

PEOPLE & EVENTS

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Pollak Appointed Executive Director of Cancer Care for Adventist HealthCare



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Debra N. Pollak, RN, MSN, has been appointed executive director of cancer care at Adventist HealthCare, an integrated healthcare delivery system based in

Rockville, MD. Pollak will oversee the development and enhancement of cancer care services across all of Adventist HealthCare.

Prior to joining Adventist HealthCare, Pollak held leadership positions in clinical research, medical education, and healthcare administration. She was a coprincipal investigator while at the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, a large-scale clinical trials group headquartered at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, where Pollak held a faculty position in the School of Medicine. She also has served as vice president of product development for Magellan Behavioral Health. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Pollak is a past recipient of the American Cancer Society's Master's Degree in Cancer Nursing scholarship.

"I am excited for this opportunity to strengthen our oncology care program," said Pollak. "Through a system strategy approach, we will capitalize on the talent in our acute care facilities and leverage the depth of expertise in supportive approaches held in home care, rehabilitation, and behavioral health, optimizing our strong community partnerships. Our goal is to provide the best comprehensive cancer care to our community, from prevention efforts to treatment programs through the entire continuum of care."

Adventist HealthCare is one of the largest employers in Maryland and includes Washington Adventist Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health System, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Senior Living, Adventist Health Careers Training Center, Hackettstown Community Hospital, Greater Washington Sleep Disorder Center, and Adventist Home Health. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthcare.com.

Downs Named Executive Director of the Association of Community Cancer Centers



The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), the nation's premier advocacy organization for the oncology team, has named Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA, as the association's new executive director.

Downs succeeds Lee E. Mortenson, DPA, who retired from ACCC's leadership position after more than 30 years of service.

In assuming the leadership role at ACCC, Downs will serve the association's Board of Trustees and membership in its work on national policy and provider education. He also will be responsible for furthering relations with other oncology organizations and provider groups and developing new corporate partnerships.

"The Board is pleased and enthusiastic about Christian and the future of ACCC. We think Christian has the energy, ideas, temperament, and experience to lead the association in its mission," said E. Strode Weaver, FACHE, MBA, MHSA, ACCC president.

Downs has more than 15 years of healthcare experience. He joined ACCC in 1998 and was instrumental in working with providers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Congress on hospital outpatient prospective payment system (HOPPS) issues. Working with state legislatures across the country, he helped to promote off-label and clinical trials legislation. At the same time, he worked with individual insurers and carriers to help ensure patient access to new oncology therapies. Downs led association efforts on such critical issues as easing implementation of HOPPS, ensuring patient access to new cancer therapies, and refining physician office payments for delivery of services.

Downs received his master's degree in health administration from the Medical College of Virginia and his law degree from George Mason University, with a special focus on regulatory and administrative law. He is a board member of the Patient Advocate Foundation and C-Change, a large coordinating organization for cancer groups.

ACCC's unique membership of more than 650 hospital cancer programs and oncology private practices includes all members of the cancer care team: medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, cancer program administrators and medical directors, oncology nurses and pharmacists, oncology social workers, and cancer program data managers. For more information, visit ACCC's Web site at www.accc-cancer.org.

U.S. Senators Mikulski and Collins Honored for Increasing Federal Funding for Nursing Programs

U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Susan Collins (R-ME) recently were honored with the first-ever Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief (ANSR) Public Service Award for their successful efforts to increase funding for nursing programs necessary to reverse the nursing shortage. The senators received the awards at a reception on Capitol Hill on March 1.

The ANSR Alliance is composed of 50 nursing organizations, including ONS, that collectively represent nearly all of the nation's 2.3 million nurses. ANSR's goal is to work with Congress to implement a comprehensive set of initiatives to increase the nursing workforce.

Recently, President Bush requested \$150 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs in fiscal year (FY) 2006, representing a \$674,000 decrease from FY 2005. The President also proposed cutting \$15 million for advanced nursing education. Senators Mikulski and Collins have been the driving force behind significant increases in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Funding for Title VIII increased from \$93 million in FY 2003 to \$151 million in FY 2005, thanks to their efforts. These programs provide funds for nursing education and other programs crucial to stemming the nursing shortage.

Senators Mikulski and Collins were recognized as true champions for nursing and for safeguarding the public health. They helped to increase funding for nursing workforce development programs over the last three funding cycles and were instrumental in steering the Nurse Reinvestment Act through the Senate in 2002.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/05.ONF.727-728