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Kuebler Appointed to Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Kim K. Kuebler, MN, RN, ANP-CS, an adult nurse practitioner in private practice and consultation in Atlanta, GA, has been appointed to the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The DHHS secretary originally chartered MCAC on November 24, 1998.

MCAC consists of an interdisciplinary membership that advises CMS on whether adequate evidence exists to determine if specific medical equipment and services are reasonable and necessary under current Medicare law. The four-year appointment is guided by the *Health Care Financing Administration Ethics Handbook*, DHHS, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the U.S. Government's Executive Branch, Office of Ethics.

Kuebler recently received the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State of Excellence Award for Excellence of Care and Outstanding Contribution in Practice for her leadership in palliative care and a state demonstration project on advanced disease management in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Health, Department of Aging and Community.

Wright Named to Citizens' Health Care Working Group



ONS member Christine L. Wright, RN, MPA, is among 14 individuals appointed by U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker to the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, the first step in a two-year

process to hold a national dialogue on issues related to healthcare services, delivery, and cost. By law, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will serve as the 15th member of the Working Group. Wright is the director of Cancer Services and Radiation Oncology at Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD. She also serves as the ONS state health policy liaison for South Dakota.

"I am truly honored that I was chosen to conduct this important work that will influence and shape the future of health care," said Wright. "ONS has contributed to my knowledge base by not only allowing me to serve as a state health policy liaison but also providing educational scholarships for me to attend the Nurse in Washington Internship program and the ONS Leadership Development Institute."

Congress created the working group to hold hearings and community meetings across the country on healthcare coverage and costs and to issue a "Health Report to the American People." Within two years from these appointments, the working group must submit recommendations to Congress and the President.

The members, chosen from among more than 530 applicants, represent many regions of the country and a broad range of healthcare perspectives, including consumers, providers, employers, and workers. The statute required that the appointments include people with personal experience or expertise in paying for benefits and issues of access to care.

"This distinguished and diverse group of Americans has accepted a call to address a challenge of great importance to all Americans: how to make quality health care more accessible and affordable to every man, woman, and child in an economically rational and fiscally responsible manner," Walker said. "We are extremely grateful for their willingness to serve."

For more information about the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, visit www.gao.gov.

Brown Receives Inaugural Minerva Award for Devotion to Service



ONS honorary member Helene G. Brown, PhD, recently was acknowledged for her dedication to furthering positive change and building outreach programs that have made a difference in the

lives of thousands of Californians. First Lady of California Maria Shriver named Brown and three other California women as the inaugural recipients of the first annual Minerva Awards, which are named after the Roman goddess who is featured on the state's seal. According to legend, with her helmet, Minerva is a tireless warrior; without it, she is the goddess of peace. She is symbolic of the multiple roles that women play in the lives of families and communities.

"These remarkable women are fearless in their quest to make a better life, a better community, and a better world for all of us," said Shriver. "Like Minerva, they are warriors on the frontlines of humanity—inspiring and motivating the next generation of women to build on the strong foundation they started."

Bravo! Job Well Done! Pat Yourself on the Back!

Have you been awarded recently for your dedication and commitment to oncology nursing? Have you been appointed to a new leadership position at your institution? Are you helping to coordinate an event that is particularly relevant to oncology nurses? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these and other achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for "People and Events." Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®, via phone (773-350-2234), fax (773-583-3477), or e-mail (pjassak@aol.com).

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Brown, the director of Community Applications of Research at the University of California, Los Angeles, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, has served for 42 years as an advocate for cancer research and prevention. She was instrumental in spearheading the U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking as well as demonstrating the importance of Pap tests for women. During her career, Brown has worked to raise millions of dollars for cancer research through her tireless efforts, including serving as chair of the ONS Foundation's "Leading the Transformation" Capital Campaign. She remains committed to educating the public on prevention and early-detection techniques.

The recipients were presented with their Minerva Awards at the California Governor's Conference for Women and Families in December 2004.

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Oversees National Consensus Project, Issues Practice Guidelines

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), based in Pittsburgh, PA, has been designated the new administrative site

for the National Consensus Project (NCP) for Quality Palliative Care. NCP is a task force of the Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition, representing a consortium of three national palliative care organizations: the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and HPNA.

"Palliative care represents a philosophy of care and an organized, highly structured system for the delivery of care," said NCP chair and HPNA representative Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN, research scientist at the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, CA. "NCP has issued Clinical Practice Guidelines, a consensus document responding to the urgent need for high-quality palliative care to

patients of all ages who are experiencing a debilitating chronic or life-threatening illness, condition, or injury. Addressed are the physical, psychological, spiritual, social, cultural, ethical, legal, and practical aspects of illness, complemented by an integrated care plan for the patient and his or her family."

With the aim of advancing dissemination and implementation of the guidelines, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations have awarded a grant of \$200,000 to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, NY, in supporting the goals of NCP.

To access the guidelines online, visit www.nationalconsensusproject.org. Print copies are available for purchase at www.nhpco.org. **ONS**

Correction

The July 2004 *Oncology Nursing Forum* article titled "Herbs or Natural Products That Decrease Cancer Growth—Part One of a Four-Part Series" (p. 690) by Muriel J. Montbriand, PhD, RN, incorrectly reported online (www.ons.org/publications/journals/ONF/Volume31/Issue4/3104690.asp) that Sanofi-Synthelabo is the marketer of Marinol®. Marinol is marketed by Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc., in the United States and Solvay Pharma, Inc., in Canada. Also, the compound's correct name is delta-9 THC. We apologize for the error.

IN MEMORIAM

Edith "Pat" Lewis

Edith Patton ("Pat") Lewis, former editor of the *American Journal of Nursing (AJN)*, *Nursing Outlook*, and *Nursing Research*, died on February 20. She was a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) since 1939 and a longtime member of the Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA). In 2004, the ANA named Lewis a Living Legend, an honor that recognizes the most stellar academy fellows as reminders of nursing's proud history and role models for the nursing profession.

Lewis graduated from Smith College with a major in psychology and, in 1939, earned a master's degree in nursing from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She practiced psychiatric nursing for several years, serving in practitioner, educational, and administrative roles.

Lewis went on to become *Nursing Research's* first managing editor (part-time) and editor and later served as contributing editor of *AJN*, where she spent the next 35 years until her retirement in close association with the *AJN* Company and its publications and projects. From 1970 until her retirement in 1980, she was editor of *Nursing Outlook*. In addition to many reportorial and writing assignments,

she authored two books: *Opportunities in Nursing* (Vocational Guidance Manuals) and *Nurse: Careers Within a Career in Professional Nursing* (MacMillan).

Among the many honors that Lewis received are the Distinguished Alumna Award from her nursing alma mater, honorary life membership in the Teachers College Nursing Educational Alumni Association, National League for Nursing's Centennial Award, and CNA's Diamond Jubilee Award for distinguished service to the nursing profession.

Nell J. Watts

Nell J. Watts, RN, MSN, FAAN, died in Indianapolis on February 28 following a long illness. She had headed the organization now known as the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, for two decades and forged great growth and change, bringing the organization from its two-room headquarters in the School of Nursing at Indiana University (IU) to its 33,000-square-foot center on the school's campus.

Born Nell Jackson in Detroit, MI, she was raised in Bedford, KY, and educated at IU, where she received a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's in nursing education with a major in administration. After teaching at the School of Nursing for seven years, she became executive director of the Indiana

League for Nursing and executive officer of the honor society, where she remained until her retirement in 1993. During her tenure, the honor society grew from 50 chapters to 324 and became an international organization. She directed the honor society's first national capital campaign, raising more than \$5 million for the International Center for Nursing Scholarship. The honor society's lifetime achievement award is named for her.

"The honor society would not be the organization that it is today without the leadership of Nell Watts," said Nancy Dickenson-Hazard, RN, MSN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the honor society. "She was the catalyst for many organizational 'firsts': our first scholarly journal, online library, International Center for Nursing Scholarship, and the first chapter outside of North America."

Watts was named Indiana Nurse of the Year and received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the IU School of Nursing, where she also received an honorary doctorate. She was elected to ANA and received the Maes-MacInnes Award from New York University for her contributions to and impact on the nursing profession. She was named a Sagamore of the Wabash and a Kentucky Colonel. In 1993, Indianapolis celebrated "Nell J. Watts Day."