

## 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](http://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](http://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>.