

Holley Receives Veterans Affairs Career Development Award



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Sandra Holley, PhD, ARNP, AOCN®, is the recipient of a Veterans Affairs (VA) Career Development Award from 2002–2005. Holley is a nurse scientist in the Patient

Safety Center of Inquiry at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, FL. Her award program is titled "Group Rehabilitation to Reduce Safety Risks for Cancer Patients." The career development award is funded by the Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development at the VA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The award affords the many resources of the VA system, including mentoring from nationally known nurse researchers.

Holley is a graduate faculty member in oncology nursing at the University of South Florida and a graduate of the College of Nursing at the University of Florida. She has more than 35 years of nursing experience, including 25 years of experience in oncology nursing. Holley is well respected for her expertise in cancer nursing and was the recipient of the American Cancer Society Doctoral Scholarship Program, VA Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Nursing Research Fellowship programs for the past four years. She has researched fatigue in people with cancer for the past 15 years and has many publications and presentations to her credit on the topic. She participated in the Fatigue State of the Knowledge Conference, which later became the FIRE® (Fatigue Initiative Through Research and Education) project funded by the ONS Foundation and Ortho Biotech, Inc. She has published and presented on numerous other topics related to cancer nursing.

Sarna Developing Campaign to Help Nurses Quit Smoking



ONS member Linda Sarna, RN, AOCN®, DNSc, FAAN, a professor in the School of Nursing at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), is leading a six-month planning grant to develop a program to

help nurses quit smoking and involve nurses in tobacco-control advocacy efforts.

With almost \$400,000 in funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sarna and Stella Aguinaga Bialous, a tobacco-control consultant in San Francisco, CA, are spearheading the development of a multifaceted national campaign aimed at the country's largest group of healthcare professionals—a group that has a surprisingly high rate of smoking.

"Nurses have a tremendous opportunity to assist in tobacco-control efforts," said Sarna. "However, smoking by nurses limits their ability to be strong advocates of tobacco control, including engaging in cessation efforts with their patients." Sarna also noted that one barrier to conducting smoking-cessation interventions with patients is nurses who themselves continue to smoke; at an estimated 18%, it is the highest percentage among healthcare professionals. The campaign will focus on helping nurses to quit smoking and developing strategies to help the nursing profession become more involved in tobacco-control advocacy efforts.

"In the past, there has been no coordinated effort to support nurses in their own cessation efforts or to stress the critical importance of being smoke-free role models," said Sarna. "During this planning grant, we will work with a variety of nursing organizations and tobacco-control experts to develop a nationwide campaign that will provide nurses who smoke with cessation resources."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grant-making in four goal areas: ensure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost; improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and reduce the personal, social, and economic harm caused by substance abuse.

Behrend Presents at Nurse Expert Meeting in Japan



ONS member Susan Weiss Behrend, RN, MSN, AOCN®, an oncology clinical nurse specialist and educational consultant to the Department of Continuing Nursing Education at Fox Chase Cancer Center

in Philadelphia, PA, was invited by Shorinsha Publishing Organization to present at the Annual Nurse Expert Meeting in Yokohama and Kyoto Japan in June. Shorinsha Inc. is a large publishing consortium dedicated to publishing nursing textbooks and journals. Shuichi Takahashi, president and executive editor of Shorinsha, hosted the conference venues, which were sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, Inc. Approximately 900 Japanese nurses attended each of the two meetings.

Behrend presented "The Evolution of the Role of Ambulatory Oncology Nursing" and "Cancer-Related Bleeding: Response to Diagnosis and Treatment." During the conference, Japanese oncology nurses presented case studies, with discussion and commentary given by a panel of Japanese oncology clinical nurse specialists and featured interventions suggested by Behrend.

Behrend is a published author and lecturer. Her consulting work focuses on the oncology specialty areas of radiation therapy, ambulatory care, and symptom management of solid tumor treatment. She was a founding member of ONS's Steering Council and presently serves as a board member of Oncology Education Services, Inc., a subsidiary of ONS.

Pickett Receives Staff Nurse Advocacy Award



ONS member Jan Pickett, MA, RN, CNS, CS, OCN®, of Granger, TX, was one of 18 outstanding nurses honored at the American Nurses Association's (ANA's) annual convention, which was held June

29–July 2 in Philadelphia, PA. Pickett received the Staff Nurse Advocacy Award, which honors staff nurse advocates who have been inspirational role models and mentors to other staff nurses. Each biennium, ANA bestows national awards for outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and the field of health care.

A member of the Texas Nurses Association, Pickett is an experienced clinician who practices in rural America. In her role as a member of a cancer care team, she quickly gained the trust of physician team leaders because she understood the medical model perspective of cancer care. Her positive patient outcomes

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have influenced all members of the cancer care team to appreciate a broader world view of the meaning of illness and wellness. Because she has been open and responsive to the best from the traditional medical model and from holistic nursing, patients in rural Texas today have more healthcare options, such as self-hypnosis, massage therapy, and herbal counseling, for approaching the treatment of their illness and maintenance of their wellness.

At a time when not-for-profit healthcare systems are challenged by various operating pressures and clinicians are forced into seeing more patients to generate more revenue, Pickett is known for her ability to keep the focus of the rural cancer team on the individual patient's needs. When patients and their families feel vulnerable, she is always there to listen, reflect, and discuss their concerns.

Cunningham Awarded for Leadership and Excellence in Pediatric Cancer Care

ONS member Lauren Cunningham, RN, CPON, recently received the Laura Snitzer Boozer Award from the AFLAC Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, GA. The award recognizes nurses in the AFLAC Cancer Center who have demonstrated leadership and professional excellence in pediatric cancer care.

A leukemia/lymphoma nurse clinician, Cunningham works in associated practice with Stephen Lauer, MD, medical director of the AFLAC Cancer Center of Children's Healthcare at Egleston, to deliver high-quality care to children with cancer. Prior to joining the center in 1999, Cunningham served as a nurse clinician at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. Currently, she is a volunteer on the medical staff for Camp Sunshine, a retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses. She also has earned her certification in pediatric oncology nursing (CPON), as well as her pediatric advanced life support certification. In addition, she is a member of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses (APON).

The award is given in memory of Laura Snitzer Boozer, an AFLAC Cancer Center nurse who died in 1999. It is awarded based on a nurse's spirit of teamwork, dependability, professional excellence, positive attitude, personal growth, and leadership. After Boozer's untimely death, a friend donated funds to create the Laura Snitzer Boozer Nursing Fund for Continued Education. Winners received a scholarship to attend the 26th Annual APON Conference and Exhibit, which was held October 3-5 in Salt Lake City, UT.

The AFLAC Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is one of the largest childhood cancer and hematology programs in the country,

serving infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer and blood disorders. For more information, visit www.choa.org or call 404-250-KIDS.

Niederhuber Named Chair of National Cancer Advisory Board

John E. Niederhuber, MD, has been appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) for a six-year term. Upon appointment, Niederhuber will become chair of this prestigious cancer advisory board for two years.

NCAB oversees the review of grant applications to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and provides advice on all aspects of program and planning for cancer research, reporting to both the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the director of NCI.

Niederhuber is a nationally recognized cancer surgeon, with a special clinical emphasis in gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and breast cancers. He is assistant dean for oncology and a professor of surgery and oncology in the School of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin and director of the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center. He has considerable experience as a leader in the cancer field and is the current president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes. He was a member of the NCI Cancer Center's Review Committee and the NCI Division of Cancer Treatment Board of Scientific Counselors. Niederhuber previously served on NCAB's Subcommittee to Evaluate the National Cancer Program. He is also the immediate past-president of the Society of Surgical Oncology.

For more information on Niederhuber's appointment, visit www.aaci-cancer.org.

UC Davis Cancer Center Achieves National Cancer Institute Designation

University of California (UC) Davis Cancer Center has achieved National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, becoming one of only 20 NCI-designated centers west of the Mississippi and the only one between San Francisco, CA, and Portland, OR.

"As the only NCI-designated cancer center in this region, UC Davis Cancer Center will have an impact that extends far beyond its own walls, across northern and central California," said U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. "UC Davis Cancer Center will serve as a valuable local, regional, and national resource in our battle against this disease."

"California leads the nation in cancer control and prevention efforts, and it now has the nation's newest NCI-designated cancer center," said California Governor Gray Davis. "Designation recognizes that UC Davis Cancer Center, a program of the nation's finest public university system, has built itself into

one of the nation's top cancer centers. It's an accomplishment we can all take pride in."

NCI, the nation's top cancer organization, awards designation only to cancer institutions with the demonstrated potential to make major scientific contributions to the war against cancer. Granted after an exhaustive review process, the coveted distinction ensures selected centers an ongoing, stable stream of federal research support to help them lead the nation's cancer research effort.

UC Davis Cancer Center serves a population of five million people throughout northern and central California, Nevada, and Oregon and cares for more than 3,000 new patients with cancer each year.

American Nurses Association Establishes Disaster Response Team

The American Nurses Association (ANA) announced at its June Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA, that it will work with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Public Health Preparedness and the Public Health Service to establish a National Nurses Response Team (NNRT). NNRT will be dedicated to responding to a presidentially declared disaster to provide mass immunization or chemoprophylaxis to a population at risk.

NNRT will be a large cadre of nurses who function under the auspices of HHS and could be deployed quickly in response to a major national event, such as the anthrax attacks of 2001. As NNRT sponsor, ANA would serve as the conduit to recruit RNs, relying on its capacity to reach nurses through its organizational relationships with its 54 constituent member associations and more than 100 specialty nursing organizations. HHS would process and screen applications from nurses and manage daily operations when in reserve and during deployment. ANA also would provide ongoing education about disaster response, in cooperation with HHS, during ANA meetings, online, and through other means. In addition, ANA would serve as an advocate for the program, a professional resource for HHS, and when NNRT is deployed, a spokesperson and advocate for nurses who have given their time and talent for disaster relief efforts.

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