

## PEOPLE & EVENTS

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### Coleman to Be Inaugurated as Elizabeth Stanley Chair in Oncology Nursing



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Elizabeth Ann Coleman, PhD, RNP, AOCN®, will be recognized for her achievements in research, teaching, and service on April 29 when she is invested as the inaugural recipient and steward of the Elizabeth Stanley Chair in Oncology Nursing in the College of Nursing, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), in Little Rock.

Coleman graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BSN in 1963. She received her MSN in 1979 and her PhD in 1989 from the University of Texas at Austin. She completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in Cancer Prevention and Control at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and postgraduate work in cancer genetics at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH, and the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME. Coleman has been with the UAMS College of Nursing since 1980 and served on the task force that developed the PhD program in nursing at UAMS.

Coleman is internationally recognized for her work in oncology nursing, with programs of research focusing on patients with breast cancer and multiple myeloma. Achievements in research include studies showing that the MammaCare method of breast examination was most effective, developing the International Breast Cancer Screening Network in 21 countries, and laying the groundwork for the startup of the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium in the United States. She was instrumental in redesigning the data collection protocol for the national cancer registry Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program that affected breast cancer statistics. Her research funding from NIH, the American Cancer Society (ACS), ONS, private foundations, and industry amounts to more than \$5.5 million. She has authored 58 publications in refereed journals and 14 books, chapters, or special projects.

Other areas of Coleman's service include serving as a consultant to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ACS, and ONS to improve cancer screening and treatment and education and research in oncology nursing. She currently serves on the Governor's Advisory Board for the Arkansas Breast Cancer Control Program and the Arkansas Cancer Registry Board.

### Van Gerpen Receives Distinguished Nurse Award



ONS Director-at-Large Ruth Van Gerpen, RN, MS, CNS, OCN®, received the prestigious First National Bank of Omaha Distinguished Nurse Award on November 20 during the March of Dimes Excellence

in Nursing Awards in Omaha. The award is the highest presented to a Nebraska nurse through the statewide competition.

Van Gerpen, a nurse at BryanLGH Medical Center in Lincoln, NE, for 28 years, received a nursing diploma from Bryan Memorial School of Nursing in 1976, a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1987, and a master of science and clinical nurse specialist degree from Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha in 2001.

Van Gerpen's previous involvement with ONS includes serving as Southeast Nebraska Chapter president, vice president, program chair, and newsletter editor for 13 years. She has served on the *ONS News* Editorial Board and 1999 Congress Team and as the 2001 Congress Team leader. She also is actively involved in the ACS's Speakers Bureau, Relay for Life, and "I Can Cope" program. In addition, she recently served as chair of the Nebraska "Every Woman Matters" Advisory Board.

The March of Dimes Excellence in Nursing Awards, presented by Children's Hospital of Omaha, is designed to recognize and honor the nursing profession in Nebraska. For more information, visit [www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com).

### Ott Receives Outstanding Nurse Educator Award



ONS member Carol Ott, PhD, RN, OCN®, an associate professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Kearney Division, recently received the Nebraska Nurses

Association's Outstanding Nurse Educator Award. The award recognizes innovation and expertise in the nurse educator role.

Ott's nursing career spans more than 30 years in helping others attain their dream of becoming an RN. "I love being a nursing faculty member," she said. "It is the best of several worlds—one never loses sight of the people to whom we offer competent nursing care, and I have the opportunity to influence both undergraduate and graduate nursing students to keep striving to learn more."

Ott's nominators said that she personifies the traits of innovation and expertise as an educator who "has lived the philosophy of lifelong learning in all of her academic pursuits."

"Carol Ott knows firsthand what can be achieved in the nursing profession and believes that each student can be successful," wrote one nominator and former student. "She has the special ability to spark the minds and souls of her students. Furthermore, she willingly shares her special gift of knowledge and compassion."

Ott, whose specialty area is oncology and chronic illnesses, also conducts research, most notably with cancer support groups, cardiac rehabilitation, and collaboratively as a coinvestigator of a \$2.9 million, five-year federal grant to evaluate a new approach to prevent osteoporosis in breast cancer survivors after menopause.

Ott earned her bachelor's degree from Midland College in Fremont, NE, a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, and her doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/05.ONF.227-228