



## Oncology Nursing Society

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May 10, 2018

HHS Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Attn: Vanila M Singh, M.D., Chief Medical Officer  
Email: [Paintaskforce@hhs.gov](mailto:Paintaskforce@hhs.gov)

**Re: HHS Pain Task Force Nominations**

Dear Dr. Singh,

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society, we wanted to share our disappointment that the new HHS Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force (Task Force) did not accept our nomination of oncology nurse and pain expert Dr. Judith Paice and that while many physicians were selected, only one nurse is being represented on this important panel.

Oncology nurses play a vital role in managing and treating the pain and suffering experienced by patients with cancer, and we strongly believe that their voices need to be heard and that they should be included at the table to make contributions and shape recommendations to address gaps in quality pain management for chronic and acute care. Oncology nurse practitioners prescribe pain medications, including opioids, to patients with cancer and have a unique perspective to offer on the importance of ensuring access to prescribed opioids as well as the negative impacts on patients of not doing so.

We hope that in the future, HHS will consider the value and expertise of oncology nurses in symptom management and pain relief and ensure that they are an integral part of any strategic policy planning that impacts patients with cancer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN  
President  
Oncology Nursing Society