



## Oncology Nursing Society

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# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY LAUNCHES SURVIVORSHIP INITIATIVE

PITTSBURGH, PA – December 22, 2008 – People undergoing treatment for cancer often experience symptoms that develop or persist long after their active treatment ends. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) aims to address those problems within a new Survivorship Initiative, launched this week. Because patients often return to a non-specialty setting for care, the initiative will focus on providing resources for all nurses about survivorship issues.

“One goal of the initiative is to raise awareness that survivorship care is every nurse’s responsibility,” said Brenda Nevidjon, RN, MSN, FAAN, president of ONS.

The ONS Survivorship Task Force has identified components of a long-term Survivorship Initiative to help provide critical resources to nurses across the healthcare community caring for patients who are survivors of adult cancers.

With news that cancer will be the world’s top killer by 2010 and the fact that the majority of patients live at least five years beyond diagnosis, the number of cancer survivors – estimated at about 12 million in the United States alone – will continue to grow.

“ONS is in a unique position to provide education and resources to support nurses throughout the healthcare community as they care for the increasing population of cancer survivors,” explained Nevidjon.

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As a beginning point for its work, the Task Force formally accepted the official definition of survivorship identified by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivors, which incorporates the entire trajectory from diagnosis until end of life. The ONS Survivorship Task Force will concentrate its efforts specifically on the unmet needs of patients immediately following active primary treatment, as identified by the Institute of Medicine in its *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*: <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3809/34252/47228.aspx>.

The initiative will focus on raising awareness of the importance of the issue, providing education to ONS members, and providing resources to help reach the larger nursing community.

ONS is a professional organization of more than 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals committed to excellence in oncology nursing and to leading the transformation of cancer care by initiating and actively supporting educational, legislative, and public-awareness efforts to improve the care of people with cancer. ONS provides nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. Learn more at [www.ons.org](http://www.ons.org).