

ons foundation NEWS

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Ethics Career Development Award Recipients Comment on Their Experiences

In 1995, the ONS Foundation established the Ethics Career Development Award, a \$1,000 award to support professional RNs in their education about clinical ethics. The award allows nurses to attend a program about clinical ethics, which can further expand their professional goals and contributions to oncology nursing; however, very few RNs apply to the ONS Foundation for the award.

Previous award recipients Maxine Cochran, RN, BSN, OCN®, and Nancy Ledbetter, RN, MS, shared their perspectives on applying for and receiving their awards.



*Maxine Cochran,
RN, BSN, OCN®*

"After reading about the Ethics Career Development Award, I knew that I had to apply. I had never applied for an award and didn't feel that I would have a chance to win. Nevertheless, I wanted so much to learn more about ethics so I gave it a try.

"As the deadline approached for submitting the application, I became discouraged; I realized that I did not have time to get the material together. Meantime, a coworker encouraged me, knowing that I had an intense desire to learn how to deal with ethical dilemmas professionally. As an oncology nurse, the crises I faced were constant. I did not have a good process to make evaluations and recommendations. The award appeared to be an avenue to improve patient and family care at the hospital. It also was a means to equip and educate nurses and physicians with the tools.

"After winning the award, I attended a week's seminar at the University of Washington in Seattle. Attending intense lectures and having interactions with the masters of ethics was a dream come true. I networked with 102 attendees who had a kinship in ethics. It was well beyond any of my expectations.

"The experience inspired me to apply for the certificate program, which included ten attendees from the summer seminar. I was one of the ten. After a year's distance learning, I returned to the seminar to present cases and complete the certification course. I am now certified in clinical ethics, an honor that began with my winning the Ethics Career Development Award.

"I am now active with the Health Care Ethics Consortium of Georgia, which addresses statewide ethics issues. I received a 'Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Professional Achievement' from my employer, Floyd Medical Center. The door has been

opened with unlimited future possibilities. The e-mail from the ONS Foundation about an ethics award was the beginning of one of the best experiences of my life.

"No matter how tired or busy you are, make time to further your personal goals. You can't win without trying."

*Maxine Cochran, RN, BSN, OCN®
Medical and Oncology Case Manager
Floyd Medical Center
Rome, GA*

"I have had an interest in ethics ever since I took an ethics course in my BSN program. I have been a member of the Ethics SIG [Special Interest Group] for many years. At the time of the award, I was SIG newsletter editor and coordinator-elect. I thought the award would enable me to pursue my interest in ethics further. Without the award, I would not have been able to take time off from work to attend an ethics-related activity; it enabled me to afford a week in Washington, DC, covering plane fare, conference fees, etc.



*Nancy Ledbetter,
RN, MS*

"In June 2000, I attended the Intensive Course in Bioethics at Georgetown University. It was very worthwhile. I was able to meet the leaders in bioethics and had the opportunity to discuss a wide array of topics related to health care and ethics. I learned much and found the experience interesting and thought-provoking.

"The award provides a great professional opportunity that otherwise would not be available for most nurses. You have nothing to lose by applying except the time it takes to fill out the application."

*Nancy Ledbetter, RN, MS
Cancer Risk Assessment and Prevention Coordinator
Providence Cancer Center
Portland, OR*

Since 1982, the ONS Foundation has awarded \$11.3 million in research grants, research fellowships, academic scholarships, lectures, public education projects, career development awards, and Congress scholarships. For a complete listing of awards and opportunities, visit the ONS Foundation Web site at www.onsfoundation.org.

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The ONS Foundation's Annual Congress Raffle is right around the corner!
Visit www.onsfoundation.org for a list of prizes and ticket information.





Brenda M. Nevidjon, RN, MSN
ONS Foundation President

Giving and Seeking Money: Thoughts From the Board Room

Welcome to the new look and style of the *ONS Foundation News*. We think that our new newsletter design showcases well the ONS Foundation's exciting activities. The newsletter also highlights opportunities for you **to give or seek money**—two themes of this, my last message as ONS Foundation Board President.

Giving money. The ONS Foundation Board enjoys giving money to you, the oncology nurse. We recently approved the granting of this year's many awards and scholarships. Congratulations to the recipients! But the rest of you need a reminder: You, too, can receive recognition—and financial support—by winning one of the many ONS Foundation awards. You don't think you have a chance? Think again. Your chances are good!

This year, the Board was pleased to award funding for 70 scholarships. Still, we would love to see more of you apply. This would increase the demand for additional scholarships so that our compelling story continues and others will decide to donate.

For example, for the ONS 28th Annual Congress in 2003, we could award 32 Congress scholarships. (The \$1,000 award goes a long way to defray the cost of a Congress trip!) And because employers have been decreasing support of continuing education, I thought that hundreds of you would apply. But, you didn't. In fact this year, as in past years, we issued a second call, encouraging more applications. (FYI: The application isn't too complicated, but it takes some effort to complete.)

In addition, several honorary awards had few nominees. One—the Ethics Career Development Award featured on page 1—has had no nominations for the past two years. What does this mean? We know our healthcare environments are complex. Ethical dilemmas happen daily, and this award would support an oncology nurse's development in ethics. But because of limited interest—as indicated by no applicants for the award—we wonder if we should continue offering this award or redefine it.

So, for all the awards offered through the ONS Foundation, we ponder several questions: Why is the response tepid when we publish calls for awards? Can we promote awards more effectively? Are members uncertain about the application process? Are applications confusing? How can we encourage nurses to support one another's application or nominate colleagues for awards?

Asking colleagues to write support letters when everyone is busy is not easy. Slowing our pace and pausing, reading the criteria, and thinking about whom to honor with a nomination is not easy, either. But this is exactly what we need to do. As one way to increase nominations, I recommend that chapters and special interest groups make nominating members for awards a strategic priority. What suggestions do you have?

Seeking money is a central function of the Board. The money given to the annual campaign is designated in many ways. But ultimately, funds support the ONS mission: promoting excellence in cancer nursing and quality cancer care.

Thank you to those who have responded to the annual appeal. We also appreciate our members who have supported the ONS Foundation during its many campaigns. And we especially welcome the first-time donors.

Many years ago, as *ONS News* editor, I wrote about the power of a dollar a month per member, or \$12 per year. Today, the harnessed financial power of each ONS member would total more than \$360,000 per year.

Many of you give much more than \$12 per year. Please don't stop! But for those of you who have never given, consider it. The annual appeal continues this spring. I urge you to be a first-time giver. Join the \$12 club, or give a higher amount!

I am pleased to pass on the ONS Foundation Board presidency to Laura Hilderley, RN, MS, who begins her term after the ONS 28th Annual Congress in May. She now will carry the message of promoting excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care through giving money to and seeking money for oncology nurses. I am pleased to continue to serve on the Board and support our ongoing work on behalf of oncology nurses.

These past two years of my term have been fast and fulfilling. To the wonderful Board members, the staff with whom I have served, and the many volunteers who do so much work on behalf of the ONS Foundation, I thank you for your commitment, expertise, and creativity.

Brenda M. Nevidjon, RN, MSN
ONS Foundation President

Check out
the ONS Foundation's
2003 Nursing Month Products
at www.onsfoundation.org.
Select "Catalog," and view
the wide array of
oncology nursing products.



T-Shirt



Note Card



Enamel Pin

5K Fun Run/Walk Will Raise Funds for Scholarship

Put your sneakers, and plan to join ONS Foundation and Pharmacia for the Annual ONS

Foundation Ann Olson Memorial Fun Run/Walk at the ONS 28th Annual Congress. The 5K run and walk will begin promptly at 6:30 am on Saturday, May 3. A \$15 registration fee will entitle all participants to a complimentary Fun Run t-shirt and continental breakfast. All Fun Run proceeds will benefit the Ann Olson Scholarship Fund.

The Ann Olson Scholarship Fund and the Fun Run were established in 1990 to honor the memory of Ann Olson by helping oncology nurses to fulfill their educational goals. Olson, an employee of the former

Adria Laboratories, died in 1989 from lymphoma. Since Olson's death, thousands of runners and walk-



Nearly 500 nurses participated in last year's Fun Run, raising almost \$6,700 for the Ann Olson Scholarship Fund.

ers have joined together to raise funds for the Ann Olson Scholarship Fund. To date, twelve oncology nursing professionals have received the Ann Olson Scholarship.

To learn more about the Ann

Olson Memorial Fun Run/Walk or the Ann Olson Scholarship Fund, please e-mail the ONS Foundation at foundation@ons.org or visit the ONS Foundation's Web site at www.onsfoundation.org. To register for the Fun Run, visit Pharmacia's booth in the Congress Exhibit Hall.

Research Conference Focused on Advancing Cancer Nursing Science

The Seventh National Conference on Cancer Nursing Research was held in San Diego, CA, on February 6–8. This meeting is the most comprehensive conference on oncology nursing research and is offered biennially through an educational grant from Genentech, Inc., to the ONS Foundation Center for Leadership, Information and Research.

More than 300 nurses attended this exciting conference. With three days of plenary sessions, symposiums, and podium and poster presentations, the conference provided participants with a forum for scholarly exchange related to the ONS Foundation and the advancement of cancer nursing science. Karen Hassey Dow, PhD, RN, FAAN, provided the stimulating keynote address, “Challenges and Opportunities in Cancer Survivorship Research.” Plenary sessions highlighted the state of the science of two important research areas: (a) challenges in cancer research across the lifespan and (b) the 2003 ONS/American Cancer Society State-of-the-Science Lecture on cognitive dysfunction in cancer and cancer therapy presented by Catherine Bender, PhD, RN. Concurrent sessions

focused on an abundance of topics, ranging from methodologic issues to data-based research presentations. The poster session featured a variety of research abstracts, with awards for the highest-ranked posters of doctoral students. The 2003 ONS New Investigator Award was presented to Mary Cooley, PhD, RN, who presented the lecture “Patterns of Symptom Distress in Adults Receiving Treatment for Lung Cancer.” The conference came to a close with the motivating presentation, “The Road Ahead: Where Do We Go Now?,” by Barbara Piper, DNSc, RN, AOCN®, FAAN.

New to the conference this year were three scholarships provided by the American Cancer Society. The scholarships were established with the intent of increasing the number of oncology nurse researchers or clinicians who are able to integrate research into practice. The scholarships were a huge success as indicated by the large number of applications received. This year’s scholarship recipients were Shiu-yu Lee, RN, MSN, Debbie Daunt Kelly, RN, BA, BSN, and Julie Ann Ponto, RN, MS, APRN-BC, AOCN®.



More than 300 nurses attended the Seventh National Conference on Cancer Nursing Research held in San Diego, CA. Pictured from left to right are Patricia Carter, PhD, RN, CNS, Vivian Gedaly-Duff, DNSc, RN, and Brenda M. Nevidjon, RN, MSN.

Planning for the Eighth National Conference on Cancer Nursing Research, to be held in 2005, will begin soon.

Questions About the Center for Leadership, Information and Research Are Answered

During the past several months, numerous ONS members have inquired about the Center for Leadership, Information and Research (CLIR). Below are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

QUESTION: I’ve heard other ONS members speaking about “CLIR.” Can you tell me what CLIR refers to?

ANSWER: “CLIR” refers to the Center for Leadership, Information and Research. The center is not a physical space made of brick and mortar but rather a “center without walls” that consists of a series of programs and grants that support the further development of the specialty of oncology nursing. The CLIR initiative was the focal point of the ONS Foundation’s first capital campaign in 2000.

QUESTION: Why was CLIR initiated?

ANSWER: ONS leaders collaborated with affiliate organizations to examine the challenges faced by ONS members. They came to the realization that the challenges of the oncology nursing profession have far-reaching implications for the

country as a whole. They determined that two critical needs existed: the need for outcomes research that demonstrated the impact of oncology nurses in all aspects of cancer care and the need to strengthen and develop nurses as leaders to enhance their critical role in cancer care delivery. In response to these needs, ONS and the ONS Foundation created CLIR.

QUESTION: What is the purpose of CLIR?

ANSWER: CLIR was established to identify and develop new opportunities and evaluate new and existing programs with respect to leadership, information, and research. Ultimately, the long-term goal of CLIR is to strengthen the oncology nursing profession and ensure that those with cancer will receive the best possible care.

QUESTION: What are some of the ways that CLIR dollars have been used?

ANSWER: CLIR funds have been and are being used to support a variety of programs for ONS members. ATAQ (Appropriate Treatment Assures Quality), PRISM (Priority Symptom Management), LDI

(Leadership Development Institute) and the Challenge are only a few of the CLIR-sponsored educational programs that have been offered to members. In addition, CLIR funds have been used to support research grants, Congress travel scholarships, and much more. In fact, the Seventh National Conference on Cancer Nursing Research that was held in San Diego, CA, in February also was sponsored through a grant to CLIR.

QUESTION: Where did CLIR funds come from, and how long will they exist?

ANSWER: Many of the dollars that support CLIR came from generous corporate and individual support. Some corporations and individuals opted to pledge their donations to CLIR over a five-year period, so funds will be continue to come in until the end of 2004. A portion of each CLIR donation was designated for an endowment that will continue to fund oncology nursing programs in perpetuity. By law, a certain percentage of this endowment must be spent to fund programs each year. This endowment ensures continued funding support through the ONS Foundation that will help to develop leadership, information, and research programs well into the future.

Why did you choose to give to the ONS Foundation’s annual appeal?

“I strongly believe that giving to the Foundation’s annual appeal is one of the best ways to support the future of oncology nursing. Providing funding for research and scholarships helps to ensure that oncology nurses will have the knowledge and skills necessary to continue to provide excellent care for individuals with cancer.”

Susan Schneider, RN, PhD, CS, AOCN®
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

“As a charter member of ONS, past president of the Orange County Chapter of ONS, and an oncology clinical nurse specialist with 27 years in the field, I’m indebted to ONS for its sustained support of professionalism in oncology nursing. I’m pleased to be at a point in my career where I can make a donation to give back to this organization which has supported me throughout my career. Thank you.”

Nancy Raymon, RN, BSN, MN, AOCN®
Hoag Cancer Center
Irvine, CA

“The Master’s Scholarship I received from the ONS Foundation made a significant difference in my ability to attend the graduate nursing program of my choice. Through my donation, I hope to help make this same goal possible for other nurses.”

Ruth Van Gerpen, RN, MS, CNS, OCN®
BryanLGH Medical Center
West Waverly, NE

“As an oncology nurse who sees the devastation that cancer has brought to the lives of many patients; as a niece who watched her beloved aunt die of lung cancer; as a professional who has greatly benefited from all that ONS has to offer in the way of education, funding of research, and scholarship awards, it gave me great pleasure to make a donation to this very worthwhile organization.”

Tami Borneman, RN, MSN
City of Hope National Medical Center
Duarte, CA

Be a part of the nursing shortage solution—make a gift in May to the ONS Foundation’s first semiannual appeal. For more information, visit www.onsfoundation.org.

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Be part of the nursing shortage solution—watch for the ONS Foundation's semiannual appeal to arrive in your mailbox in May!

ONS Foundation Raffle Celebrates Its 16th Year With Great Prizes



ONS Foundation Executive Director Linda Worrall, RN, MSN, OCN®, looks on as Pittsburgh Chapter Member Barb Sigler, RN, MNEd, draws a winner for a prize in the 2002 ONS Foundation Raffle.

Wishing for a free Congress registration or a weekend getaway? You're in luck! The 16th Annual ONS Foundation raffle is right around the corner. This year's prizes are better than ever and proceeds benefit the ONS Foundation.

Scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, PA, on Wednesday, May 7, at 1 pm, the raffle will help to raise funds for oncology nurses nationwide. Raffle proceeds will be used to help support academic scholarships,

research grants, and educational programs that will be made available to oncology nurses everywhere.

Last year, members from 147 ONS chapters across the United States sold raffle tickets to raise a record-breaking \$36,061. This year, ONS chapters are challenged to sell even more tickets. In addition, tickets will be available for purchase on the ONS Foundation Web site at www.onsfoundation.org until May 4. Raffle ticket prices are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Approaching ONS Foundation Deadlines

Neutropenia Research Grant Phase III

June 2, 2003—Letter of intent
July 1, 2003—Application deadline

Practice Change Grant

June 16, 2003—Letter of intent
July 15, 2003—Application deadline

Small Grants

November 1, 2003

Continuing Education, Career Development, and Cancer Public Education Projects

December 1, 2003

For more information about these ONS Foundation grants and awards, visit the ONS Foundation's Web site at www.onsfoundation.org or call 866-257-4ONS. Applications also can be downloaded from the Web site.

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