and clinical practice to reduce pain-related suffering.

For more information, visit www.ampain.soc.org.

M.D. Anderson Collaborates With the German Cancer Research Center

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center signed a sister institution agreement with the German Cancer Research Center, Germany’s premier cancer center, which is renowned particularly for excellence in basic cancer research. The mission-driven agreement formalizes long-standing academic relationships among faculty at both institutions, and solidifies plans to work collaboratively toward groundbreaking achievements in cancer research and care for the benefit of patients worldwide.

The signing ceremony for the sister institution agreement took place at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg and was presided over by John Mendelsohn, MD, president of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Otmar D. Wiestler, MD, chair and scientific director of the German Cancer Research Center. The ceremony culminated a day-long educational workshop featuring presentations from faculty at both institutions on topics including glioblastoma, physics, and image-guided surgery.

“The German Cancer Research Center is an outstanding partner that contributes state-of-the-art science and technology and exceptional faculty to our mission to eradicate cancer,” said Mendelsohn.

The German Cancer Research Center, located within the University of Heidelberg campus, is renowned as a world leader in

basic cancer research, a European leader in translational research, and Germany's premier comprehensive cancer center.

"The cure for cancer requires first an understanding of the complex biological mechanisms underlying the disease," said Wiestler. "The extraordinary commitment to this relationship from faculty and leadership of both institutions will most certainly lead to improved standards of patient care, research and prevention, and education."

To date, M.D. Anderson has established sister institution relationships with 17 of the premier academic and clinical cancer centers around the world, and partnered with the U.S. State Department on a similar breast cancer initiative in the Middle East formed in 2006.

For more information about M.D. Anderson, visit www.mdanderson.org. For more information about the German Cancer Research Center, visit www.dkfz.de/index.html.

Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization Changes Name



Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization®, the nation's oldest national breast cancer organization, announced on Mother's Day of 2008 that it is changing its name to Breast Cancer Network of Strength™.

The organization's mission—to ensure through information, empowerment and peer support, that no one faces breast cancer alone—will not change.

"The goal of our rebranding is to better communicate our mission," said Breast Cancer Network of Strength Chief Executive Officer Margaret C. Kirk. "We want to encourage more people touched by breast cancer to take part in programs and services and truly experience the power of peer support and the immediate emotional relief it provides."

This year, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization™ commemorates its 30th anniversary. Breast Cancer Network of Strength™ does not raise money for research. Instead, it provides immediate emotional relief for anyone touched by breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Network of Strength's logo quickly communicates breast cancer by using a stylized pink ribbon. The four figures are each a different color to visually express that breast cancer does not discriminate and that Breast Cancer Network of Strength is here for anyone touched by breast cancer—men and women, families and friends, and people of all backgrounds. The figures connect with each other to demonstrate support through a network.

For more information about Breast Cancer Network of Strength, visit www.networkofstrength.org. Peer counselors can be contacted at 1-800-221-2141, with interpreters available in more than 150 languages.

ProCure Treatment Centers Collaborate With Ivy Tech Community College to Offer Students Proton Therapy Training and Certification

Students at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, IN, will be the first in the nation to be offered a highly specialized training program in proton therapy, an alternative to traditional radiation therapy that is emerging at treatment centers across the country, creating a demand for credentialed therapists. The college has formed a partnership with ProCure Treatment Centers, Inc., to develop a certificate program that will train and credential students enrolled in the College's Radiation Therapy Program, with courses beginning next fall. The facility offers before-the-job training that simulates all aspects of proton therapy treatment in a replica of a proton therapy treatment center, featuring everything but the actual protons.

"We are very fortunate to have a leader in proton therapy development and training only four miles from our campus, enabling us to easily provide our radiation therapy students with a world-class educational experience," said Larry G. Swafford, PhD, professor and chair of the radiation therapy program at Ivy Tech Community College.

Ivy Tech Community College intends to establish criteria and means of accreditation so that upon completion of the program, students will be certified in proton therapy according to standards set by ProCure's Training and Development Center.

"We look forward to working with Ivy Tech in establishing a model program for educating, training and credentialing students in proton therapy," said Niek Schreuder, senior vice president of technology and medical physics at ProCure.

For more information on ProCure Treatment Centers, visit www.ProCureCenters.com. For more information on Ivy Tech Community College, visit www.ivytech.edu.

"Invisible People" With Cancer Are Least Likely to Get Quality Care

With mounting evidence that many Americans remain the invisible people with cancer who do not get regular screening examinations, smoke at higher rates, are frequently diagnosed after their cancer has spread and, therefore, die more frequently and more quickly from the disease, the Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus (ICCC) issued a

12-step action plan outlining how the Administration and the U.S. Congress can begin to help those patients with cancer who are falling through the cracks of the healthcare system.

The new report, "From Awareness to Action: A Renewed Call to Eliminate the Unequal Burden of Cancer," provides realistic goals for helping racial and ethnic minorities, those living in rural areas, older adults, and the poor, who remain at greatest risk for developing and dying from cancer.

"As the nation considers reforms to the healthcare system, no workable agenda can ignore the pressing issue of combating disparities in cancer care," said Lovell A. Jones, PhD, cofounder of the ICCC.

According to the ICCC's assessment, poverty is the major factor contributing to higher cancer incidence and mortality rates among the medically underserved. Also addressed in the report is access to pain management and palliative care at the end of life, two areas where disparities in cancer care are significant.

To begin to change these issues, the ICCC has created a 12-point action plan to provide vulnerable populations with greater access to programs that will prevent, detect, and treat cancer at its earliest stages while supporting these individuals through and beyond treatment.

The ICCC is an advocacy organization whose mission is to advance policies, programs, partnerships, and research to eliminate the unequal burden of cancer among racial and ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations.

To access the full report, visit www.icc-caucus.org/ICC_Caucus_Action_Plan.pdf.

Bravo! Job Well Done! Pat Yourself on the Back!

Have you been awarded recently for your dedication and commitment to oncology nursing? Have you been appointed to a new leadership position at your institution? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for People and Events. Submissions can include a recent photo and should be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Diane M. Otte, RN, MS, OCN®, via e-mail at otte.diane@mayo.edu or ottedm@charter.net.