

## American Cancer Society Presents Distinguished Service Awards

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recently presented its Distinguished Service Award to two prominent Oncology Nursing Society members, Marcia Grant, DNSc, RN, FAAN, and Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN. The awards, which recognize major achievements in the field of cancer, were presented at ACS's 1999 annual Board of Directors meeting.



Grant is director and a research scientist of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, CA. She received the award for her unswerving dedication to excellence

in oncology nursing; pioneering work in improving the quality of life of patients with cancer; forward-thinking research and devotion to the principles of symptom management; ongoing commitment to promoting and participating in research affecting patients' quality of life, particularly in increasing understanding of fatigue among bone marrow transplantation survivors and support group patients; and contributions to the scholarly literature on symptom management. Grant also has been active in clinical nursing research since the mid-1970s. Her current studies focus on patients with ostomies and pain and fatigue education for support group patients. She coedited the comprehensive textbook, *Cancer Nursing*, which won the *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award in 1991 and again in 1996 for the second edition.



Ferrell, a research scientist at City of Hope, was honored for her dedication to oncology nursing, pioneering work and clinical expertise in improving pain management and quality of life for patients with cancer, research and attention to the relief of pain and suffering experienced by patients with cancer, leadership in promoting research affecting pain management and end-of-life care, and contributions to the body of scholarly literature on pain management and palliative care. Ferrell has been in-

involved in oncology nursing for 22 years. Her work focuses on issues such as pain in the elderly, end-of-life care, and quality of life in cancer survivors. She is the author of three books, *Cancer Pain Management* (1995), a text on *Suffering* (1995), and one on *Pain in the Elderly*. Currently, Ferrell is chair of the Southern California Cancer Pain Initiative and is on the National Institutes of Health-National Advisory Council for Nursing Research.

ACS is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.

## Mayer Appointed to National Cancer Legislation Advisory Committee



Deborah K. Mayer, RN, MSN, AOCN®, FAAN, chief medical officer at CancerSource.com, has been appointed to the National Cancer Legislation Advisory Committee. This

committee will establish federal cancer policy priorities that will lead to a revision of the National Cancer Act.

Active in the field of oncology nursing since 1975, Mayer's past roles have included research, practice, education, and managerial positions in a variety of hospitals, clinics, and academic institutions in the United States and Canada. She has published more than 80 chapters and articles and has lectured internationally. Her honors and awards are extensive and include the Oncology Nursing Society/Roche Distinguished Service Award and election as an American Academy of Nursing fellow.

Mayer also has held numerous leadership positions within ONS, including national president from 1987-1989. In 1996, she completed a six-year term as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board, a Presidential appointment, and was appointed to a four-year term to the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Advisors.

CancerSource.com was founded in 1999 in partnership with Jones and Bartlett Pub-

lishers. CancerSource.com serves the needs of its members, both cancer survivors and the people who care about them and healthcare professionals, by providing free, personalized access to a wide range of cancer information and resources.

## Gaston-Johansson Joins Board of Sigma Theta Tau



Oncology Nursing Society member Fannie Gaston Johansson, DrMedSc, RN, FAAN, recently was elected to the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International. She was installed last

November during the society's biennial convention and will serve a four-year term.

Gaston-Johansson, director of international and extramural affairs at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, holds the School's Elsie M. Lawler Endowed Research Chair. She has established faculty and student exchange programs and research collaboration initiatives with nursing institutions in the United States and abroad. Her nursing research focuses on symptom management, coping, and quality of life.

Sigma Theta Tau International is a 77-year-old honor society with a quarter-million inducted members. Its mission is to improve the health of people worldwide by improving nursing scholarship. Members include practicing nurses, instructors, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and others.

## Etinger Named President of National Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses



Alice G. Renick Etinger, RN, MSN, CPNP, CPON, pediatric nurse practitioner and program coordinator at Saint Peter's University Hospital's Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology in

New Brunswick, NJ, has been elected president of the national Association of Pe-

diatric Oncology Nurses. Ettinger was a founder of the group's New Jersey Chapter 10 years ago and has served as a national officer since 1986. The association is the leading professional organization for registered nurses caring for children and adolescents with cancer and their families.

An ONS member since 1983, Ettinger has set three primary goals for her two-year presidency: to foster leadership in the organization, to encourage programs that improve communications, and to keep the organization financially strong. She also has the opportunity to raise awareness of important issues, such as bringing the problem of "adolescent gap"—when 16- to 21-year-old patients with cancer are treated as adults when they should be treated as pediatric patients—to patients, colleagues, and the general public.

Ettinger has been invited to participate in the American Cancer Society's National Summit on Childhood Cancer, a think tank that will delve into the current status and needs in pediatric hematology-oncology and set goals for the future.

### Whitaker Receives Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Practice



Lynn Whitaker, RN, MSN, AOCN, was recognized for excellence in nursing during Celebration '99 by the Texas Nurses Association, District 9. Nursing Celebration held its annual gathering last November at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston to honor outstanding registered nurses who practice within the greater Houston and surrounding area.

Each year, Nursing Celebration recognizes 20 nurses for their excellence in nursing practice. Honorees are selected by a blind review based on their accomplishments within their area of expertise, impact as role models and mentors, dedication to quality patient care, and commitment to the nursing profession.

An oncology nurse since 1981, Whitaker is a member of the Houston Chapter of ONS and the Surgical Oncology and Nurse Practitioner Special Interest Groups. She also holds membership in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists.

After obtaining an associate's degree in nursing and a bachelor's degree in biologic science, Whitaker earned her master's degree in nursing as an acute care nurse practitioner from Wayne State University in

Detroit, MI. She is practicing as a nurse practitioner in the department of Gynecologic Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

### Hays Receives Award From Leukemia Society of America

Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Kathy Hays, RN, MN, director of inpatient services at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), recently received a 50th Anniversary Commemorative Award from the Leukemia Society of America (LSA). Recipients of this award are chosen for their contributions to cure leukemia or improve the quality of life for patients and their families experiencing the disease.

Hays was recognized for her plan to educate and hire patient service managers to manage patient-care issues for all chapters of LSA. This project, which took three years to complete, provides patients with leukemia with information, assistance, and access to the resources of LSA.

"The Leukemia Society has acknowledged Hays as a leader with national prominence and clinical expertise. She has contributed greatly to the advancement of the treatment and care of patients with leukemia and lymphoma," said Joyce Yasko, PhD, FAAN, associate director for clinical and network programs administration at UPCI.

### International Union Against Cancer Secretary General Dies

Gerald P. Murphy, MD, DSc, died of a heart attack at age 65 in Tel Aviv, Israel, on January 21 while attending the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) Prostate Cancer Meeting. Murphy had been secretary general of UICC since 1974.

As the volunteer elected to serve as secretary general of UICC (consecutively for 26 years), Murphy was instrumental in motivating continued development of UICC, the only international organization dedicated to all aspects of cancer control throughout a diversity of nations. As a researcher and clinician, Murphy achieved worldwide reputation when the team that he led discovered prostate-specific antigens. His work efficiency, tireless dedication to cancer research and patient care, and continual interest in new challenges allowed him to take top responsibilities in world-renowned institutions. He also was author and coauthor of more than 1,000 papers and 15 books on cancer, and he served on the editorial boards of 18 national and international medical journals.

The president, officers, staff, and members of UICC, including ONS, offer their sympathy to Murphy's entire family and

express their immense sadness at the loss of a world famous scientist whose reputation and charisma, expertise, and dedication contributed immeasurably to the conquest of cancer throughout the world.

After Murphy's death, the UICC Executive Committee unanimously elected Dr. Louis Denis as acting secretary general until September, when the Council convenes in Seattle, WA, to elect its new secretary general.

### Malone Appointed to Key Federal Position

Beverly L. Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, president (1996–2000) of the American Nurses Association (ANA), has been named deputy assistant secretary for health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Malone was scheduled to end her second two-year term this June but vacated her ANA position on January 9. ANA First Vice President Mary Foley, MS, RN, is serving as president until a new president is elected in June.

In her new role, Malone will serve as the senior advisor to Assistant Secretary for Health David Satcher, MD, in substantive program and political matters, in policy and program development, and in setting legislative priorities of the Office of Public Health and Sciences. She also will provide advice and counsel to the secretary on public health and science issues.

As ANA president, Malone served as the official representative of the association and as its spokesperson on public policy. ANA Executive Director David Hennage, PhD, MBA, said, "Dr. Malone's appointment means that a nurse will be able to advocate at the highest level of government. The association takes great pride in seeing Dr. Malone move into this influential position."

Malone's appointment is the latest in a series of appointments of registered nurses to leadership positions at DHHS. ANA Immediate Past President Virginia Trotter-Betts, JD, MSN, RN, FAAN, is the senior advisor on nursing policy and senior health policy advisor at DHHS, a post she was appointed to in February 1998. In addition, two nurses, Catherine Dodd, MS, RN, and Pat Ford-Rogers, MSN, RN, serve as regional directors of DHHS.

### NABCO Executive Director Receives Gilda Radner Courage Award

Amy S. Langer, executive director of the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO), was awarded the Gilda Radner Courage Award from the Roswell Park Alliance Community Fund-



Raising Board at its 10th Annual All Star Night, which was held in Buffalo, NY, in January. This award recognizes a cancer survivor whose courageous public battle, like Radner's, has given hope to people with cancer and focused public attention on the fight against cancer.

When Langer, a 15-year breast cancer survivor, successfully completed her treatment, she left jobs as a senior vice president at a New York investment bank and then as a principal in her own management consulting firm to devote all of her energies to the advocacy of patients with breast cancer. She has since transformed NABCO, a New York City-based national nonprofit network of 400 member organizations and the leading nonprofit resource for breast cancer information and education, into one of the leading advocacy organizations in the United States.

Langer has shared her own and other women's experiences as patients with cancer in expert testimony supporting critical consumer issues, such as progressive insurance legislation, patient advocacy, and mammography quality standards. She also is the only lay member of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) Board of Scientific Advisors and is a member of the Advisory Committee to the NCI director.

## Kenyan Nurse Visits Fox Chase Cancer Center

Rose Abira, a nurse from Eldoret, Kenya, recently spent a month with nurses at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA, to learn about the delivery of chemotherapy and radiation to treat people with cancer. Abira, who is helping her community hospital to develop a cancer-care clinic, came to Fox Chase on an International Oncology Nursing Fellowship through the International Union Against Cancer (UICC). This fellowship program is funded by ONS, the Norwegian Cancer Society, and the Association of UICC Fellows.

Abira has a fierce dedication to caring for patients with cancer. In 1995, she mobilized community leaders to form a hospice to care for terminally ill patients with



*Nurse Rose Abira (center) of Kenya, Africa, journeyed to Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA, to learn about cancer treatments offered in the United States. Nurses Andrea Barsevick (left) and Joanne Hambleton, director of nursing services, organized the visit.*

cancer and those suffering with AIDS in her community. After developing the hospice, Abira turned her attention to caring for those diagnosed with cancer who could be helped with treatment. Upon her return to Kenya last November, Abira helped her hospital recruit an oncology doctor to get the cancer clinic into operation.

"We're glad that Rose chose to come to Fox Chase Cancer Center," said Joanne Hambleton, RN, MSN, CNA, director of Nursing Services at Fox Chase. "As a leading cancer care center in the nation, we were able to share the very latest information and data concerning treatment. Several of us at Fox Chase will continue to communicate with Rose to help her achieve her mission. Her dedication is tremendous."


Fox Chase Cancer Center is one of 36 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the nation. The Center's activities include basic and clinical research; prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer; and community outreach programs.

## Faculty Announced for Oncology Nursing Today Video Series

ONS recently announced the faculty members for the four-part Oncology Nursing Today™ 2000 video series. Produced

in partnership with the Stratos Institute for Healthcare Performance, the series will take viewers on-location to best practice sites to explore critical topics in oncology nursing. Susan Weiss Behrend, RN, MSN, AOCN, educational consultant at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA, serves as moderator for all four programs. Video content will include the new Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations' practice standards that are relevant to oncology services.

The topics, faculty, and release dates for the series are as follows.

- **Video 1: Pain Management for the Oncology Nurse** (released in March): Judy Paice, PhD, RN, FAAN, Clinical Research Scientist and Research Professor of Medicine, Northwestern Memorial Hospital Palliative Care and Home Hospice Program, Chicago, IL  
Additional faculty: June L. Dahl, PhD, and Patricia Berry, PhD, RN, CRN-H, CS, "Building an Institutional Commitment to Pain Management," Wisconsin Cancer Pain Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  - **Video 2: Oncologic Emergencies: Tumor Lysis Syndrome and Pleural Effusion** (June): Deborah Rust, RN, MSN, CRNP, AOCN, Nurse Practitioner and Coordinator to the Oncology Nurse Practitioner Program, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Pittsburgh, PA
  - **Video 3: Chemotherapy Administration for the Oncology Nurse** (September): Regina Cunningham, RN, MA, AOCN, Director of Ambulatory Services, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
  - **Video 4: Preventing Medication Errors for the Oncology Nurse** (December): Sharon Lane, RN, MS, OCN, Director of Nursing Education, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
- For more information about the Oncology Nursing Today video series, contact Stratos Institute for Healthcare Performance, 29805 Weatherwood, Suite 200, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 1945 (949) 388 2100; 949-249-2885, fax, StratosInstitute@home.com, e-mail). 

### Publish Your Accomplishments in the *Oncology Nursing Forum*

The *Oncology Nursing Forum* accepts news of member accomplishments for "People and Events." Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Jane M. Fall-Dickson, RN, MSN, AOCN, at 301-593-7045.