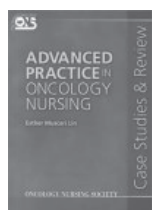


## B O O K S

**Advanced Practice in Oncology Nursing: Case Studies and Review.** *Esther Muscari Lin\* (Ed.). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2001, 472 pages, \$46.95.*

☺ ☺ ☺ √ √ √ 'Y' 'Y' Softcover



As usual, the Oncology Nursing Society is in the vanguard of shaping advanced practice nursing and preparing oncology advanced practice nurses (APNs). The purpose of this text is to assist oncology APNs to prepare for certification. The editor notes that this is not meant to be a quick reference, and she is right. Although the book's primary purpose is to help APNs review critical advanced oncology nursing content, other users, such as educators and practicing APNs, will find it useful.

The book has three sections organized according to the role components of advanced nursing practice: (a) direct caregiver, (b) administrator/coordinator, and (c) consultant, researcher, and educator. As one would expect, the section devoted to direct care is the most extensive (24 chapters) and includes chapters on common cancer diagnoses, pain, genetics, and cancer emergencies. The other two sections include three chapters each.

This publication has many strengths and few limitations. Although the book had 14 contributors, a great deal of consistency exists across chapters. The editor and contributors have ensured that the case method they use is grounded in the institutional realities of day-to-day inpatient and outpatient care. The

text uses logically developed case studies (many chapters have more than one) followed by questions and answers. The direct caregiver section includes multiple-choice questions, and a discussion of the underlying logic is provided before the answer is given. The case studies include patients of both genders and a range of socioeconomic classes and address the many medical (e.g., disease diagnosis and treatment) and nursing concerns that arise in nursing practice. The case studies will be particularly useful for students and novice nurse practitioners, who often articulate the challenge they experience in maintaining their nursing focus and expertise while refining their skills in diagnoses and treatment. Another strength of the case studies is that they incorporate important and common team issues.

A similar case study format is used in the last two sections. As a case unfolds, case segments are followed by questions and answers, but the types of questions are matching, sentence completion, open-ended, as well as multiple choice. The reader is unprepared for these differences. If the certification examination contains all multiple-choice questions, in addition to surprising the reader, an element of truth with regard to the examination is lost. If the editor and contributors believed this change in questions was important, it easily could be addressed in the preface in a future edition.

Other limitations were minor and more apparent in the latter two sections. Throughout the book, many chapters invite the readers to problem solve by using the second person. Some chapters describe a case objectively. Both approaches work, although I found the first to be more engaging. One chapter has a "Case Study" heading but starts immediately with questions and includes no case study until the end of the chapter. The clinical chapters were more likely to have a significant portion of later references (1997–2000); the chapters on the other role compo-

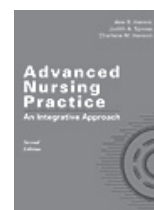
nents relied on classic references and a large portion of references published before 1997.

These limitations do not undermine the usefulness of the book, and many easily can be addressed in the preface and in the instructions to authors in the next edition. Although I will not need to take the recertification examination for three more years, I plan to use this book (or its next edition) to help me review and prepare.

Judith A. Spross, PhD, RN, AOCN®  
Senior Scientist  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Newton, MA

**Advanced Nursing Practice: An Integrative Approach (2nd ed.).** *Ann B. Hamric, Judith A. Spross\*, Charlene M. Hanson. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2000, 880 pages, \$54.95.*

☺ ☺ ☺ √ √ 'Y' 'Y' 'Y' Hardcover



If you are an advanced practice nurse (APN), manage APNs, educate APNs, or are in a graduate nursing program, you will benefit from using this book. It is well thought out and incorporates a very comprehensive definition of advanced practice nursing. The primary author relies on it for leading the APNs in her institution. As an experienced APN, I found it an excellent refresher course that challenged me to evaluate my own practice. The book's stated goal is to propose a standardized, clear definition of advanced practice nursing that can be used to navigate the dynamic healthcare scene. That goal is achieved.

The first section of the book traces the historical and conceptual evolution of advanced practice nursing. The gem of this section is a beautifully written chapter by Hamric that defines advanced practice nursing. She clearly grounds the role in direct care and lays the foundation for the rest of the book. The next section defines each competency of advanced practice nursing. All of the sections

\* *Oncology Nursing Society member*

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Book Size
☺ Quick, on-the-spot resource	√ Brief, with more questions raised than answered	'Y' Pocket size
☺ ☺ Moderate time requirement	√ √ Useful, supplemental resources required	'Y' 'Y' Intermediate
☺ ☺ ☺ In-depth study	√ √ √ Thorough discussion of topic; can stand alone	'Y' 'Y' 'Y' Desk reference

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are well written, particularly the chapter on direct clinical practice by Sarah Jo Brown, PhD, RN. She weaves an interesting perspective on holism through the formation of partnerships with patients and the use of expert reasoning and clinical skills, research, and diverse treatment approaches. Depending on the reader's role, he or she will find something enlightening in at least one, if not more, of the competency chapters.

The book then goes on to chapters that describe advanced practice roles. Again, all are well written. The chapters on the blended role of the clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner and on the APN case manager are particularly timely. The book ends with a section on system, organizational, and regulatory issues that pertain to advanced practice roles and affect healthcare outcomes. These chapters can help APNs design a role that can use the healthcare system to obtain desired patient goals. The strength of this book is its clear definition of advanced practice nursing and its comprehensive description of the role. The size of the book can be intimidating. The academically oriented style of writing in some chapters makes them difficult to read. My suggestions for improving the book would be to keep the writing direct and to use a style of referencing that takes the citations out of the middle of sentences.

This book should be the gold standard for defining advanced practice nursing. Any book or article on the subject that does not reference this text is incomplete. Other publications address the advanced practice role, but none are as helpful and well thought out as this book.

Cynda Simonson, MS, ANP, BC, AOCN®  
Adult Nurse Practitioner  
Division of Hematology/Oncology  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Health Systems  
Richmond, VA

## Other Books

**Ask a Nurse: From Home Remedies to Hospital Care.** Geraldine Bednash, Polly Bednash (Eds.). Washington, DC: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2001, 416 pages, \$15 (softcover), \$25 (hardcover).

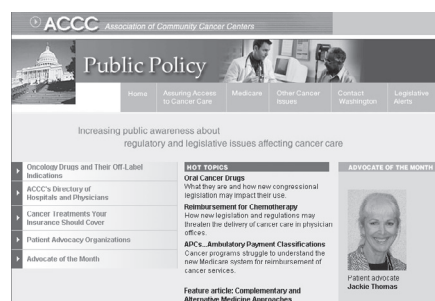
This book, compiled by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the consumer advocacy group People's Medical Society, offers self-care guidance from 550 nursing schools and hundreds of professional nurses nationwide. The publication provides information on everyday complaints from acne and allergies to diarrhea and flu symptoms. It pulls together advice from nurses regarding home treatments, over-the-counter medications, when to seek a physician's care, and maneuvering through the healthcare system. Also included are chapters on emergency first aid, addiction, home medical kits, and alternative herbal therapies.

**The Hope Tree: Kids Talk About Breast Cancer.** Laura Nemeroff, Wendy S. Harpham. Illustrations by David McPhail. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999, 32 pages, \$12 (hardcover).

Geared for children ages five through eight, this book was written to help families talk about the challenging issues surrounding breast cancer in healthy and hopeful ways. Through the use of animal characters, this book speaks directly to children and discusses the issues they face when a loved one has breast cancer. Key topics that affect the entire family dealing with this illness are addressed. All proceeds from this book benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

## W E B S I T E

**Editor's note.** We are pleased to offer another media resource for ONS members. In collaboration with members of the ONS Online Editorial Board, we now will offer Web site reviews. We welcome your comments and suggestions about this new feature. Please e-mail them to nancywalsh@pro-mic.com.



**Name of site:** Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) Public Policy

**URL:** <http://www.cancer.gov/> or <http://www.accc-cancer.org/publicpolicy/>

**Authorship:** ACCC

**Privacy statement:** Present, comprehensive, and easy to find

**Disclosure:** No sponsorship or financial disclosure issues

**Content highlights:** ACCC is a national multidisciplinary organization that defines quality care for patients with cancer. In late 2001, ACCC launched a new Web site to promote public policy and advocacy initiatives.

The site has information organized into five key sections.

- General Cancer Issues
- Patient Advocacy Organizations
- Cancer Statistics
- Legislative Information
- Contact Washington

The site allows users to communicate their views to targeted lawmakers using templates designed for e-mails, letters, and faxes. Users also can find out how their senators and representatives voted on the

congressional bills important to quality cancer care. The site includes a score column and "score card" feature that shows whether or not members supported the position of one's organization. ONS

## Glossary of Web Site Review Terms

### Uniform Resource Locator (URL):

An address that identifies a document or resource on the World Wide Web (WWW).

**How to evaluate:** In the Windows and Macintosh environment, right click on page to determine true URL from the "properties" menu.

**Linking:** Ability to connect to another Web site; hyperlink is a computer code that allows one page on the WWW to be connected to another.

**How to evaluate:** Inspect each site for a "linking policy" also known as "rules for linking statement." It may be part of the site's legal statement and is generally found on the home page.

**Authorship:** Individual who or organization that "stands behind" the Web site. This can be a person, professional organization, university, hospital, cancer center, government agency, or advocacy group. Credentials or logo must be present and appropriate for the content presented.

**How to evaluate:** Inspect the site for the names and credentials of the content providers, and send an e-mail to them to verify their existence.

**Disclosure:** The act of uncovering; usually concerned with financial backing, sponsorship, and sources of funding. This would be indicative of any bias.

**How to evaluate:** Inspect the site for the presence of a disclosure statement or list of sponsors. This usually is found on the home page or in the "legal statement."

**Privacy:** It is critical that users be informed of the collection, use, and dissemination of any information they may be providing when visiting the site. Only then can they make an informed decision about providing information or approving of its eventual use.

**How to evaluate:** Inspect the site for a privacy statement or rules of usage document. This is most commonly found on the home page or provided at the time of registration.

Elizabeth Gomez, RN, MSN, AOCN®  
Editor, ONS Online

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