

**Chapter Grant Report**

<b>Project Title</b>	Coming Together as Oncology Nurses
<b>Date of Project</b>	2011
<b>Chapter</b>	Southeast Minnesota
<b>Project Goal</b>	To increase membership diversity and the number of oncology certified nurses in the SE MN Chapter of ONS.
<b>Target Audience</b>	Radiation Oncology, Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Blood and Marrow Transplant Nurses. Nurses working in other areas (including medical oncology, research) also participated.
<b>Project Overview</b>	<p>The chapter has taken a formal role in promotion of certification. We have included information in our newsletter on the value of certification and recognized those members that are certified. We have increased the amount of reimbursement we are offering for initial and re-certification (if not already reimbursed by their employer).</p> <p>We have been promoting the use of the virtual congress as a means to obtain ONC-PRO credits. The chapter offered an evening program inviting members and non-members. A session with broad appeal was chosen and viewed as a group. Information on the availability of the virtual congress sessions for members was provided.</p> <p>Over 40 nurses attended the annual SE MN ONS Rollin' on the Riverboat certification recognition event. Five newly certified nurses were recognized in a pinning ceremony during this event. Two of these were BMT nurses, one a surgical nurse. Statements from certified nurses were read aloud to the group (see attached documentation for examples) 19 certified nurses attended the celebration and were formally recognized for continued certification and provided their choice of a modest gift. Gifts included mugs with the saying "<i>What would you do if you knew you could not fail?</i>" and inspirational bookmarks. This is the first time all certified nurses were recognized at this event. It was well received by all.</p> <p>16 members attended the virtual congress session "Skin and Wound Care: What Does the Evidence Tell Us?" including nurses from BMT, palliative care, radiation oncology, and surgical specialties. Two non-members attended and were provided information on chapter membership. The attendees expressed interest in having future programs (with 2 sessions) and willingness to pay a nominal fee for such programs. One member drove over an hour to the program and stated she had been meaning to look into the virtual congress, but thought this was a better way to get started with the process. Another such program is being planned for fall 2011.</p>

<p><b>Outcomes</b> Expected Outcomes:</p> <p>The number of nurses working in oncology sub-specialty areas involved in the chapter will increase by 20% (16 new members), and the number of those nurses who are oncology certified will increase by 10% over the next 2 years (8 newly certified nurses).</p>	<p>We have added 12 new members since the start of 2011. Some of them are returning members (having been non-members for a period of time). Overall, our total chapter membership (79) has not changed. It is anticipated that the recruitment strategies listed above and the increase in support of oncology certification will further increase our membership over the coming year. The board plans to conduct a needs assessment in order to better provide for the diverse needs of our members.</p> <p>There are 7 new oncology certified nurses in our chapter. 5 were awarded certification pins at a recent recognition ceremony. Two of these were BMT nurses, one an oncology research nurse, and one a surgical CNS. Our chapter now has 47 oncology certified nurses. A number of nurses are preparing to take the OCN® exam in the coming year. Continued recognition of certification will further increase these numbers.</p> <p>Use of the grant funds to offset costs of the virtual congress session allowed us to invite non-members. It provided us the opportunity to test this type of event and determine strategies for improvement (marketing to other areas) and poll attendees on their willingness to pay for such an event.</p> <p>Members from radiation oncology, BMT and research areas were better represented at the virtual congress session than prior events over the past year.</p>
<p><b>How many Chapter members were involved in this project and how?</b></p>	<p>6 chapter members were involved in helping to ensure success of this project. The chapter president, president elect and directors at large did the majority of the planning and project implementation. Other members of the chapter assisted in arranging facilities and food. The board members (12) provided feedback on flyer development/content.</p>
<p><b>Name of Person Submitting Report</b></p>	<p>Sherry Wolf</p>