

Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives 2008 Distinguished Merit Award



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Connie Henke Yarbro, MS, RN, FAAN, received the 2008 Distinguished Merit Award from the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) at its 15th International Conference on Cancer Nursing last August in Singapore. Yarbro was acknowledged for her outstanding contributions to the international advancement of the science and art of cancer nursing.

As one of four founders of ONS, first treasurer and second president (1979–1983), and founder of the ONS Foundation in 1981, she expanded her involvement to the international cancer nursing arena in the early 1980s through her participation in cancer nursing education programs and committee work with the International Union Against Cancer and ISNCC. She served as a member of the ISNCC board of directors from 1991–1996 and became president in 1996, serving for six years. She established, obtained grant funding, and directed the Breast Cancer Train the Trainer Program for ISNCC at each International Conference on Cancer Nursing from 2000–2008.

ISNCC, founded in 1984, is an international federation of national cancer nursing societies. For more information, visit www.isncc.org.

ONS Member Wins National Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award



Registered nurse at Poudre Valley Hospital and ONS member Rita Stern, BS, BSN, RN, won the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award for the superior care and unrelenting support she provides for her patients. She is one of 10 honorees nationwide in

2008. The award is granted by Cherokee Uniforms to recognize nurses and other nonphysician healthcare professionals who demonstrate exceptional service, sacrifice, and innovation and have a positive impact on others' lives.

"Rita Stern prepares her terminally ill patients to die peacefully and their loved ones to live on with meaningful reminders and memories that she helped to craft," said Wendell Mobley, who directs the company's charitable and scholarship programs. "It's such a crucial time for those patients to feel they have emotional support, and Rita often puts their needs before her own."

As a top national winner in the award's RN category, Stern receives an all-expense-paid trip to a 2009 medical conference, an annual membership to her preferred clinical association, a \$500 donation to her preferred nonprofit organization, a \$1,000 wardrobe featuring the best of Cherokee Uniforms and Cherokee Footwear, and a crystal trophy. She also will appear in the nationally distributed Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award 2009 calendar.

"My greatest joy comes from giving the patients peace no matter what stage of the journey they are experiencing. However, there is a special time—a small window—when a patient is no longer on a curative path but a supportive one. This window is my biggest, most important opportunity. It is during this time that I help the patient participate in the future through my legacy projects. This is my greatest job, my most critical and challenging role that makes me give 110 percent," expressed Stern.

Cherokee Uniforms will be accepting nominations for the 2009 Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award from March 1–May 31, 2009. For more information, visit www.cherokeeeuniforms.com.

ONS Member Appointed Endowed Chair at the University of Utah College of Nursing

ONS member Susan Larsen Beck, PhD, APRN, FAAN, was recognized as the inaugural chair holder of the Robert S. and Beth M. Carter Endowed Chair in the College of Nursing at the University



of Utah. The endowed chair, one of six in the college, was created with a \$1 million gift from Robyn and Thomas Carter in memory of their late parents.

Beck is a professor at the University of Utah College of Nursing, where she teaches in the doctoral program. With more than 25 years of experience as an advanced practice oncology nurse, her research interests include the management of symptoms in patients with cancer and organizational interventions to improve care.

"The University of Utah College of Nursing conducted an extensive, national search and did not find a more accomplished, productive, and deserving individual than Dr. Beck, a member of our own faculty," said Maureen Keefe, RN, PhD, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing. "This appointment is a well-deserved honor and tribute to Dr. Beck for the incredible body of work she has produced and the many contributions she has made to the field of nursing."

Beck served as project director for the University of Utah Hospital's Program to Improve Patient Care from 1989–1995. In 1996, she was a visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, where she conducted multiple studies related to cancer pain management. She led the implementation of the first Leadership Development Institute of ONS and received the ONS Distinguished Service Award in 2003. She currently is a principal investigator of a multisite clinical trial of a nursing intervention to mitigate cancer treatment-related symptoms in older men with prostate cancer (funded by the National Cancer Institute).

With this five-year appointment, Beck plans to expand her research to focus on patient care for vulnerable populations, including older adults and those living in rural communities. She will take a well-deserved sabbatical beginning in January, which she believes will be a great opportunity to transition to this new role.

For more information, visit <http://healthcare.utah.edu>.

ONS Member Receives American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology Nurse Excellence Award

The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) has selected Peggy Wiederholt, RN, as the inaugural winner of the ASTRO Nurse Excellence Award, a \$1,000 grant awarded to an RN who goes above and beyond the normal standards of nursing practice. Wiederholt is the head and neck oncology nurse coordinator at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center in Madison. She has worked in the University of Wisconsin System for more than 25 years, the last five of which were in the Radiation Oncology Department. During her time as a radiation oncology nurse, Wiederholt co-founded "Heads Up," a support group for patients with head and neck cancer at the Carbone Cancer Center and now serves as the group's co-director.

For the past two years, Wiederholt has served as chair of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinic's annual head and neck cancer awareness week. She also has helped organize the first and second annual University of Wisconsin head and neck cancer golf outing and dinner, which recognizes the courage of head and neck cancer survivors and their families.

"Peggy is the epitome of a great nurse and I am thrilled that she was selected as the first recipient of the nursing award," said Linda Filipczak, RN, BSN, MBA, chair of ASTRO's nursing committee. "It's inspiring how she is able to devote so much time and attention to her patients while at the same time is able to find time to participate in professional head and neck cancer meetings and numerous community service projects."

For more information, visit www.astro.org/AboutUs/Awards/ResearchGrants/MeritAwards/index.asp.

ONS Member Elected to Board of Society for Neuro-Oncology

ONS member Terri S. Armstrong, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Integrative Nursing Care at the University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, has been elected to the Society for Neuro-Oncology's board of directors. Armstrong, also an adjunct associate professor and advanced practice nurse at the UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, will serve



on the board until 2011. The Society for Neuro-Oncology is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to promoting advances in neuro-oncology through research and education. Armstrong has worked in the field of neuro-oncology since 1992. She joined the UT School of Nursing faculty in 2007, and her research focus is symptom assessment and management.

"Terri will represent her constituency, and her input will be called on, especially for issues that affect biostatistics, epidemiology, quality of life, and symptom management," said Jan Esenwein, chief administrative officer at the Society for Neuro-Oncology. "We expect that her multidisciplinary experience and knowledge base give her a broad understanding of these areas and are confident that her experience and exposure in these areas will serve the society well."

For more information, visit www.son.uth.tmc.edu.

ONS Member Appointed Director of the Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services



ONS member Donna Berry, RN, PhD, AOCN®, FAAN, is the new director of the Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Berry joins Dana-Farber from the University of Washington, where she was a professor of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Systems and held adjunct faculty appointments in the Department of Urology and the Department of Medical Education and Bioinformatics. She also was the nurse researcher at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and has held leadership positions in the Southwest Oncology Group and ONS.

Berry will continue as principal investigator for her National Institutes of Health-funded programs of research, evaluating her Electronic Self-Report Assessment-Cancer program, and facilitating patient decision making associated with prostate cancer treatment.

"Donna's programs of research in biobehavioral interventions and quality of life position her to collaborate beautifully with our nursing and interdisciplinary colleagues from across the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center spectrum, and to advance the knowledge necessary to support patients and families as they face the challenges of living with cancer," said Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, NEA-BC, Dana-Farber's senior vice president for Patient Care Services and chief nurse.

Berry received her bachelor's from Baylor University. She holds a master's of science in nursing degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and her PhD in nursing science from the University of Washington.

For more information, visit www.dana-farber.org.

ONS Member Wins Nursing Spectrum/NurseWeek Nursing Excellence National Nurse of the Year Award



ONS Member Marsha E. Fonteyn, RN, PhD, OCN®, was awarded the *Nursing Spectrum/NurseWeek* Nursing Excellence award in mentoring along with five other recipients. As a nurse scientist at the Phyllis F. Cantor Center at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Fonteyn's work focuses on the support and promotion of scholarly activities.

Through Fonteyn's direct involvement, poster and podium presentations by nurses increased by 60% during the past five years. In addition, she has inspired those who may not have had the experience and know-how to publish to successfully do so.

Fonteyn regularly leads work groups for nurses and other staff who are working on scholarly activities, such as research and abstracts and presentations for conferences. She also mentors staff in writing for publication.

For more information, visit <http://include.nurse.com/article/20081208/HL01/312080012>.

Diane Otte, RN, MS, OCN®, can be reached at otte.diane@mayo.edu or ottedm@charter.net, with copy to editor at ONFEditor@ons.org.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/09.ONF.17-18