

Preserving Tradition and Embracing Change

The cover of this issue doesn't give away the exciting change contained within the pages. If you haven't already looked at the masthead, please flip back a few pages. At the top of the masthead you will find the name of the new editor of the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (ONF): Anne Katz, RN, PhD. Anne assumed editorial leadership of this flagship journal effective with this issue, and we are honored to have her at the helm. She is a clinical nurse specialist at the Manitoba Prostate Centre, an adjunct professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, and a sexuality counselor for the Department of Psychosocial Oncology, CancerCare, all in Winnipeg, Canada. She has served as the editor for the journal *Nursing for Women's Health*, the clinical practice journal of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing, and also is a contributing editor for the *American Journal of Nursing*.

Anne has been praised by her colleagues as being innovative and one who embraces change. Here's what I have learned about her: She is an avid reader and prolific writer, has a keen eye for what's essential, is very organized, is warm and caring, and has a quick sense of humor. You may be familiar with Anne's books and articles on sexuality and cancer, some of which have been published by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). She has authored numerous books, chapters, and articles and has served as the editor of the ONS Survivorship Special Interest Group newsletter.

"I want to take the high regard with which ONF is held among oncology nurses and researchers and move it even higher," Anne said. "There is such a thirst for nursing evidence to guide our collective practice, and I want ONF to be the number one place where nurses, and our allied health colleagues, get that information."



Anne Katz, RN, PhD

I have been graced with the honor of guiding ONF for more than two years. In November 2009, when the task was mine to explain why my name had suddenly appeared on the masthead, I commented on a quote from the Talmud that has long guided my life: "Look ahead. You are not expected to complete the task. Neither are you permitted to lay it down." I have continued to occupy the editor's chair, but now the task isn't mine to put aside—it's time to pass it on. And Anne has enthusiastically accepted.

I can guarantee that change is coming to ONF. ONS journals have already begun the process of blending tradition with modern technology. The *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* (CJON) kicked off the era of change with the February 2012 issue. Embedded in most of the CJON articles are QR codes to allow smartphone users easy access to resource and background information. The reach of the journals will go far beyond the traditional printed page, bringing resources and evidence-based information directly to readers with the

press of a button. Soon, ONS journals will be available in a digital format. No excuses then for missing pivotal articles and timely news!

At this point, less than one year away from our 40th anniversary as a journal known for quality, integrity, and service to the oncology nursing community, change is what ONF needs. The truth is that we are constantly changing and that process never ends. I hope that none of us ever feel that we've arrived at the terminus of our personal evolution with nothing left to learn, challenge us, or change us. In a world where personal and professional satisfaction sells (if you doubt that, just search any online bookseller for self-help books), it's easy to buy into the premise that there will be a point in time when everything is perfect and will stay that way. But satisfaction is not about arriving, it's about accepting that the journey is endless and there's always room for change.

Are we averse to change? How often have you heard (or said), "We've always done it this way." Change can be an exciting journey if it is managed and executed correctly with planning and grace. Change will help advance the vitality and growth of the organization and this esteemed journal. Change is hard work. It's much more comfortable to do something that you know well than to abandon familiarity and strike out in a new direction. But change we will, and with input, planning, feedback, and a little humor thrown in for good measure, we'll continue as a strong, well-respected journal. Anne, welcome to ONF and enjoy the journey!

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