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Remembering Rose Mary

Oncology nursing and the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* lost a leader on February 21, 2011, with the passing of Rose Mary Carroll-Johnson, MN, RN. Rose Mary sat at the helm of *ONF* for 20 years. The imprint of her leadership is indelible. For many nurses, *ONF* has become the source for oncology nursing research, the foundation for evidence-based clinical practice.

I don't remember a time as an oncology nurse without Rose Mary—as editor, author, mentor, friend. I came to oncology nursing as a second career and, as I was entering nursing school in 1991, Rose Mary was already launching a new endeavor in her own life, as editor of *ONF*. My introduction to being an author, reviewer, and editor came from Rose Mary. Her recognition of abilities I didn't know I possessed gave me confidence to accept her challenges. Her quiet support inspired me.

Do you use nursing diagnoses in your documentation or research? If so, Rose Mary touched your professional life by helping develop and refine the standardized North American Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA) diagnoses. She served as editor of the official NANDA journal, *Nursing Diagnosis*, from 1989–1994. When you open your electronic medical record (EMR) to document care on your patient, you see terminology that is common to most EMRs and institutions. You can thank Rose Mary's expertise for giving you those understandable and standardized terms that make sense to nurses. She was editor of the *International Journal of Nursing Terminologies and Classifications* from 2000–2006. If your interests are focused on hospice or palliative care, you may belong to the Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association (HPNA). Rose Mary left her mark on HPNA, too. She served as editor of the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing* from 1998–2000.

Are you sensing a trend here? Rose Mary—whether she was the nurse working shift with you, mentor, researcher, editor of a journal that affected your professional practice, or friend—was there, at your side. When the news came



that Rose Mary had lost her two-year battle with cancer, e-mails and phone calls flooded in. Condolences. Memories. Expressions of loss. I realized that Rose Mary's reach was far wider than I could singularly report. And so, this editorial shares thoughts, remembrances, and anecdotes about Rose Mary. The themes emerged from the messages received.

Oncology Nursing Society

Rose Mary was a founding member of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and went on to contribute time and expertise to the Society over the years. Paula Rieger, RN, MSN, CAE, FAAN, ONS chief executive officer, and Carlton Brown, RN, PhD, AOCN®, ONS president, shared these thoughts on behalf of ONS leadership, staff, and volunteers: "We should all be inspired by Rose Mary Carroll-Johnson's life and the selfless work she did on behalf of our Society and the *Forum*. Both her personal accomplishments and the impact of the journal she led as editor have left an indelible effect on the care of patients and families with cancer and the nurses who care for them. It is difficult to fully capture the impact, yet it is almost certain there are countless examples everywhere."

In 2010, ONS renamed an award in her honor, the Rose Mary Carroll-Johnson

ONS Distinguished Award for Consistent Contribution to Nursing Literature, given to recognize individuals who have made consistent and significant contributions to the oncology nursing literature. The 2010 award went to Rita Wickham, PhD, RN, AOCN®, CHPN, who shared these thoughts: "I had known Rose Mary since my earliest days on the editorial board of the *Forum* almost 20 years ago. She was such a great leader and made it so enjoyable to figure out the future direction of the journal and how we would accomplish it. One of my highest compliments is to define someone as a 'good egg'—and that definitely was Rose Mary. She was one of the best eggs! She was a clear thinker, a solid supporter of other oncology nurses' professional growth, a great colleague, and a cheerful and upbeat friend." Susan Behrend, RN, MSN, AOCN®, recalls serving with Rose Mary on the first ONS Steering Council in 1996: "I remember Rosie at all of the meetings. She was so pensive, quiet, reserved, a magnanimous listener . . . and then at the most opportune moment, Rosie would strike with pearls of wisdom. She would humble us all, bringing us back full circle, directing us to stay focused, and enabling us to maintain our course and establish clarity at a time when professional and personal relationships were rapidly changing."

Editor and Author

Linda Sarna, DNSc, RN, FAAN, AOCN®, reminded us, "Rose Mary has over 80 publications listed on PubMed which include her insightful editorials as editor of *ONF*. She championed the role of the oncology advanced practice nurse and excellence in patient care, and her contributions changed the landscape of oncology nursing in this country and worldwide." From Deborah K. Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN: "I have known Rose Mary for the 20 years she was editor of the *Forum*, through many ONS activities, and with my own publications in her journal. I worked more closely with her when I assumed editorship of the *Clinical*