

ons foundation NEWS

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Research Studies Inform Clinical Practice

Major research grants funded through the ONS Foundation seek to improve clinical practice so that patients receive the best possible care. Studies have informed oncology clinical practice with outcomes such as confirming or expanding clinical assumptions as well as establishing reliable and valid assessment tools. This issue of the *ONS Foundation News* features two recently completed studies.



Norma Kay Krumwiede,
EdD, RN

“Understanding Family Experience of Neutropenia,” led by primary investigator Norma Kay Krumwiede, EdD, RN, studied rural families’ experience of chemotherapy-induced neutropenia (CIN). The qualitative study—accomplished over 18 months from conception to manuscript—identified how families understand and manage the experience of CIN. The study involved semistructured interviews with seven families (21 individuals) that had family members experiencing CIN.

“Neutropenia is a significant event within the whole of the cancer experience for the family,” Krumwiede said. “The depth of meaning expressed by families during a short interview was humbling and overwhelming at times with 432 pages of transcript to read, analyze, and synthesize.”

The study reported that because of patients’ neutropenia, family members had tempered their feelings about hope for patients to be cured. The study found that, during the neutropenic period, family members respond with protective behaviors toward the neutropenic patient. These behaviors led to a reframed sense of family integrity with more intensified connections within the family. The study also identified nurses, physicians, and community members as significant in the family’s construction of the meaning of neutropenia. The neutropenia study findings have contributed to development of the Family Cancer Care Protocol for Neutropenia, which includes assessment and intervention strategies ideally implemented by a family nurse assigned to a patient and family.

Amgen has underwritten this neutropenia study and others through the ONS Foundation Center for Leadership, Information and Research (CLIR). According to Krumwiede, the CLIR grant has allowed the Family Nursing Research Team to clarify its focus, increase the number of team members, and bring in consultants when needed. Because the grant supported an interdisciplinary team, one of the outcomes from the research is validation of the worth of such a team. With external funding, team members could participate fully in the project, dedicating time and attention to the work of the project.

“Computerized Symptom and Quality-of-Life Assessment in Clinical Practice,” led by principle investigator Donna L. Berry, PhD, RN, AOCN®, involved a multidisciplinary team developing and testing an innovative computerized symptom and quality-of-life (QOL) assessment tool. The University of Washington study, which began with production of a prototype framework for the tool, has led

to the development of software with a useful clinical application.



Donna L. Berry,
PhD, RN, AOCN®

The computerized patient assessment tool generates a graphic summary of symptom distress and/or troublesome QOL issues for use during initial and continuing consultation visits with a radiation oncology physician and nurse. The tool, based on input and testing from more than 100 patients with cancer receiving radiation, is available in a wireless, Web-based format.

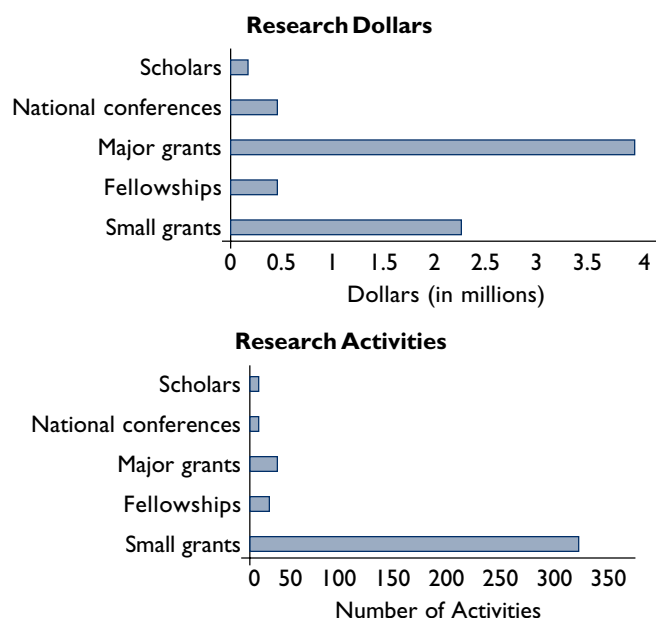
“The tool allows nurses to approach their patients as individuals who experience cancer in all aspects of their lives,” said Berry. “Too often we are faced with shrinking resources that remove opportunities for lengthy interpersonal interactions with patients,” she said. “The patient’s symptom and QOL experience, reported in a reliable and efficient method, is the essential basis for clinical assessment, diagnosis, and treatment plan.”

Based on the study, Berry and her colleagues have concluded that a computerized assessment of cancer symptoms and QOL is technically feasible in an ambulatory cancer clinic. They concur that the ability to capture a quick (less than 10 minutes), easily interpreted illustration of a patient’s symptom and QOL experience is a potentially useful adjunct to traditional face-to-face interviewing.

The study findings will be published soon. Berry reports that several sites within the University of Washington network and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance are preparing to implement computerized assessment as part of routine practice. Data generated from computerized assessment at those sites will continue to build the research’s database.

Berry pointed out that the study, made possible by an unrestricted grant from Ortho Biotech to CLIR, complemented the needs of research and clinical practice. “The support of the ONS Foundation made a difference in our research and in our clinical practice. The symptom research priority matched the clinical priority in our cancer care setting,” Berry said.

ONS Foundation-Funded Activities Since 1982



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The United Way Campaign Is Almost Here

Please remember to designate ONS Foundation (#4785) as a recipient of your contribution. Donations are used to fund scholarships, awards, grants, and educational programs for oncology nurses worldwide.



MESSAGE FROM THE ONS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Laura J. Hilderley, RN, MS
ONS Foundation President

Does Excellence in Nursing Care Really Matter?

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Society is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care.

A little more than a year ago, the mission of ONS was brought home to me and my husband very quickly and very clearly. In August 2002, our son developed persistent headaches that became increasingly severe over the course of one week, despite medication. A cranial computed tomography scan revealed multiple large brain lesions, presumed to be metastases. Subsequent scans identified a large, asymptomatic kidney mass, thought to be the primary site. David was admitted and relieved of the unrelenting headache as IV dexamethasone and morphine worked their magic. He gradually slipped into a coma, and, on the fourth day after admission, our son died peacefully.

Symptom management was essentially the only thing that the doctors could offer. Not surgery, not chemotherapy, not radiation. We had no hope for cure and the futility of treatment in the presence of such massive central nervous system disease was obvious. We understood and accepted this, welcoming the doctors' frequent visits and concern.

But, we had a great need for care. And in this community hospital oncology unit, nursing care mattered most. The nurses were there unfailingly, not to administer and monitor complex chemotherapy, manage side effects, or care for postoperative wounds, but to provide total care for a quickly fading life. In so doing, they also cared for us, as they anticipated and responded to David's every need.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because this personal experience made it abundantly clear to me that excellent oncology nursing and quality cancer care really do matter.

ONS is dedicated to ensuring that excellent nursing care is available to all people facing a cancer diagnosis. The early, visionary leaders in the Society

wisely recognized the importance of establishing the Foundation to help ensure that ONS could continue to fulfill its mission.

The ONS Foundation offers many opportunities to nurses as they seek to expand their oncology knowledge and increase their skills. Our grants fund research to provide the evidence base for clinical practice, curriculum development, and public education. The ONS Foundation also supports travel for nurses to attend the annual Congress, a premiere educational event. And did you know that 496 nurses have received Foundation scholarships to support the pursuit of bachelor's, master's, post-master's, and doctoral degrees as well as nurse practitioner certificates?

The ONS Foundation has a very clear role in the work of the Society.

The mission of the ONS Foundation is to generate financial resources to achieve the ONS mission of promoting excellence in cancer nursing and quality cancer care.

My hope is that all of you will want to help ensure that our mission is fulfilled. In addition to your personal dedication to providing excellent care, what better way to contribute to excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care for all than to make your annual gift to the Foundation and to honor friends and loved ones through memorial gifts to the Foundation? The Foundation's semi-annual appeal will arrive in your mailbox soon. If you haven't already made a gift, please take this opportunity to do so, and join me in demonstrating your support for the mission of ONS.

Does excellence in oncology nursing really matter? I have no doubt that the answer is yes!

Laura J. Hilderley, RN, MS
ONS Foundation President

Carol Webb Receives Friend of the Foundation Award



Carol Webb (on left), company group chairman of Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals Services, L.L.C., received the Elyn Bushkin Friend of the Foundation Award at the ONS Foundation's Donor Reception in Denver, CO, on May 1, 2003. She is pictured accepting the award from ONS Foundation Past President Brenda Nevidjon, RN, MSN (on right). The award recognizes individuals who have provided continuous support of the mission of the ONS Foundation. Webb, who served on the Foundation Board from 1996–2002, actively supported the Foundation's mission.

Webb said, "I feel extremely fortunate to have experienced firsthand how the work of the ONS Foundation truly makes a difference in extending and enhancing the lives of so many people. It's been an honor to work with such a special team of individuals, who are fully committed to this profession and the objectives of the Foundation. My work with this organization is an experience I will always treasure and never forget."

Uncertain Economy Impacts Donations to the ONS Foundation

Depending on stories you read or believe, the economic slump of the past three years may be over. As with any nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of loyal donors, the ONS Foundation takes economic cues into account as it pursues its mission and activities.

Since the Foundation's inception in 1981, the organization has distributed more than \$13 million in awards, grants, and scholarships to more than 1,200 oncology nursing professionals. An additional 5,000 oncology nurses have taken part in ONS Foundation-sponsored regional education workshops and Web casts through Center for Learning, Information and Research (CLIR).

"During the past few years, ONS Foundation has had to work harder to maintain our current funding of scholarships, grants, and awards," ONS Foundation Executive Director Linda Worrall, RN, MSN, OCN®, said. "At a time when employers are tightening their CE (continuing education) dollars and nurses need ONS Foundation's support the most, we've noticed a significant decline in individual donor giving.

"We have also felt the impact of corporate budget cuts. Collectively, these losses have threatened the creation of new opportunities and, in some cases, the funding of current opportunities. Despite it all, though, the Foundation is continuing to move forward; we are determined to adhere to our mission."

Typically when the economy is not in recession, giving grows on average 4% after inflation annually, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. But during a recession, donors can become cautious, with their giving typically falling about 1%.

The same seems to hold true with ONS Foundation donors. In a 2003 ONS Congress survey, 39% of donors surveyed indicated that they did not feel that they were financially able to make a gift to the Founda-

tion at that time. This sentiment was clear in the past two ONS Foundation annual and semi-annual appeal campaigns; less than 1% of the ONS membership responded to the appeals with a gift. Many of those who did respond indicated that the Foundation's mission—generating the financial resources to achieve the ONS mission of promoting excellence in cancer nursing and quality cancer care—was the key motivator.

"The change in the economy has forced donors to become more aware of how their gifts are being used," ONS Foundation Director of Development Heather Inch-Desuta, BA, MPM, indicated. "ONS Foundation's donors rightfully want to know that their donations are being used to support oncology nursing. As a result, we've given donors the opportunity to have input in deciding how their gifts are used. Donors are able to designate which funds—such as academic scholarships, research grants, and awards—their gifts benefit.

"The Foundation has also made a real effort to educate donors about who the Foundation is, how we help, and how donor gifts—whatever the size—really

(See "Economy" on page 3)

About the ONS Foundation

Founded: 1981

Headquarters: Pittsburgh, PA

Mission: To generate financial resources to achieve the ONS mission of promoting excellence in cancer nursing and quality cancer care

Number of full-time staff: 4

Number of board members: 10

Number of awards, grants, and scholarships funded to date: 1,296

From Application to Award: Explaining the Review Process

This year, the ONS Foundation distributed more than 60 scholarships and awards. For those preparing their applications for next year's awards, the following is a summary of the review process.

It begins with an announcement and reminder of the awards. The deadline to apply for the first round of awards—career development, education, and Congress scholarships—is December 1, 2003.

Each award area has a review team—a leader and three reviewers. The team receives completed applications, reviews them against checklists, and scores each application individually. Then reviewers send their scores on to their team leader. During the next week, the team leader reviews each application, compiles scores, and determines who the team will recommend for awards.

The team leader forwards those recommendations to the ONS Foundation Board of Trustees for approval. For academic scholarships, this process

repeats itself for the next round of awards. The next deadline for academic scholarship applications is February 1, 2004.

What is the experience like for reviewers? They say that being a reviewer allows them to become involved in ONS as well as to give back to the ONS Foundation.

Diane Cope, PhD, ARNP, AOCN®, a nurse practitioner at Florida Cancer Specialists in Fort Myers, has been a reviewer since 1994. For the past three years, she has been a team leader for the academic scholarships.

"I enjoy being a team leader and reviewer," said Cope. "I have been given the opportunity to see the various backgrounds, research ideas, and future trends that oncology nursing has to offer."

Kim Schmit-Pokorny, RN, MSN, OCN®, from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, became a reviewer last year. She is a Bone Marrow Transplantation SIG past president and past recipient

of the Josh Gottheil Bone Marrow Transplant Award.

"There are so many possibilities that the awards and scholarships can bring to so many oncology nurses," Schmit-Pokorny said. "The challenge is to reach nurses and get them to apply. These scholarships are for everyone—the new grad to the well-seasoned RN."

For those applying for awards or scholarships, these reviewers offer the following reminders.

1. Maintain your focus on the topic (e.g., career plans, research focus).
2. Use clear and concise statements.
3. Experience does not mean years—we all have many experiences, so please share them.
4. Have a colleague review your application.
5. Keep trying—don't give up.

If you would like to join a reviewer team, contact the ONS Foundation at 412-859-6100. To learn more about applying for an award or scholarship, visit www.onsfoundation.org.

Remember to Purchase Tickets for ONS Foundation's IOL Raffle

Feeling lucky? The ONS Foundation Raffle will take place at the ONS Fourth Annual Institutes of Learning (IOL) on Sunday, November 9, at 9 am. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase via telephone or online in the weeks before IOL and during the conference for those who are attending.

"This year's IOL Raffle is especially exciting," said ONS Foundation Executive Director Linda Worrall, RN, MSN, OCN®. "For the past few years, we've been unable to hold the ONS Foundation Raffle drawing onsite. This year, we've been given permission to



Director of Development Heather Inch-Desuta and Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Member Judy DePalma drew names for the 2003 Congress raffle, which raised \$31,962 for oncology nursing. For a complete list of the 147 chapters that sold tickets, visit www.onsfoundation.org.

actually draw the raffle prizewinner names at the Convention Center in Philadelphia. Winners don't need to be present to win, but I'm hoping that we'll have a large crowd to cheer on the winners."

For a complete list of the more than 75 prizes that will be given away at IOL, visit the ONS Foundation's Web site at www.onsfoundation.org. Prizes range in value from \$25–\$500 and include gift certificates, cash, travel grants, ONS memberships, and more. Tickets are available for \$5 each or three for \$10. All proceeds benefit the ONS Foundation and oncology nursing.

Not Going to IOL?

You still can buy tickets to win one of the more than 75 prizes that ONS Foundation has available. Here's how.

1. **Purchase tickets by phone:** Call the ONS Foundation at 866-257-4ONS (choose option #4 on the menu) anytime from 9 am–5 pm (EST) Monday through Friday from October 1–November 5.
2. **Purchase tickets online:** Visit the ONS Foundation's Web site at www.onsfoundation.org anytime from October 1–November 5.

Economy (Continued from page 2)

do make a difference. Knowing that their support is needed and making a difference really helps to keep the donors who do give motivated. And those gifts make such a tremendous difference."

For example, Inch-Desuta cited that CLIR donations provide a significant impact. The Challenge Project, sponsored by AstraZeneca, has reached an estimated 722,451 individuals through programs and projects focused on professional education, public and community education, patient education, publications, and television and radio outreach. This is one example of many CLIR projects that have had outstanding outcomes.

So, how does the Foundation withstand a less-than-robust economy and keep growing? Like many nonprofit organizations, the ONS Foundation re-

ceives some of its support from charitable corporate giving. But it continually renews its efforts to gain individual support through carefully planned appeals.

Inch-Desuta pointed out that the Foundation has been careful in its requests for support. Since its beginning, the Foundation has had only two major fundraising campaigns—a capital campaign and a campaign to build its endowment.

Historically, the Foundation sent out an annual appeal, and this year marks the first year for a semi-annual appeal. "We were pleased to see some new donors responding," ONS Foundation President Laura J. Hilderley, RN, MS, said. "With a total response rate of less than 1%, though, we still have a long way to go. We really need the ONS membership

to support their colleagues and their profession. This is a case where, if every ONS member made one gift a year, even if it was just \$10, we could collectively make a major impact."

"Together, we've touched millions of lives," Hilderley said. "I hope that the ONS membership will help the Foundation to touch millions more."

Join ONS Foundation donors in supporting oncology nursing. Please fill out the form below and return it to the ONS Foundation to show your support.

Did you know that ONS Foundation has funded 1,296 scholarships, grants, and awards since 1982? **We need your help in supporting oncology nursing!** Please fill out this card and return it with your donation to ONS Foundation at the address below.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

- In honor of _____
- In memory of _____
- General donation
- Endowment

Please notify:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Gift from:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make check payable to

ONS Foundation

P.O. Box 3258

Pittsburgh, PA 15230-3258

FN

Why Do You Choose to Donate to the ONS Foundation's Semi-Annual Appeal?

"I have been funded by the Foundation twice and this support was critical to the research I conduct on sexuality and cancer. I strongly believe that it is my obligation to give back so that others may have the same opportunities that I have had the privilege to have received. The Foundation provides us with support to further our ability to provide high quality care to our patients and their families."

Margaret Chamberlain Wilmoth, RN, PhD, MSS; Charlotte, NC

"I've been a member of ONS for over 20 years. During that time I have seen the Foundation grow from a small entity to a major supporter for educational and research endeavors for oncology nurses. ONS Foundation has assisted numerous oncology nurses in achieving their professional goals as well as supported substantial research to add to the foundation of nursing practice. For me, giving to the Foundation is an investment in oncology nursing."

Dawn Camp-Sorrell, RN, MSN, FNP, AOCN®; Alabaster, AL

"I chose to make a contribution during the Foundation's first semi-annual appeal primarily because of the Foundation's commitment to funding research that contributes to improving the nursing care of persons with cancer."

Norma Christman, RN, PhD, FAAN; Lexington, KY

Watch your mailbox for
the ONS Foundation's Fall
Semi-Annual Appeal

Congress Wall Donors Prove That Strength Exists in Numbers

Congress attendees raised more than \$5,400 at the ONS 28th Annual Congress. For a donation of \$1–\$100, meeting attendees were invited to write their names on an ONS Foundation “buck” that corresponded to the dollar amount of their gift. By the end of Congress,

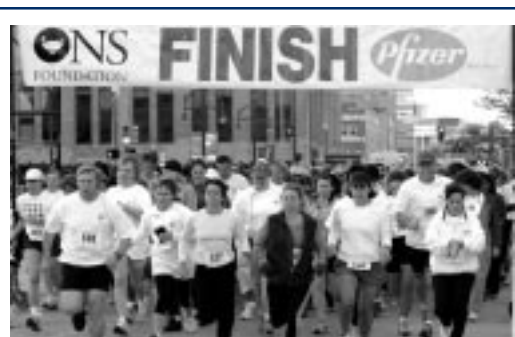
eight sections of the Congress Wall, displaying the names of more than 500 ONS Foundation donors, hung proudly above ONS Foundation’s booth.

Each point in the following list serves as an example of the many ways that donor gifts, like the \$5,000 raised by Congress attendees, can help to benefit oncology nursing.

- Five **Congress Scholarships** at \$1,000 each
- One **Bachelor’s Scholarship** (\$2,000) and one

Master’s, Doctoral, or Post-Master’s Scholarship (\$3,000)

- Two awards (\$2,500 each) to **recognize outstanding oncology nurses**
- Half of a \$10,000 **research grant**
- One **Ethnic Minority Researcher and Mentorship Grant** at \$5,000
- Two **Cancer Public Education Projects Awards** at \$2,500 each



Oncology nurses united at the 2003 ONS Foundation/Pfizer Fun Run, Walk & Wheel to raise more than \$6,800 for the Ann Olson Scholarship Fund.

Approaching Deadlines

November 1, 2003

Small Research Grants
Congress Scholarships

December 1, 2003

Continuing Education
Career Development
Cancer Public Education Projects

February 1, 2004

Academic Scholarships

For more information about these ONS Foundation grants and awards (and to download applications), visit www.onsfoundation.org or call the Foundation at 412-859-6100.

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