

B O O K S

**Oncology Nursing (5th ed.).** M.E. Langhorne\*, J.S. Fulton\*, and S.E. Otto\*. St. Louis: Mosby, 2007, 792 pages, \$75.

🕒 ✓ 👤👤 Softcover



*Oncology Nursing* offers basic oncology information to an audience that includes students, experienced nurses, novice nurses, and other healthcare professionals. The book is updated with the

fifth edition and provides evidence-based practice throughout, as appropriate. A section on geriatric considerations is included in each chapter. In addition, each chapter concludes with a case study and 10 review questions.

Information printed in every textbook is outdated at the time of publication; however, the fifth edition of *Oncology Nursing* is up to date and addresses the clinical aspects of cancer diagnosis (pathophysiology, genetics, epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and staging), the major cancers (e.g., breast, colorectal, lung, pediatric), treatment (e.g., chemotherapy), supportive therapies (e.g., nutrition, psychosocial care, patient education), and symptom management (e.g., fatigue, dyspnea, pain).

In general, *Oncology Nursing* is well written and gives accurate information. The technical quality of the illustrations and tables in each chapter are appropriate for healthcare professionals. Chapter 2 covers the genetic basis of cancer and gives a concise overview of this sometimes confusing

topic. The chapters on chemotherapy and biotherapy are useful in that they provide a broad overview of the major categories of these agents without going into detail about specific drugs. Because some nurses do not give chemotherapy on a routine basis, the information on safe handling of chemotherapy provided general guidelines for practitioners. The chapter on functional status is timely and provides a nice evaluative overview (in table form) of some of the tools used to measure this patient outcome.

*Oncology Nursing* has several limitations. It provides little information on complementary and alternative medicine, which is used by a significant proportion of patients with cancer. A chapter devoted to this topic would be helpful for nurses and other healthcare professionals caring for these patients. The questions provided at the end of each chapter are a good way to help nurses test their knowledge of the information that they have read. One of the stated reasons for including the questions at the end of each chapter was to help nurses review for the oncology certification examination. However, most of the questions target the lowest level of the cognitive domain (i.e., recalling information). Although these questions are adequate for testing basic knowledge, they do not challenge the reader to analyze, synthesize, or evaluate important information covered in each chapter. The readers would be well served if higher-level questions were provided in new editions of the book.

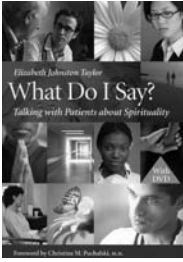
*Oncology Nursing* is published in soft cover and printed in black and white. All illustrations and photos are reproduced in black and white. This makes for a moderately priced and well-written book that is affordable to nursing students and healthcare professionals.

Paula Klemm, PhD, RN, OCN®  
Associate Professor  
University of Delaware  
School of Nursing  
Newark, DE

\* Oncology Nursing Society member

**What Do I Say? Talking With Patients About Spirituality.** Elizabeth Johnston Taylor\*. Philadelphia: Templeton Foundation Press, 2007, 151 pages, \$23.96 (paperback and DVD).

🕒 ✓ 👤👤 Softcover



*What Do I Say?* is an interactive workbook and DVD that suggest ways of communicating with patients about spirituality. Oncology nurses frequently are faced with difficult questions such as, “Am I going to die?” In this

book, Elizabeth Johnston Taylor provides a practice ground for framing reflective and helpful answers to these queries.

“Spirituality at its core is relational” and so is nursing. As patients confront their loss of power and mortality, they often have a growing need to feel value, purpose, and meaning in their lives. Healthcare providers are key targets for these discussions and should be prepared to have beneficial, not detrimental, communications with patients.

*What Do I Say?* is a useful resource for nurses, physicians, allied health professionals, social workers, and clergy. It addresses how to form healing verbal responses to patients’ expressions of spiritual distress and informs readers that “the goal of healing, ultimately, is to assist persons to experience existence more fully; to die living, rather than to live dying.”

Religious language is throughout the workbook but is distinctly universal and can be applied easily to those of all faiths. It focuses on being a good listener and does not provide a set description or specific answer based on religious bias. Readers are encouraged to reflect patients’ spiritual needs, not their own.

In keeping with being able to identify patients’ needs, healthcare professionals must have a sense and awareness of their own spiritual boundaries and attitudes. Taylor dedicates the second chapter of the workbook to helping readers identify their own spiritual pains and strengths. Through

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Media Size
🕒 Quick, on-the-spot resource	✓ Basic	👤 Pocket size
🕒🕒 Moderate time requirement	✓ ✓ Intermediate	👤👤 Intermediate
🕒🕒🕒 In-depth study	✓ ✓ ✓ Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required	👤👤👤 Desk reference

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/08.ONF.287-288

this self-identification, readers can become better able to recognize pains and strengths in their patients. "Effective helpers are like those who hold a candle in the darkness and then light another's candle with their flame."

*What Do I Say?* offers concrete exercises and words to use and avoid when healthcare professionals are asked, "Am I going to get better?" Exercises give readers the opportunity to positively reframe situations, and the answers in the back of the workbook indicate how to improve your responses. Chapter 7 provides a list of frequently asked questions to help give a quick overview and fast reference for suggested answers and approaches to questions of spirituality.

The DVD companion to the workbook brings to life the real moments healthcare professionals often witness and shows the viewers concrete reactions they can have when interacting with patients. The DVD also explores seven methods for forming helpful and healing verbal techniques, giving healthcare professionals tools to encourage people to live completely and achieve a fullness of spirit in the moments when they are challenged most.

The exercises in the workbook in combination with the visual effects of the DVD create a full package learning tool for any healthcare professional or caregiver. The workbook and DVD allow healthcare professionals to be more comfortable and capable speaking to patients; sincere interest in how patients are feeling is what matters most.

Overall, *What Do I Say?* is a profound tool for anyone who interacts with patients. Healthcare professionals must be willing

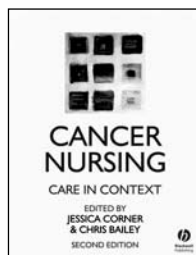
to be honest with their own feelings about spirituality and place in the world. They do not need to have answers or even a religious belief, so long as they are willing to be objective guides in patients' spiritual and mortal journeys.

Valerie Burger, MA, MS, RN, OCN®  
Director of Nursing  
North Shore Long Island  
Jewish Health System  
Southside Hospital  
Bayshore, NY

## NEW RELEASES

The following books on cancer-related topics are scheduled for publication in 2008. More information on a particular title can be found by contacting the publisher.

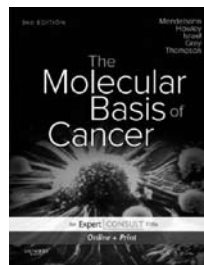
**Cancer Nursing: Care in Context (2nd ed.).** Jessica Corner and Christopher Bailey. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, April 2008, 736 pages, ISBN: 9781405122535.



*Cancer Nursing: Care in Context* addresses the complex needs of patients with cancer and their families by situating cancer care in the context of society's attitudes toward the disease and the everyday needs of patients and caregivers. The book provides evidence-based information, a critical view

of care and treatment, and firsthand accounts of having cancer and caring for those who do. The second edition of *Cancer Nursing* has new chapters on prevention, diagnosis, symptoms, self-help and self-management, and living with cancer long-term. In addition, it addresses significant changes in cancer care, touching on the expansion of nursing roles; incorporates material on prevention and early detection; and includes evidence tables based on relevant literature.

**The Molecular Basis of Cancer (3rd ed.).** John Mendelsohn, Mark A. Israel, Peter M. Howley, Joe W. Gray, and Craig B. Thompson. Philadelphia: Elsevier, March 28, 2008, 704 pages, ISBN: 9781416037033.



*The Molecular Basis of Cancer* explores the scientific basis for the current understanding of malignant transformation and the pathogenesis and treatment of cancer. The authors explain the molecular biologic principles that underlie the diagnostic tests and therapeutic interventions now being used in clinical trials and practice. Incorporating cutting-edge advances and the newest research, the book provides descriptions of everything from molecular abnormalities in common cancers to new approaches for cancer therapy. With a book purchase, buyers also receive a searchable online version as well as the ability to download all of the book's images for personal use.

### Take an Active Role in the *Oncology Nursing Forum's* Knowledge Central

Do you have comments or a book or Web site that you would like to suggest for review?

Are you interested in reviewing media for Knowledge Central?

If so, contact Knowledge Central's associate editor, Gerald Bennett, PhD, APRN, FAAN, at [pubONF@ons.org](mailto:pubONF@ons.org).