



## Oncology Nursing Society

125 Enterprise Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214

Toll Free: 866-257-4ONS • Phone: 412-859-6100 • Fax: 412-859-6165

customer.service@ons.org • www.ons.org

### **TOP TEN TIPS FOR COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

One of the best ways that advocates can achieve success is to join forces with other individuals and organizations with shared interests and goals. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) leverages its resources by collaborating with others in the cancer and nursing communities to advocate legislative and regulatory issues of mutual interest and priority. As such, ONS encourages its members and chapters to explore opportunities to collaborate with others in the cancer, public health, medical, and research communities to extend their reach, take action on matters of importance and concern, and achieve joint public policy goals.

1. Start small. Identify a relatively easy issue in which you collectively have an interest and on which you can agree.
2. Develop clear, agreed-upon goals and objectives and work assignments so that everyone is clear on the scope and nature of the partnership and who is responsible for what; deadlines are a good idea.
3. Establish processes by which the group will operate, such as having co-chairs and subcommittees, and set procedures for review, approval, and dissemination of documents to both internal and external parties.
4. Recognize and acknowledge that you may have to agree to disagree on other issues.
5. Scratch each other's back. Help out other organizations on their priorities and they are likely to help out with yours.
6. Think "outside the family." Broaden your view of the types of organizations and individuals who might have an interest or stake in your cause.
7. Express thanks and appreciation, and keep your partners up-to-date on your progress and activities.
8. Share credit and responsibility so that people have a sense of ownership.
9. Be strategic in terms of what you ask for and from whom. Recognize that some organizations may be able to contribute at a high level, but others may only be able to give a little to the effort; having a range of organizations and different levels of participation still advances the cause.
10. Occasionally take the "temperature" of the group to ensure that the partnership is still viable and efficacious.