



Oncology Nursing Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oncology Nursing Society Addresses Need to Expand Role of Advanced Practice Nurses to Ensure Continued Delivery of Quality Cancer Care

PITTSBURGH, PA – January 29, 2010 – Advanced practice nurses are essential in managing the increased demand for quality cancer care. Expanded cancer treatment options, increased survivorship, and an aging population call for expanding the role of advanced practice nurses to help bridge the gap between patient needs and physicians. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) has addressed this issue in “Filling the Gap: Development of the Oncology Nurse Practitioner Workforce,” published in Vol. 6, Iss. 1 of the *Journal of Oncology Practice* by Brenda Nevidjon, MSN, RN, FAAN, Paula Rieger, RN, MSN, CAE, FAAN, Cynthia Miller Murphy, MSN, RN, CAE, Margaret Quinn Rosenzweig, PhD, FNP-BC, AOCNP[®], Michele R. McCorkle, RN, MSN, and Kristen Baileys, RN, MSN, CRNP, AOCNP[®].

“The shortage of oncology healthcare professionals will continue to grow as the population ages,” said Nevidjon. “Developing new strategies to ensure delivery of quality cancer care by expanding the roles of nonphysician practitioners, such as nurse practitioners (NP) and physician assistants, is critical to meet the growing needs of patients with cancer.”

ONS offers comprehensive continuing education to NPs to expand current knowledge and skills in the oncology specialty. A pilot workshop for NPs new to oncology was launched in November 2009, entitled “The Nuts and Bolts of Advanced Oncology Care.” These highly-rated continuing education opportunities have proven effective in improving patient care as well as enhancing collaboration with physician colleagues.

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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.

Celebrating 35 years of supporting oncology nursing's future