

## PEOPLE & EVENTS

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Associate Editor

### Dow Appointed to National Cancer Advisory Board



President George W. Bush has appointed Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Karen Dow Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, to serve on the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) for a six-

year term. Dow is a professor and the Beat M. and Jill L. Kahli Endowed Chair in Oncology Nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando.

As one of 18 members of the board, Dow will advise, assist, consult with, and make recommendations to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and director of the National Cancer Institute. The institute supports research on the prevention, early detection, treatment, and surveillance of cancer.

NCAB includes leading representatives of health and scientific disciplines, such as Dow, as well as leaders in the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics, and management.

"I am delighted and honored to be appointed. This gives me a unique opportunity to bring my perspective as a nurse and researcher to the National Cancer Program," Dow said.

Dow is the recipient of a \$1.6 million research grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research and National Cancer Institute and a \$250,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to improve the quality of life of breast cancer survivors. She also has a distinguished record of professional service. She recently completed six years of service as a member of the Florida Biomedical Research Council and for many years served as a scientific grant reviewer for the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Nursing Research.

In April, Dow was named a Pegasus Professor, the most prestigious award bestowed by UCF to a faculty member. The award honors individuals for going beyond the ordinary and consistently delivering an extraordinary level of excellence in teaching, research, and service to students, the community, and the profession.

### Cunningham Named Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow



ONS member Regina S. Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN®, chief nursing officer at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) in New Brunswick and assistant professor in

the Research Division of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, is 1 of 20 nurses in executive leadership roles nationwide selected as 2006 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows. The three-year fellowship program is designed to strategically position the voice of nursing across many sectors of the economy in a healthcare system undergoing unprecedented changes and challenges.

"Nurses play a pivotal role in leading the redesign of healthcare delivery strategies now and into the future," Cunningham said. "The fellowship is an outstanding opportunity to develop additional leadership skills, work with a nationally recognized team of experts from within the healthcare industry as well as from other sectors of the economy, and benefit from the collaboration with other nursing and healthcare leaders from different parts of the country. It is an honor to be selected as a participant."

As part of the fellowship, Cunningham will have the opportunity to undertake a leadership project to benefit CINJ, with funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and matching funds from CINJ. Cunningham is interested in collaborating with members of the cancer center and primary care practices to develop and evaluate a model of care delivery that will enhance access to high-quality services for cancer survivors. The projected model of care delivery would represent a coordinated, interdisciplinary collaboration that would involve oncology specialists working with primary care providers. Oncology nurses would play a major role in transitioning care from the oncology setting to the primary care setting.

As chief nursing officer, Cunningham is responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and improving the delivery of all nursing services to adults and children receiving care at CINJ. In addition, she is an active member of CINJ's supportive care research group. Her research interests include factors influencing outcomes in patients receiving cancer treatment, with a focus on the role of the oncology nurse in improving outcomes, and issues of cancer survivorship.

CINJ is New Jersey's first and only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment, and care of patients with cancer. For more information, visit [www.cinjj.org](http://www.cinjj.org).

### Reid Ponte Elected President of Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives



ONS member Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, senior vice president for Patient Care Services and chief nurse at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and director of Oncology Nursing and

Clinical Services at Brigham and Women's Hospital, both in Boston, MA, was elected president of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives (MONE). The gavel was passed at the group's annual meeting in Chatham, MA, on June 6. Reid Ponte succeeds Janet Madigan, MS, RN, CNAA, project manager for Patient Care Services Information Systems at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

A member of MONE since 1991, Reid Ponte has served four years as regional representative for metropolitan Boston and served last year as president-elect. She is the 2004 recipient of MONE's Mary B. Conceison Award, a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow, and a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Most recently, she led staff at DFCI on an 18-month journey toward attaining Magnet status, which the American

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Nurses Credentialing Center granted to DFCl in June 2005. She currently is serving her sixth year as a member of Dana-Farber's Executive Management Group. Prior to joining DFCl, she was nursing director of medical-surgical nursing and clinical services at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Reid Ponte received her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a master of science degree and a doctorate of nursing science degree from Boston University.

### Lynn Elected to American Society of Breast Disease Board of Directors



ONS member Jean Lynn, MPH, RN, OCN®, director of outreach of the Cancer Expert Corps as a contractor to the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD, has been elected to a three-year term on

the American Society of Breast Disease (ASBD) Board of Directors.

According to Barbara F. Rabinowitz, PhD, director of oncology services at Meridian Health and immediate past president of ASBD, the Nominating Committee identified a slate of candidates who could provide commitment and leadership, represent individual specialties yet converse across specialties in true interdisciplinary fashion, actively engage in ASBD volunteer efforts, and understand ASBD's unique position in breast health care to help further its dynamic agenda.

Prior to her current position, Lynn was program director of the George Washington University Breast Care Center. She is the president and cofounder of the Breast Cancer Care Foundation, which helps men and women by providing financial assistance to those who are underserved or uninsured. Lynn holds faculty appointments as an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health and Health Policy at George Washington University and as an adjunct instructor in the School of Nursing at George Mason University. She received her nursing degree from Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ, a degree in healthcare management from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in public health from George Washington University. She also serves on ONS's Steering Council and is president-elect of the ONS Washington DC Chapter. She serves on ASBD's Membership Committee and has been instrumental in involving oncology nurses in the ASBD. Lynn recently was awarded a Congressional Tribute and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the George Washington University Medical Center.

### Leukemia Research Foundation Names ONS Members Hematology-Oncology Nurses of the Year

ONS members Susan Burke, RN, MA, CPNP, pediatric nurse practitioner at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and Alla Donets, RN, BSN, oncology nurse at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, have been selected as 2006 Nurses of the Year by the Leukemia Research Foundation (LRF).

The Nurse of the Year Award, presented annually since 1996, was created to recognize a hematology-oncology nurse or nurses who give their time, compassion, and heart to those touched by leukemia, lymphoma, and myelodysplastic syndromes. This year, approximately 40 nominations from 14 hospitals and hematology/oncology clinics in the Chicago area, Joliet, IL, and Milwaukee, WI, were submitted by patients and families touched by these diseases, as well colleagues and coworkers.

"The care that hematology/oncology nurses provide daily is nothing short of amazing," said Scott Kroman, chair of the Nurse of the Year Judging Committee and former LRF Board president. "Each year, dozens of highly skilled and caring nurses are brought to light during the nomination process—people who have critical impact on a patient's treatment and recovery."



Burke, a resident of Whitefish Bay, WI, who is employed by the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, has been caring for pediatric patients with cancer for the past four years. One

mother wrote in Burke's nomination, "My daughter loves Susan and always makes sure she is there when we go to clinic. Susan made us feel like we were the only family she had to care for! We feel Susan made our family stronger and able to work through an unbearable situation." Burke is president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses.



Donets, a resident of Glenview, IL, has been a dedicated oncology nurse for nearly 19 years. On her nomination form, one of Donets' colleagues wrote that she "takes care of patients with leukemia with care and expertise. She always gives 110% when she comes to work and is always advocating for the patient." Donets is the chair of her unit's Shared Governance Team.

LRF's mission is to conquer leukemia, lymphoma, and myelodysplastic syndrome by funding research into their causes and cures, and to enrich the quality of life of those touched by these diseases. For more information, visit [www.leukemia-research.org](http://www.leukemia-research.org) or call 847-424-0600.

### ONS Members Named Lane Adams Quality of Life Award Recipients

ONS members Brenda Gillund, RN, MS, OCN®, Andre Metzelaars, RN, BSN, OCN®, and Peggy Nikolajski, CRNP, MSN, AOCN®, have been named recipients of the American Cancer Society's (ACS's) Lane Adams Quality of Life Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made a difference through innovation, leadership, and consistent excellence in providing compassionate, skilled care and counsel to persons living with cancer and their families. These extraordinary individuals come from many disciplines and backgrounds, and their daily work is committed to extending "the warm hand of service," a phrase coined by the late Lane W. Adams, a former ACS executive vice president.

Gillund is an oncology resource nurse and case manager at Altru Cancer Center in Grand Forks, ND; Metzelaars is a chemotherapy nurse at Carle Foundation Physicians in Mattoon, IL; and Nikolajski is an oncology nurse practitioner at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Cancer Centers in Pittsburgh, PA.

For more information about the Lane Adams Quality of Life Award recipients, visit [www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/AA\\_6.asp?sitearea=AA](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/AA_6.asp?sitearea=AA).

### ONS Members Honored at Annual Reward and Recognition Celebration

More than 360 clinicians, caregivers, and other support staff from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), Brigham and Women's Hospital, Children's Hospital Boston, and DFCl's newest partner, Faulkner Hospital, recently attended the Nursing and Patient Care Services Reward and Recognition Celebration, which was held June 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MA.

Highlighting the event was the presentation of several awards recognizing leadership, mentoring, and research efforts from staff at the four hospitals.

Award recipients included ONS members Pamela Calarese, MS, RN, CS, OCN®, who received the President's Award; Daniel Gorman, MS, RN, and Sharon Lane, RN, MS, AOCN®, who received the Leadership Award; and Mary Jane Ott, MN, MA, APRN, BC, RYT, who received the Excellence in Writing Award.

ONS member Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, senior vice president for

Patient Care Services and chief nurse at DFCI and director of Oncology Nursing and Clinical Services at Brigham and Women's, served as master of ceremonies.

### CentraState Medical Center Oncology Nurses Honored

Two ONS members who are employed by CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, NJ, were recognized recently for their dedication and expertise to the oncology nursing profession.

Karen M. Sherman, RN, BSN, MS, Ed, HNC, an oncology nurse manager, was named a New York/New Jersey regional nominee in the Management category of Nursing Spectrum's Nurse Excellence Awards program. The awards recognize the extraordinary contributions that nurses make to their patients, each other, and the profession.

In her role, Sherman has organized a palliative care team community outreach program, established an annual staff team-building retreat, and arranged numerous social functions for staff to improve morale, increasing staff retention rates. She also established a Healing Circle for staff support, demonstrating her expertise as a certified holistic nurse. Throughout her career, Sherman has been an outspoken and active advocate for patients with cancer. She cofacilitates support groups for patients with cancer, leukemia and lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and myelodysplasia.

Sherman has published several nursing articles as well as a book titled *Communication and Image in Nursing* and was the Ambassador 2000 Media Outreach Specialist for cancer-related fatigue. She has served as past-president, program chair of the Nominating Committee, and secretary of ONS's Southern New Jersey Shore Chapter.

In addition, Jane Yanko, RN, C, OCN®, CHPN, a staff nurse on the oncology unit, has received the Nursing Excellence in Medical Surgical/Psychiatric Nursing.

Yanko was nominated for the award because of her exceptional leadership qualities in caring for acutely ill patients. Through collaboration with an oncology manager and a nurse educator, she helped to develop CentraState's current oncology standards of care and has participated in the development and maintenance of standards for quality improvement in pain management. She consistently communicates caring and respect throughout interactions with patients, families, coworkers, and the healthcare team. She has served in unit professional practice and nursing research committees, participating in a prevention program to decrease patient falls and implementing successful wound care measures and management.

Yanko is an active member of ONS's Central Jersey Chapter and the Hospice Special Interest Group.

### Komen Foundation Awards More Than \$54.8 Million to Research

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation recently announced the awarding of 247 research grants, totaling more than \$54.8 million, as part of its Award and Research Grant Program. The amount of research grants funded by the Komen Foundation this year represents a 21% increase compared

to last year's research grants total of just more than \$45.1 million. Every year for the past 10 years, the Komen Foundation has significantly increased monies for research and aims to continually top previous research investments.

"Every major scientific advance to date in the fight against breast cancer has been supported in some way by a Komen grant," said Nancy G. Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. "We will continue to cultivate the best and brightest researchers."

The Komen Foundation funds research in three programs: basic, clinical and translational research (awards of up to \$250,000 for a two- or three-year period); postdoctoral fellowship research (awards of up to \$250,000 for a two- or three-year period), and population-specific research (awards of \$250,000 for a two- or three-year period).

"More than 100 Komen affiliates across the nation are in large part responsible for raising the money that funds our scientific research grants," said Rebecca Garcia, PhD, vice president of health sciences for the Komen Foundation. "Innovative and promising research projects like these hold the key to a future where breast cancer will no longer be a life-threatening disease."

For more information about the Komen Foundation, visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

### 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? Are you helping to coordinate an event that is particularly relevant to oncology nurses? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these and other achievements with its readers.

*ONF* accepts news of member accomplishments for People and Events. Submissions should include a recent photo and 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](mailto:otte.diane@mayo.edu) or [ottedm@charter.net](mailto:ottedm@charter.net).