

## Oncology Nursing Society Member Celebrated for Lifetime of Research Contributions



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Barbara Given, RN, PhD, FAAN, a University Distinguished Professor in the College of Nursing at Michigan

State University (MSU) in East Lansing, has been selected as the first researcher honored in a new feature in the journal *Cancer Nursing*. The feature, called "Living Legacy," offered Given a chance to reflect on her career by highlighting benchmarks and passing along key messages to junior researchers. *Cancer Nursing* plans on highlighting researchers who have made significant impacts to the field.

"It is humbling to be honored," Given said. "A career such as mine does not happen without lots of important colleagues and students, team members, administrative support, and for me, a supportive husband and fellow researcher, Bill."

Throughout her career, Given has focused on areas such as long-term cancer care, family home care, and cancer intervention. Other topics of interest include chronic illness, gerontology, symptom management, and health services research.

Pam Hinds, PhD, RN, FAAN, editor-in-chief of *Cancer Nursing*, said the point of the new feature is to offer something in the journal beyond the traditional method of research reporting.

"We wanted to talk about the paths taken and decisions made by the researchers themselves," Hinds said. "Dr. Given has been one of the most consistently well-funded investigators in nursing, and she is well recognized for creating interventions in a clinically relevant way. In addition to her basic research findings, there always is a practical outcome that directly benefits patients."

Given received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Ohio State University before coming to MSU in 1966. She received her doctoral degree from MSU in 1976 and began as a

professor and director of the graduate program in 1980. She was promoted to senior research scientist in 2000, was honored as a University Distinguished Professor in 2001, and was appointed as associate dean for research in 2007. During her distinguished career, Given has successfully obtained funding from the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years.

"I am proud of our contributions to nursing science in the area of symptom management and that we kept the importance of family caregiving as a major priority among funding and policy groups so that it is a research agenda at the national level," Given said. "But just as important, we are very proud of the students and junior faculty who worked with us over the years and now are successful scientists in their own right."

MSU has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research, and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.

For more information, visit <http://nursing.msu.edu>.

## ONS Member Honored for Exemplary Nursing Care



St. Joseph's/Candler (SJC) honored ONS member Krista Aliffi, RN, BDN, CAPA, the breast cancer navigator at the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis

Cancer and Research Pavilion in Savannah, GA, with the 18th Annual McAuley Award. The award is presented annually to the SJC staff member who best exemplifies the mission and values of the health system. The award is named in honor of Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in the hopes of bringing education, health care, social justice, and spiritual guidance to those in need. Nominations are based on an individual's ability to illuminate the health system's values of compassion, quality,

integrity, courtesy, accountability, and teamwork.

As an RN and oncology patient navigator, Aliffi's primary job is to guide breast cancer survivors from diagnosis through the end of treatment. This includes coordinating appointments, answering questions, and being a compassionate source of assistance. Nurse navigators are the future of cancer treatment and a key part of the Lewis Cancer Pavilion's participation in the National Cancer Institute's Community Cancer Centers Program.

Aliffi's patients said they might not have completed their cancer treatment without her. She keeps toys in her office for children of patients getting treatments, and she will help a patient any time on any day of the week.

One of the coworkers who nominated her said, "I have heard more times than I can count; patients tell me they honestly did not know what they would have done or how they would have made it through their illness without Krista."

Other nominators said, "She is compassionate with patients and their caregivers and most responsive to their pain, suffering, anxiety and depression."

"Krista takes calls at all hours of the day . . . seven days a week from patients (and their family members) with questions, concerns, they forgot something they were told at their doctor appointment that day, the list goes on and on."

SJC offers healthcare services across the entire continuum, including local and regional primary care, specialized inpatient and outpatient services at two anchor hospitals, home healthcare services, and a wide variety of community outreach and education efforts throughout the region. SJC's faith-based, holistic approach to healing encourages individuals to become more knowledgeable about their personal health while providing the most advanced, comprehensive treatments and state-of-the-art medical technologies available.

For more information, visit [www.sjchs.org/body.cfm?id=6](http://www.sjchs.org/body.cfm?id=6).

## Banner Appoints ONS Member as Administrative Director

ONS member Vicki Koceja, RN-BC, BSN, MBA, OCN®, FAAMA, PhD, has been named the clinical administrative director for the Banner MD Anderson

Cancer Center, opening in September 2011 on the Banner Gateway campus in Gilbert, AZ.

"We are privileged to welcome such an experienced oncology nurse leader to our team," said Sheri Dahlstrom, RN, FACHE, chief nursing officer at Banner Gateway Medical Center. "Her experience developing, implementing, and managing a variety of oncology programs including bone marrow transplant, oncology-hematology, and palliative care will allow us to provide the best possible care for our future patients."

Koceja began her career in oncology nursing in 1985. She was most recently the director of the Palliative Care Program at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Henderson, NV.

Koceja has served as the president of the Greater Las Vegas Chapter of ONS and as the state director for the American Academy of Medical Administrators. She volunteers with the Nevada Cancer Coalition, American Cancer Society, Nevada Breast Coalition, and Nevada Ovarian Coalition.

The Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center will provide care for patients in a three-story outpatient center that will be supported by 76 beds on two floors inside Banner Gateway Medical Center. The outpatient center will house physician clinics, medical imaging, radiation oncology, infusion therapy, and many support services.

The Banner Health Foundation has launched a campaign in support of the cancer center. Banner Health Foundation, the philanthropic resource for Banner Health, secures and stewards charitable contributions to advance Banner Health's mission of making a difference in people's lives through excellent patient care. Charitable contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations are invested locally to support programs and services in Banner's nonprofit hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout Arizona. For more information, visit [www.BannerHealth.org/BannerFoundation](http://www.BannerHealth.org/BannerFoundation).

Headquartered in Phoenix, Banner Health is one of the largest, nonprofit

healthcare systems in the United States. The system owns or manages 23 acute care hospitals, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers, and an array of other services, including family clinics, homecare and hospice services, and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in seven states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, and Wyoming.

For more information, visit [www.bannerhealth.com](http://www.bannerhealth.com).

## Georgia Southern University Receives Grant to Address Nursing Shortage

The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a three-year grant for \$792,000 to Georgia Southern University's (GSU's) School of Nursing. The grant is designed to enhance GSU's online doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree program to address the shortage of nursing faculty.

The project will prepare advanced practice nurses in the DNP program with additional course work in nursing education. The state of Georgia ranks number 44 in the nation in the number of nurses per population. Principal investigators are Elaine Marshall, PhD, RN, professor, Endowed Chair, and director of the Center for Nursing Scholarship, and Donna Hodnicki, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN, LNC, interim chair and professor.

Marshall said that this grant comes at an important time. "It is especially significant in view of the low health status indicators within the state of Georgia," she said. "This grant will enable us to focus on expanding the number of nursing faculty members, which is critical to helping address the shortage of trained nurses. The state and country need more faculty to train nursing students and this will help Georgia Southern to expand its contributions in this area."

"Of the 3.5 million nurses in the country, less than 1% hold the terminal (doctoral) degree to assume positions as faculty members in university settings.

This grant will not only help to alleviate an enormous need, but it will build on the reputation and stature of GSU."

Nationally, experts project a shortage of 200,000 nurses by 2020 and a significant shortage of primary care providers. The greatest barrier to increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses, master's-prepared nurse practitioners, and doctoral nurses is the current nationwide nursing faculty shortage.

"This new grant provides us the ability to significantly impact the nursing faculty shortage in Georgia," said Hodnicki. "Georgia Southern's online DNP program builds upon the foundation of our nationally recognized family nurse practitioner program, which began in 1983. Georgia Southern was among only 40 out of several hundred applicants to be funded. This speaks to the quality of the programs and high regard held for the School of Nursing at GSU."

GSU offers 115 degree programs serving almost 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, GSU offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. In 2011, GSU was named the fourth most popular university in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*.

For more information, visit [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

Linda K. Morse, RN, MSN, can be reached at [Linda\\_Morse@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Linda_Morse@dfci.harvard.edu), with copy to editor at [ONFEditor@ons.org](mailto:ONFEditor@ons.org).

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/11.ONF.257-258