



Welcome to San Diego!

The constant changes in health care continue to create numerous challenges in the delivery of nursing care. We are confronted with challenges related to reimbursement issues, the nursing shortage, and advances in technology. As oncology nurses, we also face the daily challenges to advocate for our patients and their families, anticipate their physical and psychosocial needs, provide education and resources, listen with our hearts, and share tears of joy and grief.

To be effective oncology nurses, we must understand the importance of our work, recognize its value, and communicate the positive contributions we make to our patients and their families. We must find opportunities to share our experiences, broaden and enrich our perspectives, and renew our spirit.

This year's Congress theme, "Pursuing Excellence in Challenging Times," underscores the importance of striving for excellence while integrating the numerous professional and personal challenges confronting each of us. To assist you in meeting these challenges and to provide opportunities for renewal, Congress has changed. The Congress Team thoughtfully considered the numerous requests for more advanced educational content, more networking opportunities, and more time between sessions. In response, the following changes have been implemented.

- Instructional and discussion sessions will be targeted to the expert/experienced clinician, advanced practice nurse, and nurse practitioner.

- Sessions will be 90 minutes in length, with 30 minutes between sessions. The increased time will allow participants to reconnect with friends and colleagues, relax in the sunshine, and arrive at the next session without rushing. This schedule change decreases the total continuing-education units by only 2.4 units.
- Six joint sessions with other healthcare professional organizations are scheduled. This will provide a broader perspective on cancer-care issues.
- Roundtable discussions have returned. Twenty exciting topics will be discussed in 90-minute sessions. Roundtables are another great opportunity for further networking.
- Sunday morning sessions will be a repeat of previous presentations, allowing attendees needing to leave early Sunday with the opportunity to still attend all Congress sessions. This change also allows those staying through Sunday to select additional sessions during the week.

Come to San Diego and join us as we enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the city. Take advantage of the diverse educational offerings of Congress, spend time reconnecting with friends and colleagues, take the opportunity to renew your spirit, and accept the challenge to pursue excellence in cancer care.

Ruth Van Gerpen, RN, BSN, OCN®
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