

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®
Associate Editor

Pollak Appointed Executive Director of Cancer Care for Adventist HealthCare



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Debra N. Pollak, RN, MSN, has been appointed executive director of cancer care at Adventist HealthCare, an integrated healthcare delivery system based in

Rockville, MD. Pollak will oversee the development and enhancement of cancer care services across all of Adventist HealthCare.

Prior to joining Adventist HealthCare, Pollak held leadership positions in clinical research, medical education, and healthcare administration. She was a coprincipal investigator while at the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, a large-scale clinical trials group headquartered at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, where Pollak held a faculty position in the School of Medicine. She also has served as vice president of product development for Magellan Behavioral Health. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Pollak is a past recipient of the American Cancer Society's Master's Degree in Cancer Nursing scholarship.

"I am excited for this opportunity to strengthen our oncology care program," said Pollak. "Through a system strategy approach, we will capitalize on the talent in our acute care facilities and leverage the depth of expertise in supportive approaches held in home care, rehabilitation, and behavioral health, optimizing our strong community partnerships. Our goal is to provide the best comprehensive cancer care to our community, from prevention efforts to treatment programs through the entire continuum of care."

Adventist HealthCare is one of the largest employers in Maryland and includes Washington Adventist Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health System, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Senior Living, Adventist Health Careers Training Center, Hackettstown Community Hospital, Greater Washington Sleep Disorder Center, and Adventist Home Health. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthcare.com.

Downs Named Executive Director of the Association of Community Cancer Centers



The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), the nation's premier advocacy organization for the oncology team, has named Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA, as the association's new executive director.

Downs succeeds Lee E. Mortenson, DPA, who retired from ACCC's leadership position after more than 30 years of service.

In assuming the leadership role at ACCC, Downs will serve the association's Board of Trustees and membership in its work on national policy and provider education. He also will be responsible for furthering relations with other oncology organizations and provider groups and developing new corporate partnerships.

"The Board is pleased and enthusiastic about Christian and the future of ACCC. We think Christian has the energy, ideas, temperament, and experience to lead the association in its mission," said E. Strode Weaver, FACHE, MBA, MHSA, ACCC president.

Downs has more than 15 years of healthcare experience. He joined ACCC in 1998 and was instrumental in working with providers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Congress on hospital outpatient prospective payment system (HOPPS) issues. Working with state legislatures across the country, he helped to promote off-label and clinical trials legislation. At the same time, he worked with individual insurers and carriers to help ensure patient access to new oncology therapies. Downs led association efforts on such critical issues as easing implementation of HOPPS, ensuring patient access to new cancer therapies, and refining physician office payments for delivery of services.

Downs received his master's degree in health administration from the Medical College of Virginia and his law degree from George Mason University, with a special focus on regulatory and administrative law. He is a board member of the Patient Advocate Foundation and C-Change, a large coordinating organization for cancer groups.

ACCC's unique membership of more than 650 hospital cancer programs and oncology private practices includes all members of the cancer care team: medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, cancer program administrators and medical directors, oncology nurses and pharmacists, oncology social workers, and cancer program data managers. For more information, visit ACCC's Web site at www.accc-cancer.org.

U.S. Senators Mikulski and Collins Honored for Increasing Federal Funding for Nursing Programs

U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Susan Collins (R-ME) recently were honored with the first-ever Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief (ANSR) Public Service Award for their successful efforts to increase funding for nursing programs necessary to reverse the nursing shortage. The senators received the awards at a reception on Capitol Hill on March 1.

The ANSR Alliance is composed of 50 nursing organizations, including ONS, that collectively represent nearly all of the nation's 2.3 million nurses. ANSR's goal is to work with Congress to implement a comprehensive set of initiatives to increase the nursing workforce.

Recently, President Bush requested \$150 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs in fiscal year (FY) 2006, representing a \$674,000 decrease from FY 2005. The President also proposed cutting \$15 million for advanced nursing education. Senators Mikulski and Collins have been the driving force behind significant increases in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Funding for Title VIII increased from \$93 million in FY 2003 to \$151 million in FY 2005, thanks to their efforts. These programs provide funds for nursing education and other programs crucial to stemming the nursing shortage.

Senators Mikulski and Collins were recognized as true champions for nursing and for safeguarding the public health. They helped to increase funding for nursing workforce development programs over the last three funding cycles and were instrumental in steering the Nurse Reinvestment Act through the Senate in 2002.

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ONS Journals Awarded for Excellence

The Society of National Association Publications (SNAP) has recognized ONS's two journals in its EXCEL Awards program.

- In the Scholarly Journals, General Excellence category, the *Oncology Nursing Forum* received the Silver Award.
- In the Scholarly Journals, Feature Article category, the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* article "Thromboembolic Disorders in Cancer" by Ruth Van Gerpen, RN, MS, OCN®, and Merle E. Mast, PhD, RN, ANP, received the Bronze Award.

SNAP's annual competition recognizes and rewards the exemplary work of association publishers. In this year's competition, the EXCEL program judges received more than 1,130 entries from association magazines, newsletters, scholarly journals, electronic publications, and Web sites in the areas of editorial quality, design, general excellence, most improved, and more. For more information about SNAP's EXCEL Awards program, visit www.snaponline.org.

New Cancer Clinical Trials Education Network Partners With Lance Armstrong Foundation

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) recently launched the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT). This pilot education program is the only national organization devoted solely to implementing and evaluating cancer clinical trial educational efforts. ENACCT's mission is to identify and implement innovative approaches to cancer clinical trials education, outreach, and recruitment to improve outcomes for patients with cancer.

ENACCT seeks to address the issue of community literacy around clinical trials—changing knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and intention in both healthcare providers and community leaders—to ultimately enhance access and increase participation in clinical trials.

Through a national competitive award process, the ENACCT pilot education project will award three grants to existing, effective community-based partnerships at \$150,000 per year for three years to develop unique approaches to fostering awareness about cancer clinical trials, enhancing their acceptability, and improving access to them. ENACCT will offer ongoing technical assistance, evalua-

tion, and training services provided by the ENACCT pilot program staff and consultants. The action-oriented programs implemented and the lessons learned from them will help inform and improve patient recruitment-planning and activities nationwide.

For more information about this grant opportunity, visit www.enacct.org. For more information about LAF, visit www.laf.org.

American Arab Nurses Association Holds First Conference

The inaugural conference of the American Arab Nurses Association (AANA) was held May 19 at Burton Manor in Livonia, MI. "Building Cultural Bridges in Health Care" explored the value of cultural competency in clinical practice, the variances in cross-cultural communication, healthcare workplace cultural diversity, and healthcare beliefs and practices in Arab, African, and Hispanic American cultures.

Madeleine Leininger, PhD, LHD, DS, RN, CTN, FRCNA, FAAN, LL, the pioneer of transcultural nursing theory and practice and the founder of the Transcultural Nursing Society, was the keynote speaker. Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN, a professor in the Department of Nursing at the University of Delaware, discussed "Patient Communication Across the Cultures." A panel discussion probed "Problem Solving Relating to Workplace Cultural Diversity," with representatives from the medical and corporate worlds. The healthcare beliefs and practices of Arab American, African American, and Hispanic American patients were discussed to provide better care for these communities.

Founded in April 2002, AANA is a voice, network, and resource for men and women pursuing employment and advancement in

the nursing profession as well as fostering knowledge of cultural diversity and sensitivity between members and the community in the area of transcultural health care. For more information, visit www.americanarabnurses.org.

National Cancer Institute Forms Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid


The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has formed a cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG™), a virtual network intended to link individuals and institutions around the world in hopes of accelerating cancer research.

Forty-nine NCI-designated cancer centers have signed contracts with NCI to build the grid, which will allow individuals and institutions to share data and tools, creating a World Wide Web of cancer research. The goal is to speed the delivery of innovative approaches for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

The caBIG pilot is being coordinated through NCI's Center for Bioinformatics to support its vision of providing a cancer research infrastructure via a virtual web of interconnected organizations and individuals to leverage the combined strengths of cancer centers and investigators and enable the redefinition of

- The methodology of cancer research
- The delivery of patient care
- The interaction and relationship of patients and participants with the biomedical research enterprise.

"caBIG will be a critical asset in meeting NCI's challenge goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015," said NCI Director Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD.

For more information, visit <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov>. 

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 Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®, via phone (773-350-2234), fax (773-583-3477), or e-mail (pjassak@aol.com).