

Position: Director-at-Large

Darcy Burbage, DNP, RN, AOCN®,CBCN®
Safety and Quality Education Specialist
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, DE

ONS member: 32 years;

Education:

2019 - Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), Duke University
1998 - Master of Science in Nursing, Oncology, University of Delaware
1992 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Wilmington University
1987 - Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, Delaware Technical and Community College
1984 - Diploma, Practical Nursing, Delcastle Technical High School

ONS Participation (national and local):

2019 - ONS Oncology Nurse Navigation Business Plan Development Committee
2018 - Chair, Oncology Nurse Advisor/Oncology Nursing Society Nurse Navigation Summit
2017 - ONS Delegate Cancer Moonshot Summit
2017 - elected as Representative from Delaware for ONS Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill
2017-Present - Director at Large, Delaware Diamond Chapter Oncology Nursing Society
2014-Present - Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation Certification Advocate
2014-2017 - Chair, ONS Communities Advisory Council (formerly, ONS Special Interest Group [SIG] Council)
2011-2014 - ONS Special Interest Group (SIG) Council
2013 - Chapter Reviewer for multiple chapters in 5th Edition for Core Curriculum for Oncology Nursing Text
2010 - Oncology Nursing Society, Pearl Moore Making a Difference Award recipient
2011 - Expert content reviewer for ONS Survivorship Chapters Program
2010 - Expert content reviewer for ONS Putting Evidence into Practice (PEP) Project Team for Hot Flashes
2007 - ONCC Breast Care Certification Task Force
2006 - Planning Committee and Presenter, ONS SIG Leadership Orientation
2005-2007 - Founding coordinator, Breast Care Special Interest Group
2003-2010 - Peer Reviewer, Oncology Nursing Forum
1990-Present - Member, Delaware Diamond Chapter Oncology Nursing Society; 1997-1999 - Director at Large, Delaware Diamond Chapter Oncology Nursing Society
1993-1995 - Newsletter co-editor, Delaware Diamond Chapter, Oncology Nursing Society

Work Related Skills and Leadership:

July, 2019-present - Safety and Quality Education Specialist, Christiana Care Health System: Plans, develops, and implements system-wide training programs in healthcare quality including continuous quality improvement, team training/communication skills, patient safety for all members of the health care team from front-line staff as well as nurses and physicians.

2017-2019 - Nurse Navigator, Lung Cancer Screening Program; Nurse Navigator, Supportive and Palliative Care. Responsible for coordinating all daily functions of the interdisciplinary Supportive and Palliative Care team, monitoring and tracking referrals received and in triaging patients to appropriate clinician. Assisted patients and families with advance care planning, and served as research coordinator for quality improvement project, "Improving the Quality and Quantity of Goals of Care Discussions"

2010-2017 - Nurse Navigator, Cancer Survivorship Program. Developed and implemented the role of the survivorship nurse navigator and was responsible for counseling patients at the end of active treatment regarding potential late and long-term effects of all treatment modalities received and in triaging patients to needed support for ongoing psychosocial and physical concerns. Collaborated with the interdisciplinary team to ensure that treatment summaries and care plans were completed within standards established by the Commission on Cancer and in data collection and monitoring of the patient experience related to survivorship. Utilized this data to make recommendations for cost-effective system improvements related to survivorship. Served as principal investigator for several quality improvement studies related to survivorship.

1999-2010 - Clinical Nurse Specialist/Interim Manager, Christiana Care Breast Center. Developed and implemented role of the nurse navigator at Christiana Care Health System and served as the first nurse navigator in the Breast Center. Responsible for coordination and facilitation of system-wide breast care improvement outcome initiatives including the development of a breast care specific registry. Facilitated an interdisciplinary breast care team to determine and outline best practices throughout the breast care continuum including access, care delivery, education and research. Lead an interdisciplinary team in the development and implementation of a High Risk Breast and Ovarian Cancer Surveillance Program and a comprehensive lymphedema program. Served as interim manager leading an interdisciplinary team of thirty individuals to ensure compliance with the American College of Radiology (ACR) and Joint Commission accreditation standards.

Health Care/ Cancer Organizations Experience:

2017-present - Member, Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)

2015-present - Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

2014-present - Member, Delaware Nurses Association

2014-2016 - Member, Cultural Competency and Diversity Council, Christiana Care Health System

2016-2017 - Co-Chair, Lean Six Sigma Project Team "Optimizing Breast Cancer Nurse Navigation"

2012-2016 - Chair, Oncology Nursing Practice Council, Christiana Care Health System

2010-2012 - Magnet Ambassador, Christiana Care Health System
1997-present - Member, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society

Additional non-nursing leadership experience relevant to this role. (Community volunteer, etc.)

2012-present - Professional Advisory Board, Cancer Support Community, Delaware
2007 - Recipient, Susan G. Komen Hometown Hero Award
2002-2004 - Board of Trustees, Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
1990-1994 - Board of Directors, American Cancer Society, Delaware Division

Share how your leadership qualities, professional and personal experiences make you qualified for the ONS Board.

I've had the privilege of being mentored and mentoring many talented oncology nurses. These role models facilitated opportunities to serve in leadership roles both within my clinical setting and community, as well as through ONS. As an advanced practice nurse, my role is multi-faceted, requiring me to be organized and manage my time effectively as my patients and colleagues rely on me to discern problems and help find solutions. One of my strengths is the ability to lead interdisciplinary teams through change. Because of this, I've provided support to colleagues in order to help them successfully accomplish a goal such as offering guidance in how to prepare an abstract and present at their first conference. I take a personal responsibility in helping novice nurses feel part of the team and work to include them by providing opportunities so that they can be the best nurses and leaders. I believe each of us are unique and bring valuable experiences to our practice. My leadership in ONS began as inaugural chair of the Breast Care Special Interest Group (SIG) and then as Chair of the SIG Council. My skills in facilitating change were key in the transition from SIG's to the communities.

How have you advanced excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care?

One of the ways that I've advanced excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care was through my role as chair of the SIG Council that helped to facilitate the successful transition to the ONS Communities platform. This system allows oncology nurses to quickly access their oncology nursing colleagues from across the country to help solve patient care concerns in a timely manner to help improve patient care. As a mentor to novice oncology nurses and to student nurses, I've been able to share my passion for oncology nursing to grow our professional organization by educating others regarding the significance of providing evidence-based innovations and interventions. from the bedside to the ambulatory care setting. I've been actively involved in developing online courses through ONS as well as authored articles, book chapters, and have presented continuing education programs locally, nationally and internationally on multiple oncology topics to help influence and improve quality cancer care for patients and their families.

How have you demonstrated innovation in oncology nursing?

Having practiced as an oncology nurse my entire career, I've been privileged to be part of the evolution of cancer care due to advances in early detection, treatment modalities and symptom management and the resulting increase in cancer survivors. Because of these advances, oncology nurses have risen to the challenge and have developed innovative strategies to lead the transformation of cancer care. In my career, I've developed and implemented the role of oncology nurse navigator, lead an interdisciplinary team in the development of a comprehensive lymphedema program as well as high risk breast and ovarian cancer surveillance program. Additionally, I developed our cancer survivorship program as well as implemented and served as principal investigator for numerous quality improvement projects where care processes were improved, costs were reduced to the patient and health system and patient satisfaction was increased and sustained. Each of these initiatives included developing improvements to the electronic medical record as part of the innovation. As my responsibilities included the ability to critically appraise new initiatives and provide feedback, I can apply these experiences to serve on the ONS Board.

How have you demonstrated advocacy for patients with cancer?

As oncology nurses, we have the opportunity to advocate for our patients every day. In my practice, I advocate on behalf of patients for better symptom management as well access to care. I have also participated in ONS Hill Days on two occasions where I've had the opportunity to meet my Senators and Congress Representative and discuss issues affecting patient care such as the Oral Cancer Parity Act and the Palliative Care and Hospice Training Act. In addition, through my volunteer work with the American Cancer Society and Delaware Nurses Association, I've advocated for fair reimbursement for advanced practice providers, along with tobacco control efforts, and in maintaining pre-existing condition provisions as well as other issues that impact nursing and patient care, such as safe staffing levels. I keep up to date with healthcare policy and educate myself on issues that affect cancer patients and oncology nurses. As an oncology nurse navigator, I advocate locally and nationally to remove barriers to care.