

## **ONS Leads Curriculum Development for Middle East and North African Nurses**

Nurses play a crucial role in patient care for women diagnosed with breast cancer, but there is a shortage of trained oncology nurses in the Middle East and North Africa. Joining with ONS, the U.S.- Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research is working to address this issue head on and improve care for people with cancer.

Launched in 2006 by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative, the U.S.-Middle East Partnership works with individuals and organizations throughout the Middle East and North Africa to increase awareness about the importance of early detection, improve treatment, and promote health education. The Partnership, facilitated by ICF International, links regional advocates and health professionals with counterparts in the U.S., including Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, to share innovative outreach strategies and techniques, in an effort to aid screening and treatment programs in the region.

An ONS team has begun working with an advisory committee composed of nursing representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the Palestinian Territories, to create a Breast Cancer Care Training of Trainers Workshop. The workshop will enable nurses in the region to provide training in local languages. The advisory committee will provide local, cultural, and situational context to enhance this learning initiative, to be held for nurses in partner countries during fall 2009.

For more information on the Partnership, go to [www.bcpartnership.org](http://www.bcpartnership.org).