

## Oncology Nursing Society Member Receives Nursing Hall of Fame Award



Altru Health System in Grand Forks, ND, presented its annual Nursing Hall of Fame Award to Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Nancy Klatt, RN, a manager at Altru Cancer Center. The award is given annually to nurses who, over the course of their career, have exhibited extraordinary achievement in nursing at Altru. Klatt is the 19th recipient of the award.

A nurse at Altru Health System since 1976, Klatt has shown continuous dedication to the system, its patients, and employees through her focus on oncology services. "Nancy has been relentless in her drive for excellence in the care of cancer patients. It isn't everyday you find a nurse who has dedicated their professional career to one type of population; especially one that is so complex and has such evolving treatments," said Chief Nurse Executive Margaret Reed, RN.

In her role as manager, Klatt led the charge for the renovation and expansion of Altru Cancer Center in 2009, while ensuring uninterrupted patient care throughout. The renovation has attracted new physicians, bringing with them advances in treatment through technology. "Nancy is one of the reasons I selected employment at Altru Cancer Center," said Grant Seeger, MD, a radiation oncologist.

Altru Health System's mission is to improve health and enrich life for its community. Altru provides health education, preventive care, and early interventions to more than 200,000 residents of northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

For more information, visit [www.altru.org/about-us/news](http://www.altru.org/about-us/news).

## ONS Members Recognized for Oncology Nursing Excellence

McKesson Specialty Care Solutions/US Oncology recognized five exceptional oncology nurses from almost 2,400

nominees nationwide for their dedication to their profession and their passion for their patients. The Excellence in Oncology Nursing Award honors those in the United Network of US Oncology who exemplify competency, courage, and determination in providing the highest quality oncology nursing care to patients and their families.

The following ONS members received the 2011 Excellence in Oncology Nursing Award.

- Julia Carr Ober, RN, Texas Oncology—Arlington North
- Allison Frendberg, RN, OCN®, Florida Cancer Institute—New Hope, Brooksville
- Robert Beach, RN, OCN®, Northwest Cancer Specialists—St. Vincent Office, Portland, OR

In addition, two other nurses also received the award.

- Carrie Czech, RN, OCN®, Minnesota Oncology—St. Paul
- Heidi Hoffmeister, RN, BSN, Maryland Oncology Hematology—Columbia, Maryland

"These extraordinary nurses play an integral part in so many patients' lives," said Smith. "This award was created to recognize and honor nurses for putting their patients first."



Julia Carr Ober

occasion, she drove to a patient's church to meet him in order to deliver his medication to him."



Allison Frendberg

Freundberg's nominator wrote, "[Her] supportive manner and understanding way help to make the patient and family feel hopeful and in control of their disease at a time of uncertain outcome. This is very reassuring to the patient and relieves some of the stress of a cancer diagnosis."



Robert Beach

support them throughout their entire treatment journey."

McKesson Specialty Care Solutions/US Oncology, a division of McKesson Corporation, empowers the community patient-care delivery system to advance the science, technology, and quality of care. Through innovative clinical, research, business, and operational solutions, facilitated by integrated technology systems, McKesson improves the financial health of its customers and helps them provide quality care for patients.

For more information, visit [www.mckesson.com/specialty](http://www.mckesson.com/specialty) and [www.usoncology.com](http://www.usoncology.com).

## MD Anderson Selects Outstanding Nurse Oncologist



Nancy Tomczak, RN, OCN®, a clinical nurse in the inpatient stem cell transplantation unit at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, received

the 2011 Ethel Fleming Arceneaux Outstanding Nurse-Oncologist Award, presented by the Brown Foundation, Inc. A committee of MD Anderson's clinical faculty, patient-care administration, and nursing staff reviewed nominations sent from peers and patients alike before selecting Tomczak as the choice for the annual award. Established by the foundation in 1982, the award is the institution's highest nursing honor.

"I'm so honored by this award," said Tomczak. "I'm truly overwhelmed."

At age 8, after witnessing her grandmother succumb to lung cancer, Tomczak made it her mission to help fight cancer. Her passion increased after surviving a life threatening car accident at age 16.

"Were it not for the care of the dedicated healthcare workers at my bedside, I could have easily fallen into a black hole of self-pity," she said.

A graduate of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Tomczak has spent her entire 10-year career at MD Anderson. She has proven herself not only as a nurse, but also as a leader. She has been an active member of ONS and serves as chair of the Nursing Practice Congress.

The greatest gift that nursing has provided Tomczak is the impact that patients have in turn had on her life. As she seeks to make a difference in the lives of her patients, she said, they ultimately make a difference in hers.

"I repeatedly tell others how my job is almost selfish," she said. "I get more from my patients than I could ever offer them. . . . They teach me life lessons, expose me to cultures I never imagined knowing, and help me to appreciate each breath I take."

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston ranks as one of the world's most respected centers focused on patient care, research, education and prevention. MD Anderson is one of 40 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute.

For more information, visit [www.mdanderson.org](http://www.mdanderson.org).

## Leading Cancer Nurse Joins Emory University



Deborah Watkins Bruner, PhD, RN, FAAN, an internationally recognized authority on cancer care and quality of life, has been appointed to the

faculty at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Bruner will hold a dual appointment as a professor of nursing at Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and as associate director of cancer outcomes at the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

Bruner formerly was the Independence Professor in Nursing Education at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She is best known for her pioneering leadership within the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG). She is the first and only nurse to lead one of NCI's national clinical community oncology programs research bases and is RTOG's Vice Chair for Outcomes. Bruner also is a member of the NCI Clinical Trials Advisory Committee, which helps set the national cancer clinical trials research agenda, and cochairs NCI's Symptoms Management Steering Committee.

"Dr. Bruner is one of the nation's pre-eminent researchers in oncology nursing," said Linda McCauley, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAOHN, dean of Emory's School of Nursing. "Emory University is fortunate to have this outstanding scholar working to continue our tradition of world-class research and to foster collaborations between the School of Nursing and the Winship Cancer Institute."

Bruner has devoted her research to improving outcomes for patients with cancer. Her areas of focus are quality of life and symptom management across cancer sites, as well as decision-making preferences and utilities for cancer therapies. Currently, Bruner is leading three National Institutes of Health studies and one NCI clinical trial. Her research has been published in a number of journals, including the *Oncology Nursing Forum*.

The Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University is an academic health science and service center focused on missions of teaching, research, health care and public service.

For more information, visit [www.whsc.emory.edu/home/about](http://www.whsc.emory.edu/home/about).

## Patient Advocate Foundation Expands Lung Cancer Programs

A charitable donation made by Lilly Oncology will enable the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF) to expand its patient services programs, including the Case Management and Co-Pay Relief (CPR) Programs for patients with non-

squamous non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of lung cancer.

PAF is a national, nonprofit organization that seeks to safeguard patients through effective mediation, assuring access to care, and preservation of employment and financial stability, relative to their diagnosis of life-threatening or debilitating diseases. The CPR Program provides direct financial support for copayments for medicines to insured patients, including Medicare beneficiaries, who financially and medically qualify.

Since the program's inception in April 2004, CPR has distributed \$120 million in assistance to more than 46,000 patients who were unable to afford their copayments for medications. PAF also has a long-standing history of service to patients with lung cancer, having the oldest lung cancer fund in the United States. To request assistance from PAF, patients and physicians should visit [www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org) or call toll free at 866-512-3681.

Lilly Oncology, a division of Eli Lilly and Company, is dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that improve the care of people living with cancer. Because no two patients with cancer are alike, Lilly Oncology is committed to developing novel treatment approaches.

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

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Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/11.ONF.503-504

### ONS Conference Calendar

#### Advanced Practice Nursing Conference

November 3–5, 2011  
Salt Lake City, UT

#### 12th Annual Institutes of Learning

November 4–6, 2011  
Salt Lake City, UT

#### 37th Annual Congress

May 3–6, 2012  
New Orleans, LA