



May 12, 2017

Gopal Khanna, MBA
Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 06E41
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Director Khanna:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to congratulate you on your recent appointment to Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

With your wealth of experience in both the public and private sector, you understand the importance of developing the knowledge, tools, and data needed to improve the health care system and help Americans, health care professionals, and policymakers make informed health decisions. In your role as the director of the Illinois Healthcare and Human Services Innovation Incubator, you collaborated with state and federal health agencies to aggregate patient data and better understand the population and efficiency of care delivery. Under your leadership, the Agency is well positioned to use data-driven strategies and evidence to improve both organizational performance and the nation's health and health care.

Today marks the last day of National Nurses Week, which recognizes the important role nurses play in patient and family engagement. Patient engagement leads to measurable improvement in quality and safety. Oncology nurses play a pivotal role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS supports AHRQ's commitment to produce science that translates medical progress into better care for patients today. Like you, our organization is dedicated to supporting research that improves the affordability and quality of health care services. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

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