

Stand Up for Your Profession

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Board of Directors, we applaud Deborah A. Boyle, RN, MSN, AOCN®, FAAN for her guest editorial "Stand Up to Anonymity," published in the November 2008 issue of the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (volume 35, issue 6, p. 367). Oncology nurses should expect to be recognized in programs such as "Stand Up to Cancer." Boyle provides many doable examples of how to take action to ensure that the contributions of oncology nurses are recognized and realized.

A strategic initiative of ONS is advocacy for the profession with emphasis on raising awareness of oncology nursing in the media. Recently, ONS partnered with Frosted Pink With a Twist to be part of a national ABC broadcast to raise awareness of cancers affecting women. ONS was pleased to have the opportunity to share my (Amy's) oncology nursing story as one of the special features of that broadcast.

The ONS board is committed to its Notice Nursing Now efforts to get oncology nursing mentioned in the media. We will continue to provide media training, expand our Media Response Team, and partner to educate the public about the contributions of oncology nurses.

ONS also is working diligently to "have a seat at the table" in organizations and groups that are aligned with its mission and strategic plan. This might have made a difference in ensuring that nursing was realized in the "Stand Up to Cancer" program. Members may be able to help ONS obtain leadership positions or at least influence decision makers to ensure that nursing is recognized as a crucial part of the oncology team.

Membership in ONS is itself an important strategy in making sure your oncology nursing voice is heard. Use your influence to expand ONS's membership by encouraging your colleagues who are not members to join. I also encourage you to visit the ONS newsroom (www.ons.org/media/index.shtml) often to learn more about ONS's media efforts.

It is important to always stand up to nursing anonymity! We must do all we can to gain more acceptance and appreciation for what we do.

Amy Strauss Tranin, ARNP, MS, AOCN®
Secretary

ONS Board of Directors
Leawood, KS

Susan M. Schneider,
PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
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Look Beyond Breast Cancer

Please! Enough issues with a focus on breast cancer! There are so many other cancers and cancer-related topics that deserve attention. It seems that I have seen way too many issues of *Oncology Nursing Forum* with many articles devoted to something on breast cancer. The latest issue has gone straight into the recycling bin. For those of us who do not work with people affected by breast cancer, this is of no interest. I am not sure if this coverage is because nothing else is being submitted, but I can assure you, this trend has gotten wearisome.

Please start publishing about other cancer-related topics. ONS is a vital organization, and I appreciate the publications that membership provides, but lately, I have found the *Forum* to be irrelevant to my practice.

Paula Muehlbauer, RN, MSN, CNS
Clinical Nurse Specialist
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The Editor Responds

Dear Paula,

I must admit that I also feel overloaded by breast cancer articles sometimes, but because we are a peer-reviewed journal, we are dependant upon the papers that are submitted. For better or for worse, a large number of papers relate to women with breast cancer; therefore, they end up being a large slice of our publishing pie. I am not insensitive to your feelings (as a matter of fact, I wrote an editorial on the topic in volume 29, issue 9), and we are seeing a better diversity of subjects in recent months. Most of our January and March issues are articles that are not strictly about breast cancer.

I encourage you to consider writing on the topics you aren't seeing us cover or to encourage others in your field to get those papers written. I also encourage you to look a little more carefully at some

of the articles you quickly assume have no relevance to your practice. Many of the themes of research with patients with breast cancer are universal and applicable to a wider range of diagnoses. At the very least, the literature reviews or approaches to such research studies can have implications regardless of the type of cancer.

Thank you for taking the time to share your frustrations. I recognize that we have a very broad-based constituency, and we do make every effort to meet as many needs as we can.

The Author Responds

Thank you for your reply. I suspected that this is what is getting submitted because of the strong interest in doing research on topics related to breast cancer.

Something I really like about the *Oncology Nursing Forum* is articles for Journal Club discussion. I have used a few of them for our newly formed journal club. I should also compliment you on those articles related to the end of life, palliative care, and grief. I have shared many of them with our nurses because they are so pertinent and the staff needs as much information as we can provide. (We have a young nursing staff without a lot of end-of-life experience.)

I think I just get overwhelmed with all of the attention on breast cancer. It has been nice seeing more focus on lung and prostate cancers recently.

Paula Muehlbauer, RN, MSN, CNS

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mei R. Fu, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, assistant professor and course coordinator (Fundamentals of Nursing) in the College of Nursing at New York University in New York City. Fu's article, "Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema: Information, Symptoms, and Risk Reduction Behaviors" won the 2009 Excellence in Cancer Nursing Research Award from the Oncology Nursing Society. The article was published in the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* (volume 40, issue 4, pp. 341-348) and will be presented at the 34th Annual ONS Congress, April 30-May 3, 2009, in San Antonio, TX.