



You Asked, We Responded

The *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* (*CJON*) has been coming to your mailbox for five years now. You may have noticed that the issue you now hold looks quite different from the early issues. Although our mission has remained unchanged—publishing clinical information necessary for day-to-day oncology nursing practice—we have implemented many changes over the years, and the impetus for these changes has been *you*.

You are not only our readers but also our colleagues and advisors. Although we can not make every change suggested to us because of financial and other restraints, your requests always are considered very carefully and, in most cases, are implemented. So, whenever you contact us with comments or complete a *CJON* readers' survey, be assured that whatever you say or write is important to us and will receive our full attention.

Readers, either individually or collectively, have contributed in many ways to the transformation of *CJON* over the past five years. In 1998, readers asked for continuing-education (CE) credit for reading *CJON* articles. We responded by offering CE with every issue. *CJON* CE also now can be accessed in the Education area of the Oncology Nursing Society's (ONS's) Web site, ONS Online (www.ons.org).

Readers said that they wanted to feel challenged, stimulated, and involved when reading *CJON* and that it be concise, evidence-based, timely, and, most of all, useful. We responded by publishing only articles that meet these criteria and succeed in undergoing our rigorous peer-review process.

We work hard to publish items with clinical utility. That is why *CJON* includes critical pathways, flow sheets, and patient-teaching tools (many with permission to photocopy for individual use). Also included is information on today's "hot topics," such as genetics, cancer prevention, new treatment modalities, symptom management, and end-of-life issues.

Ten columns were created in response to readers' needs. Some are published regularly, and others appear periodically. "Test Your Knowledge" and "Picture This" are interactive and require readers' involvement. "Cancer Treatments" and "Clinical Focus" provide information about new treatment agents and clinical disorders and symptoms. Many readers find these columns useful when studying for oncology nursing certification examina-

tions. "From Research to Clinical Practice" shows how research data can be applied to patient care. "Integrated Care" was developed after readers requested more information about complementary and alternative therapies. When readers were deluged with patients' questions about controversial celebrity-endorsed therapies, we responded by adding the "Patients Are Asking About . . ." section to the column.

In the next issue, "Clinical Q & A" will debut in response to readers requesting a way to have their clinical questions answered, especially those involving not-yet-standardized nursing practices or clinical judgment calls. Associate editor Barbara Holmes Gobel, RN, MS, welcomes your questions for this new feature as well as your responses to the questions posed by our readers. You can reach her at 708-784-1019 or at GobelBH@aol.com.

Readers asked that we streamline the look and layout of *CJON* and offered many suggestions that now are incorporated in each issue. Article titles and page numbers appear on the cover; column topics are included in the table of contents; information about article authors, including their rationale for writing on their article's topic, is combined on a contributors' page; each article is accompanied by a Rapid Recap; and the volume and issue number appear on the bottom of each page, which facilitates photocopying and later use of *CJON* articles and columns.

You may have noticed that this issue includes digital object identifiers (DOIs) with all of the articles and features that will appear in the Publications area of ONS Online. When added to "<http://dx.doi.org/>," a DOI can be used to find a print piece online. For example, adding this editorial's DOI (10.1188/02.CJON.3) after <http://dx.doi.org/> results in <http://dx.doi.org/10.1188/02.CJON.3>, which can be used like any other Web address to retrieve this editorial online. The inclusion of DOIs is based on the need of many readers to locate materials online more easily.

Readers told us that many non-nursing colleagues read their copies of *CJON* and asked that we broaden the "Nursing Implications" section of its articles. We responded by including "Implications for Practice" that incorporates multidisciplinary information. Also, "audience indicator symbols" now appear in the table of contents, which enable readers to readily identify articles that might appeal to colleagues in pharmacy, social services, or other disciplines.

ONS special interest group (SIG) members often noted that excellent clinical information appears in SIG newsletters, which are circulated only to a SIG's members. To disseminate this information to all ONS members, selected SIG newsletter articles have been updated, expanded, and published in *CJON*. SIG coordinators, who are leaders in their specialty areas, as well as other oncology nurse experts, also have been invited to write guest editorials. Guest editors offer a fresh and informed perspective on clinical topics that concern oncology nurses today.

We have responded in several ways to readers who have indicated that they have clinical information to share but are unsure about how to get it published. We wanted to make *CJON* a vehicle for success in publishing, so we provided support and guidance to dozens of novice authors over the past few years. Many of these authors have since gone on to write their second and third articles. We wanted to expand the writing mentorship process, so we created the *CJON* Writing Mentorship Program to link new writers with experienced authors. Along with the *Oncology Nursing Forum* Editorial Board, we offered the Writing Skills Station at the 2001 ONS Congress and plan to offer it again at future Congresses. We also published a *CJON* supplement on writing for publication to encourage all ONS members to share their knowledge with their colleagues.

We recognize the vast clinical expertise of our colleagues and welcome nurses without publishing or reviewing experience to the *CJON* Review Board. Reviewing manuscripts is a very rewarding professional-development activity as well as a mechanism for earning points for recertification through the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. Reviewing manuscripts even has encouraged some *CJON* reviewers to have their own articles published in *CJON* and other journals.

CJON is your journal—written, edited, and read by clinicians. Contribute to and use *CJON*. Tell us what you like and don't like. The next time you receive a *CJON* readers' survey, fill it out and send it in. If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to contact me at 504-739-9462 or at CJONeditor@hotmail.com. And if there is information you need, let us know. Just ask, and we'll respond.

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