



**2017 AONN+ ANNUAL REPORT** • [www.AONNOnline.org](http://www.AONNOnline.org)

## ADVANCING ONCOLOGY NAVIGATION AND CARE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

AONN+ would like to thank the following corporate sponsors and alliance/industry partners for their generosity and dedication throughout 2017. With your support, we are improving patient care and quality of life by defining, enhancing, and promoting the role of nurse and patient navigators.

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## AONN+ MISSION & VISION

### Mission

The mission of AONN+ is to advance the role of patient navigation in cancer care and survivorship care planning by providing a network for collaboration and development of best practices for the improvement of patient access to care, evidence-based cancer treatment, and quality of life during and after cancer treatment. Cancer survivorship begins at the time of cancer diagnosis. One-on-one patient navigation should occur simultaneously with diagnosis and be proactive in minimizing the impact treatment can have on quality of life. Additionally, navigation should encompass community outreach to raise awareness targeted toward prevention and early diagnosis, and must encompass short-term survivorship care, including transitioning survivors efficiently and effectively under the care of their community providers.

### Vision

The vision of AONN+ is to increase the role of and access to skilled and experienced oncology nurse and patient navigators so that all cancer patients may benefit from their guidance, insight, and personal advocacy.

## LETTER FROM LILLIE

It's always made me proud that AONN+ is consistently one – or two – steps ahead of our navigators' needs. To me, this is a sign of an organization that is in tune with industry trends and worthy of its members' investment.

With our 10th anniversary quickly approaching (mark your calendar for 2019), key AONN+ leaders recently developed a strategic plan to guide the organization for the next three to five years. At the heart of this plan is growth; not just programmatic or membership, but growth in opportunities for our members to get involved.

At the close of 2017, we inched closer to this goal with the addition of two new committees, "Clinical Trials" and "Conference Planning." In 2018 we will add "Policy & Advocacy." For the first time, we also opened up committee membership for application with the hope of providing our navigators more opportunity to get involved.

Our local navigator networks (previously known as chapters) continue to grow in number. By bringing these networks to communities across the nation, we are increasing the educational and networking opportunities available to the thousands of navigation professionals whom we serve.

This past year we also saw the launch of our Thoracic Oncology Nurse Navigator Certification Exam – the first of several site-specific exams that we are developing. Just as exciting is the fact that 114 nurse and patient navigators took and passed the certified generalist exam in 2017 alone!

For my part, I continue to represent AONN+ as a Commission on Cancer Fellow. In addition to serving on the Commission's Accreditation Committee in 2017, I chaired the task force that reviewed and subsequently rewrote Standard 3.3, dealing with the survivorship care plan. A new opportunity arose this year when I was invited to serve on the American Cancer Society's National Lung Cancer Roundtable. I'm honored to be working with this team to help overcome the stigma of lung cancer and improve outcomes for those at risk of this disease.

Looking ahead to 2018, some of the activities on which we'll be focusing include:

- Working toward achieving national accreditation for our certification exams
- Developing a core curriculum for genetics and genomics with a future goal in 2019 of developing certification
- Launching a national, multisite navigation metrics quality study aimed at gaining insight and understanding into the barriers and challenges navigation programs encounter when implementing navigation metrics, and evaluating the validity and readability of 10 navigation metrics
- Pushing valuable research and industry information out to our members through the AONN+ website and *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship (JONS)*
- Producing successful midyear and annual conferences that deliver robust educational and networking opportunities for our members

Much of the work that AONN+ does is made possible through the generous support of our industry sponsors and partners. We're grateful that they recognize the value of navigation and have chosen to support our efforts. Never forget the difference we make in the lives of our patients and their families. I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming conference!

Sincerely,



**Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG**  
**Co-Founder and Program Director**

**Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators**

University Distinguished Professor of Breast Cancer

Administrative Director, The Johns Hopkins Breast Center

Director, Johns Hopkins Cancer Survivorship Programs

Departments of Surgery and Oncology

Professor, JHU School of Medicine, Departments of Surgery and Oncology

Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins Medicine's Managing Cancer at Work Program



## AONN+ GOALS FOR 2017

*AONN+ set some lofty goals for 2017 and dedicated significant energy and resources to ensure that they were achieved. We're proud to share that we have successfully met all of these.*

Work toward establishing oncology navigation certification as a core component of accredited cancer programs

Pursue and formalize healthcare system strategic partnerships

Publish 35 standardized Oncology Navigation Evidence-Based Metrics

Develop a national multisite metrics study to open 2018

Expand ONN-CG™ and OPN-CG™ certification exam test site access

Successfully roll out first organ-specific certification exam (Thoracic – Beta exam) at West Coast Regional Meeting; official exam at Annual Conference

Work toward achieving national accreditation of certification exams

Offer certification exams to Local Navigator Networks

Grow Academy membership 20% year-over-year

Increase conference and regional meeting attendance

## A GROWING NUMBER OF NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



### Continued Work with the Commission on Cancer

AONN+ is now in its second year of membership in the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), and we are proud to have had a pivotal role in advancing the discussion around navigation and its importance in the oncology care continuum. As a CoC Fellow representing AONN+, Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Program Director, serves on the Commission's Accreditation Committee.

Additionally, Shockney has spent much of her tenure chairing a task force responsible for reviewing the 3.3 Survivorship Care Plan standard. She presented the task force's findings to the American College of Surgeons CoC in May 2017 and subsequently oversaw the revision and rewriting of the standard. As a result of the task force's work, cancer programs will continue to provide survivorship care plans to 50% of its patients (a change from the previous requirement of 75%) in 2018. Additionally, programs that aren't able to achieve this goal may gain credit toward this standard by providing seminars, retreats, and other programs for patients as well as education for its community physicians.

"Quality cancer care cannot be achieved today without effective navigation, patient advocacy, and the combined efforts of a multidisciplinary team working together on behalf of the patient."

—Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, Co-Founder and Program Director, AONN+

### AONN+ Participates in Inaugural National Navigation Roundtable

In an effort to address some of the greatest challenges facing navigators and their patients, the American Cancer Society recently hosted its first National Navigation Roundtable (NNRT) on November 7, 2017, in Washington, DC. The NNRT is comprised of more than 50 healthcare professionals from across the country with expertise in oncology navigation. It plans to meet monthly via web and in person to focus on three specific goals: establishing an evidence-based/outcome-driven patient navigation model; ensuring there is an activated, trained workforce to implement the model; and establishing policies to support paying for implementation of the model.

## A GROWING NUMBER OF NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

### AONN+ is proud to have several of its members participating in the NNRT.

#### These include:

- Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Program Director (NNRT Steering Committee, Training and Certification Committee, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Committee)
- Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, AOCN, ONN-CG (NNRT Steering Committee, Training and Certification Committee, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Committee)
- Tricia Strusowski, MSN, RN (Co-Chair, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Committee)
- Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, AONN+ Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives (Evidence-Based Promising Practices Committee)
- Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH
- Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH
- Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW
- Mike Zincone

### Biden Cancer Initiative Welcomes AONN+'s Danelle Johnston to Its Advisory Committee

Fall 2017 brought exciting news for AONN+'s Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, Chief Nursing Officer, Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives, when she learned she had been named to the Biden Cancer Initiative's 25-member Advisory Committee. In this role, Johnston joins other healthcare providers and medical professionals aiming to transform the way cancer is detected, diagnosed, and treated. A key focus for the committee will be uncovering ways to standardize cancer care, data-sharing, clinical trials, and patient navigation. Additionally, Johnston will be leveraging AONN+'s navigator networks and bringing them to the table for the organization's "Conversations with Dr. Biden," which kick off in early 2018. "Participating in these conversations, and the Biden Cancer Initiative, are prime examples of how AONN+ is furthering its mission to advance the role of patient navigation in the cancer care continuum," says Johnston.

The Biden Cancer Initiative builds on former Vice President Joe Biden's work on the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative by developing and driving implementation of solutions to accelerate progress in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research and care, and to reduce disparities in cancer outcomes. To fulfill this mission, the initiative is working closely with patients and patient organizations, cancer researchers, cancer centers, research universities, governments, and the private and philanthropic sectors.

### Breaking Down Barriers to Early-Stage Lung Cancer Diagnosis

Early detection and lung cancer are terms that rarely go hand in hand. It's a fact that the American Cancer Society (ACS) is working to change through its National Lung Cancer Roundtable. Launched in early 2017, the roundtable aims to accelerate the nation's efforts to reduce mortality from lung cancer by ensuring that those at high risk for the disease have access to quality screening and timely, patient-centered, state-of-the-art care. AONN+ is one of the organizations that the ACS has invited to participate in this national coalition, which includes health organizations, advocacy groups, corporate entities and health insurers, as well as federal and state agencies.

As AONN+'s representative on the roundtable, Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Program Director, will be working with coalition partners to make screening a nationwide priority, increase screening rates among high-risk populations, and ensure that screening is a standard across the country. Additionally, the roundtable will address the importance of accurate staging and treatment planning, including molecular testing to better identify appropriate therapies.



## FORGING HEALTH SYSTEM AND ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIPS



### Partnership Brings Educational and Professional Benefits to American Cancer Society Navigators

A National Alliance Partnership Program formed in 2017 brings AONN+ and the American Cancer Society (ACS) together in an effort to advance educational and professional development opportunities for ACS oncology navigators. Under this program, ACS oncology patient navigators will have access to all AONN+ member resources, including the Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified Generalist™ (OPN-CG) certification exam when requirements are met.

*"AONN+'s collective resources will help empower ACS' navigators with the education and skillsets necessary to further their professional competencies," says Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, Co-Founder and Program Director, AONN+. "There's little question that certification for oncology navigators is an issue about which both AONN+ and ACS are passionate."*

*"A cancer diagnosis can be the most overwhelming experience a person may ever face in his or her lifetime. The journey can be challenging to patients and their caregivers to manage," says Katherine Sharpe, MTS, Senior Vice President, Patient and Caregiver Support for the ACS. "We are thrilled that ACS patient navigators will have access to the wealth of resources through our partnership with AONN+. This partnership will support our navigators in their efforts to help improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caregivers as they face the psychosocial, emotional, and financial aspects of their cancer experience."*



### AONN+ and Midwest Cancer Alliance Partner to Advance Oncology Navigation

Recognizing the importance of navigation services in oncology, AONN+ and Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA), the outreach network of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, are partnering to enhance the skills of MCA-member oncology nurse navigators. The MCA network includes more than 60 patient and nurse navigators across the Midwest.

*AONN+ will offer clinical nurses and patient navigators in the MCA system membership in the Academy as well as Oncology Nurse Navigator Certification as part of the MCA's ongoing commitment to providing navigation services within their institution and in rural communities. AONN+ and MCA will also collaborate on developing navigation education and resources for MCA navigators.*

*"Our partnership with AONN is a great addition to the tools and resources Midwest Cancer Alliance offers our medical colleagues," said MCA Executive Director, Hope Krebill, MSW, BSN, RN.*

*"The growth of navigation as a profession is exciting and gratifying. To bring yet another institution on board is further evidence that navigation tactics help institutions reach their goals of providing value-based, effective patient care," said AONN+'s Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives.*



## FORGING HEALTH SYSTEM AND ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIPS



### Sarah Cannon to Launch AONN+ Pilot to Measure Navigation's Impact on Clinical Outcomes

A new collaboration for a pilot study between AONN+ and Sarah Cannon, the Cancer Institute of HCA Healthcare, will measure the impact of oncology navigation programs on patient experience and clinical outcomes.

Sarah Cannon will use the 35 research-supported metrics developed by AONN+'s Standardized Metrics Task Force in a select navigation program, collecting data for analysis in this first-of-its-kind validation study. In tandem, participating Sarah Cannon navigators will become members of AONN+ and pursue AONN+ professional development programs, such as the Oncology Nurse Navigator Certification, to further establish best practices in training across programs.

*"We look forward to working with the navigators and leaders at Sarah Cannon to establish and validate navigation metrics for the enhancement of care delivery," says Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG, Co-Founder and Program Director, AONN+. "By analyzing the data gathered from this pilot, we will enrich the literature on the benefits of navigation programs for patients."*

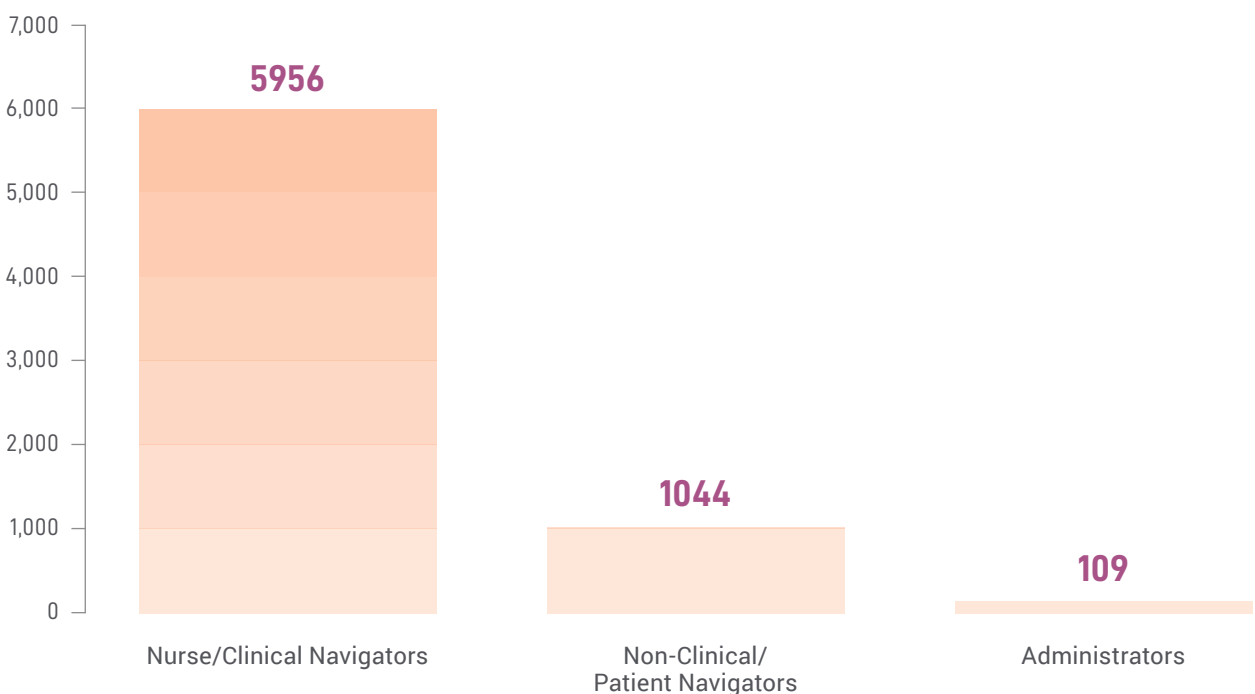
*"AONN+ and Sarah Cannon share a commitment to enhancing the patient experience and the delivery of quality cancer care through standardized navigation programs," says Crystal Dugger, RN, BSN, MBA, Assistant Vice President of Clinical Operations at Sarah Cannon. "Through this pilot, we look forward to further validating metrics to improve patient care, engage physicians, and deliver quality programs for our patients in communities across the US."*



## MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE AONN+ NAVIGATOR COMMUNITY NETWORK

Nine years ago, AONN+ was founded as a humble assembly of 98 oncology navigators whose collective goal was to create a professional home for themselves and their peers. Fast forward to 2017 and AONN+'s membership has grown by more than 7,000%. Today, AONN+'s robust community network includes industry and stakeholder advocates, as well as 7,109 active, non-industry navigator members who fall into the following categories:

### 7,109 Active AONN+ Navigator Members (Non-Industry)



## AONN+ WELCOMES NEW LOCAL NAVIGATOR NETWORKS

*AONN+ Local Navigator Networks provide oncology navigators with a wonderful way to increase communication and education among local and regional peers, while improving patient outcomes and survivorship in the community.*

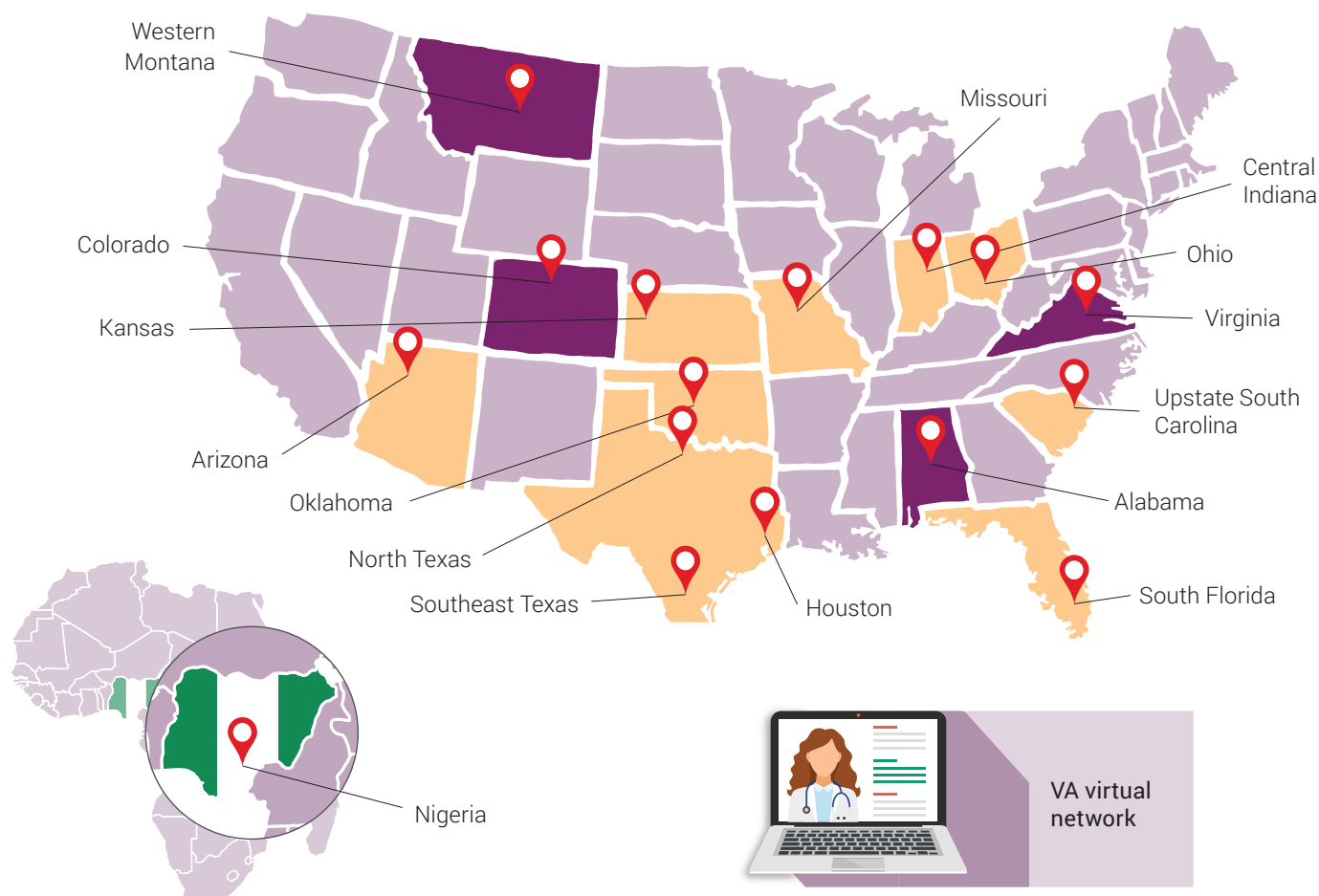
This past year, we saw the number of Local Navigator Networks grow in ways we couldn't have before imagined. For example, the Veterans Health Administration Cancer Navigator Network came on board in 2017 as our first virtual network. They will be using webinars and other digital resources to connect their sites across the country. We also saw the creation of our first international network in Nigeria; they will be focusing mainly on patient navigation.

Other networks that joined AONN+ in 2017 include:

- Virginia Cancer Patient Navigator Network
- Colorado State Local Navigator Network
- Western Montana Navigator Network
- Alabama Local Navigator Network

AONN+ now has **16**  
Navigator Networks including one in Nigeria.

### Coming to a Site Near You: AONN+'s Navigator Networks



## ADVANCING THE NAVIGATION PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

*AONN+'s committees are integral to advancing the Academy's mission and success. At the close of the year, AONN+ announced the addition of three new committees as well as its plans to open up committee participation to all of the Academy's membership. The goal of this effort is to increase engagement, generate new ideas for involvement, and give members a greater voice in the Academy. Additionally, the committee bylaws were revised to provide better structure and accountability for each of these groups. This section of the report serves to introduce the new committees and highlight each committee's prior year achievements and future goals.*

### Evidence into Practice Metrics Subcommittee

**Purpose:** Provide interactive opportunities to experience knowledge sharing, increase innovation, and enhance collaborative engagement by utilizing evidence-based practices around broad aspects of quality improvement initiatives; contribute to continued professional growth and acceleration of navigation practices.

**Co-Chairs:** Elaine Sein, RN, BSN  
EMS1409@aol.com

Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN  
DJohnston@the-lynx-group.com

#### 2017 Highlights

- Continued to grow both participation and educational opportunities
- Increased the number of CEU presentations that the committee offers at AONN+'s annual meetings
- Along with its four subcommittees (Metrics, Newsletter, Abstract Review, and AQUIRE), continued to provide networking meetings at AONN+'s midyear and annual conferences, where accomplishments and goals can be shared and new members can be engaged

### Metrics Subcommittee

**Purpose:** Develop standardized metrics in the areas of return on investment, clinical outcomes, and patient experience using all the areas in which navigators practice to provide quality patient care and financial stability for their organizations.

**Chair:** Tricia Strusowski, MS, RN  
TStrusowski@oncologysolutions.com

#### 2017 Highlights

- Worked to develop a metrics repository to collect metrics, report outcomes, provide analytics, and share best practices
- Prepared to launch Phase II Multi-Institutional Pilot Study in 2018
- Worked to create cross-reference list of navigation metrics with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services measure, Oncology Care Model, Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, Rapid Quality Reporting System, Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System, etc.
- Developed several navigation tools, including:
  - Navigation self-assessment checklist for reports, metrics, and tools
  - Navigation patient experience survey
  - Navigation metrics articles and webinars

### Assistance for Quality Improvement and Research (AQUIRE) Subcommittee

**Purpose:** Provide mentorship support to AONN+ members in areas of quality, processes, improvement, metrics, and reporting.

**Co-Chairs:** Elaine Sein, RN, BSN  
EMS1409@aol.com

Pamela Goetz, BA, OPN-CG  
PGoetz4@jhmi.edu

#### 2017 Highlights

- Prepare AONN+ members for abstract development and poster presentations at the 2017 Annual Conference
- Launched abstract and journal publishing resource work group
- Mentored navigators with quality improvement, outcomes, and research

#### 2018 Goals

- Seek committee members and nurse navigator co-chair
- Develop process to connect experts with members wanting quality improvement/research help
- Start mentorship program matching experts with members requesting help
- Develop webinars related to quality improvement/research



## ADVANCING THE NAVIGATION PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Abstract Review Subcommittee

**Purpose:** Objectively review AONN+ member abstracts and provide feedback for revision, with the greater goal of building momentum and evidence around navigation.

**Co-Chairs:** Elaine Sein, RN, BSN  
EMS1409@aol.com

Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN  
DJohnston@the-lynx-group.com

#### 2017 Highlights

- Revised language on website to include: purpose, submission requirements, and links to examples of accepted and rejected abstracts
- Changed submission to word count rather than character count
- Expanded the domains for submission to mirror the certification domains

### Newsletter Committee

**Purpose:** Produce a quarterly newsletter with a focus on providing concrete tools and resources for quality improvement, research, and metric development that dovetails with the domains of certification for both novice and seasoned navigators.

**Chair:** Cheryl Bellomo, MSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG  
Cheryl.Bellomo@imail.org

#### 2017 Highlights

- Published newsletter on the remaining four domains of certification
- Conducted a survey at the 2017 AONN+ Regional Meeting in Phoenix to collect ideas for keeping the momentum around evidence into practice
- Prepared to launch broader newsletters that will highlight each AONN+ committee for 2018

### Survivorship Committee

**Purpose:** Provide education and support regarding survivorship programs and sustainable metrics through sharing of best practices.

**Co-Chairs:** Jennifer R. Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA  
JKlemp@kumc.edu

Staci Oertle, RN, MSN, APN, AOCNP  
Oertle-Staci@cooperhealth.edu

#### 2017 Highlights

Worked to:

- Increase knowledge related to multidisciplinary cancer survivorship care and incorporating quality metrics into practice
- Identify appropriate healthcare use and program development with primary focus on survivors' quality of life—starting survivorship care from the time of diagnosis
- Identify essential components of survivorship care plan that are accurate, personalized, meaningful, and useful to the patient

### Technology and Innovation Committee

**Purpose:** Focus on the use of technology to capture data/metrics for evaluation, improve quality in navigation, and provide patient education and navigator resources.

**Co-Chairs:** Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH  
FleisherL@email.chop.edu

Michael Zincone  
Michael.Zincone@pfizer.com

#### 2017 Highlights

- Collaborated with other committees to help with various technology needs and gaps
- Worked with the Metrics Subcommittee on building the metrics repository
- Worked with the Survivorship Committee to develop online resources

#### 2018 Goals

- Create awareness for the resources that exist to support navigators in their day-to-day work
- Partner with other organizations to identify innovative ideas that help navigators advance patient care
- Conduct a survey to determine the technology and training priorities of AONN+ members
- Grow committee membership

## ADVANCING THE NAVIGATION PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

### *Introducing Three New Opportunities to Get Involved with AONN+ in 2018*

#### Clinical Trials Committee

**Purpose:** Provide education and support to navigators to promote clinical trials to their patients and institutions.

**Co-Chairs:** Lavinia Dobrea, MS, RN, OCN  
Lavinia.Dobrea@stjoe.org

Lucy Gansauer, MSN, RN, OCN, CCRP  
Gansauer@gibbscc.org

#### 2018 Goals

- Establish a committee: identify and select members
- Develop a gap analysis tool to identify navigator knowledge gap/education needs with clinical trials (via brief survey)
- Give the survey via the AONN+ website
- Evaluate navigator knowledge gap/education needs survey results
- Evaluate existing tools/resources (including pharma and private sector)
- Develop navigator tools:
  - How to talk to patients about clinical trials 101
  - How to engage your multidisciplinary team in clinical trial options
  - How to quickly assess a patient/identify a potential trial
- Identify navigator champions to:
  - Present these tools at AONN+ meetings
  - Hold workshops at AONN+ meetings
- Develop pre-/posteducation assessment tools
- Develop metrics
- Implement tools
- Implement talks at AONN+ meetings

#### Conference Planning Committee

**Purpose:** Provide relevant and high-value conference agendas and speakers that will enhance and develop members' professional growth and development.

**Co-Chairs:** Penny Daugherty, RN, MS, OCN, ONN-CG  
Penny.Daugherty@northside.com

Peg Rummel, RN, MHA, OCN, ONN-CG  
Margaret.Rummel@uphs.upenn.edu

#### 2017 Highlight

- Held first committee meeting in December 2017

#### 2018 Goals

- Identify Conference Planning Committee chairs and members
- Send a learning needs assessment to all AONN+ members to identify relevant topics for midyear and annual conferences that members identify as areas needing further professional growth and development and knowledge enhancement
- Review conference evaluations from both 2017 midyear and annual conferences
- Assess current trends and new therapies in oncology that translate to nurse and patient navigator practice
- Evaluate need for three tracks for conference: Clinical, Patient Navigator, and Administrator
- Develop midyear and annual conference agendas and speakers, which will be reviewed and approved through the AONN+ Leadership Council

#### Policy and Advocacy Committee

**Purpose:** Use legislative, regulatory, and policy advocacy to protect and promote the practice of oncology patient navigation in order to best serve individuals and families impacted by cancer.

**Chair:** Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW  
EFranklin@cancersupportcommunity.org

#### 2018 Goals

- Promote access to comprehensive, timely, affordable, and high-quality cancer care for all patients through public policy and grassroots advocacy
- Identify policy opportunities to advance the patient navigation profession
- Develop grassroots tools and encourage AONN+ members to engage in policy advocacy
- Work with allied organizations on policy issues of common interest

## A MEASURE OF SUCCESS – THE AONN+ METRICS INITIATIVE

*Following two years of hard work, the Evidence into Practice Metrics Subcommittee proudly presented 35 evidence-based national navigation metrics at the close of 2016. These metrics, which can be used by all programs in their navigation model, focus on three areas: patient experience, clinical outcomes, and return on investment.*

Throughout 2017, the Metrics Subcommittee focused much of its efforts on laying the groundwork for a multisite exploratory study that will assess the reliability and validity of 10 key metrics selected from the list of 35 developed by AONN+. These include: barriers to care; time from diagnosis to initial treatment; navigation caseload; number of navigated patients readmitted to the hospital at 30, 60, and 90 days; psychosocial distress screening; social support referrals; palliative care referrals; identifying patient learning-style preference; navigation knowledge at time of orientation; and patient experience/satisfaction with care.

Additionally, this study will help provide insight and understanding for the barriers and challenges that navigation programs encounter during the implementation of navigation metrics.

“By harnessing this powerful information, we will create best practices to elevate navigation services and garner industry support for advancing patient-centered care delivery,” explains AONN+’s Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, Chief

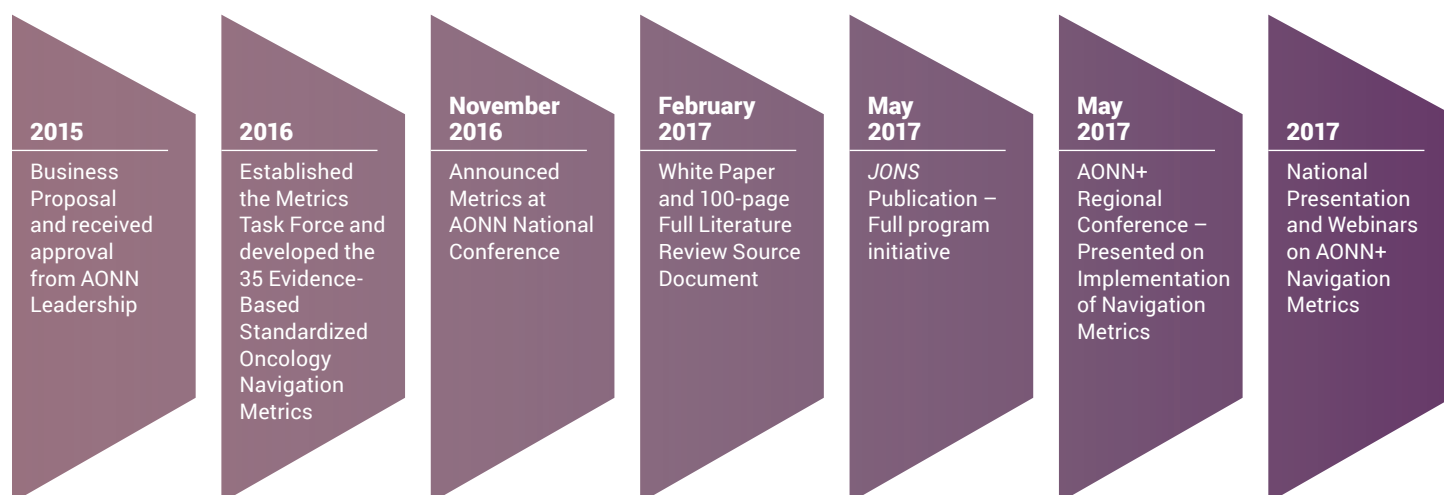
Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives.

“We look forward to collecting and reporting on this data as part of our continued efforts in building a strong, sustainable business case for navigation programs,” says Lillie Shockney, MAS, RN, BS, ONN-CG, Co-Founder and Program Director, AONN+.

The study, which launched early 2018, is a collaboration between AONN+, Chartis Oncology Solutions, and the American Cancer Society.

Participants will include two National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers or academic medical center providers, two Commission on Cancer-accredited community-based cancer programs, two medical oncology physician practices participating in the Oncology Care Model, and two maturing cancer programs that currently have no metrics or reports in place.

### Metrics Initiative Accomplishments to Date



“By harnessing this powerful information, we will create best practices to elevate navigation services and garner industry support for advancing patient-centered care delivery.”

—Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives

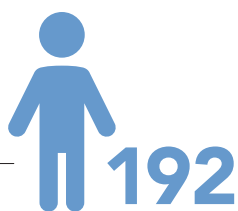
## RAISING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD – CERTIFICATION UPDATE

It's been two years since AONN+ first launched its certification exams for oncology nurse and patient navigators. In that time, the number of navigators seeking the professional validation that certification offers has grown steadily; this has led, in some cases, to new and exciting alliances for the Academy.

In 2017 we grew our certification portfolio to include our Certified Generalist Thoracic Certification, the first of several site-specific exams that we have planned. For the coming year, our Certification Task Force Chairs will be focused on obtaining National Commission for Certifying Agencies accreditation for both the Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified Generalist™ and Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified Generalist™ certification exams. This application process requires that the exams have been administered for one full year before being eligible to submit for accreditation. We hope to achieve accreditation by the close of 2018.



The demand for certification is growing among oncology navigators; as a result, AONN+ is seeing the number of people taking and passing these exams rise steadily each year.



Number of oncology nurse navigators certified to date\*



Number of oncology patient navigators certified to date\*



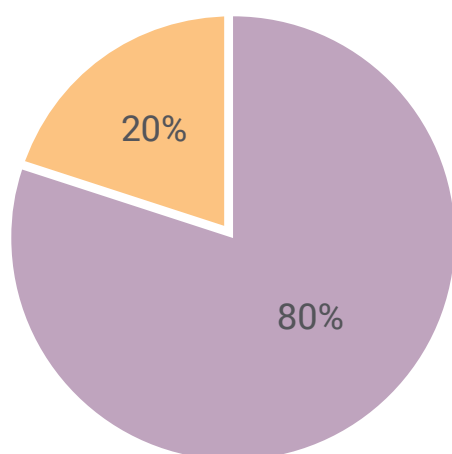
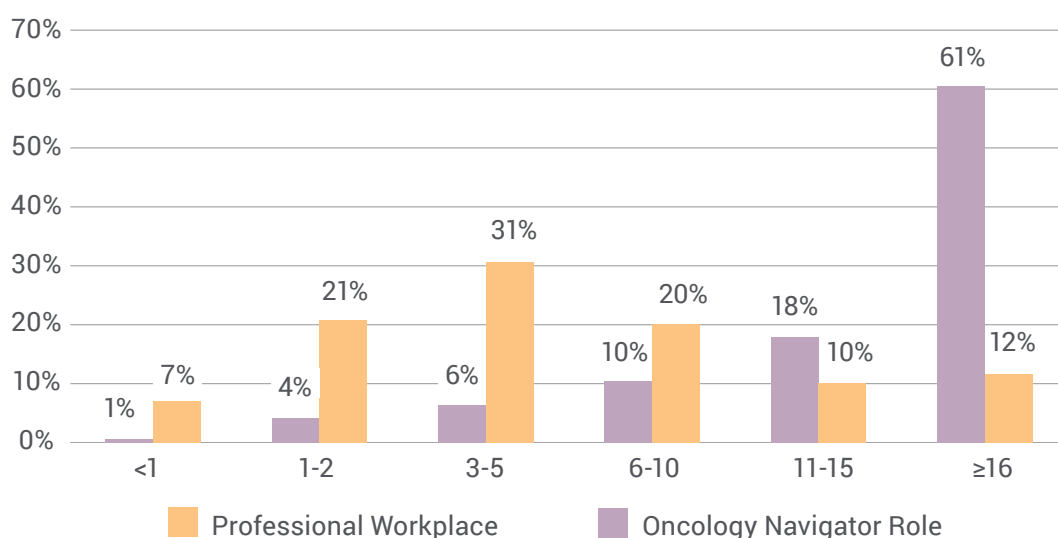
Number of oncology nurse navigators with thoracic certification\*

**\*Total number of navigators certified to date - 305**

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING – KEY RESULTS FROM THE 2017 MEMBER SURVEY

Each year, AONN+ surveys its members to understand the health of the Academy and the state of the profession. These data and member feedback provide AONN+ leadership with the tools it needs to develop growth strategies and goals for the coming year. Results of the annual member survey are shared with leadership and members at the annual meeting and are used to guide future initiatives.

**OVER  
60%**  
of Members  
Have More  
Than 16 Years of  
Clinical Experience.  
*However, the Majority  
Have Been Navigators  
for Less Than 5 Years.*



**80%**  
of Navigators Participate in  
Tumor Board Conferences



## 2017: A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

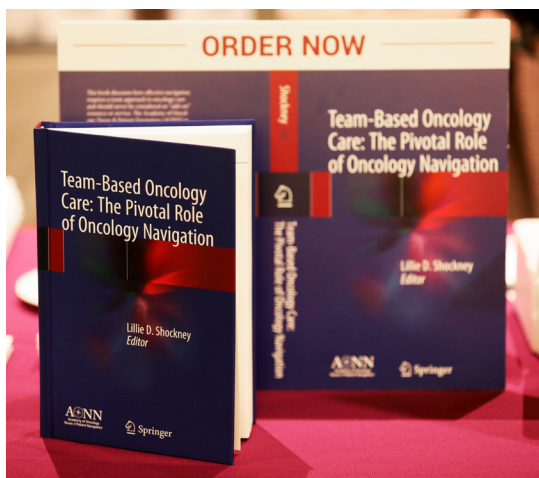


### Atlantic City Colorectal Cancer Survivor and Advocate Named 2017 Hero of Hope

Longtime Atlantic City singer and performer Melissa Marshall was named the 2017 Hero of Hope Award recipient during AONN+'s Annual Conference in Orlando. Diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2013, Marshall hasn't let her disease or subsequent treatment get in the way of her love of performing. In fact, she wowed the audience at this year's Annual Conference with her anthem, "No you Cant'cer," which she wrote in the early days of her diagnosis. Marshall also founded a nonprofit foundation by the same name, which raises funds to print and distribute her educational pamphlet, *It's in the Bag*. This is used to teach ostomy patients about life with these devices and helps to dispel the negative myths surrounding their use.

### Oncology Nurse Excellence Award Highlights the Bond Between a Patient and Her Nurse

Nominating Laura Mulderrig, BSN, RN, OCN, for the 2017 Oncology Nurse Excellence™ (ONE) Award was a no-brainer for Nancy Quinn, an ovarian cancer patient at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. "She cares so much about and for her patients and is never too busy to share a smile and her contagious optimistic attitude," says Quinn, who met Mulderrig on her first day of treatment. A nurse in the clinical research unit at Fox Chase, Mulderrig learned that she had been selected as this year's winner during AONN+'s Annual Conference in Orlando.



### AONN+ Prepares for Release of First Navigation Book

Navigators from across the Academy will realize the fruits of their labor when the book *Team-Based Oncology Care: The Pivotal Role of Oncology Navigation* hits the shelves in spring 2018. The product of a broad collaborative effort on the part of AONN+ navigators, the book is the only one designed to educate and support anyone developing a new navigation program, or wanting to improve one they have created. It offers a guide for cancer centers needing to develop and implement an oncology navigation program; understand and successfully meet and exceed the Commission on Cancer accreditation standards linked to navigation; expand or improve their current navigation program as well as demonstrate its value using reliable measurable results, including patient satisfaction and improved quality clinical outcomes. This comprehensive book also provides insights into applying the information presented to the real world of oncology care.

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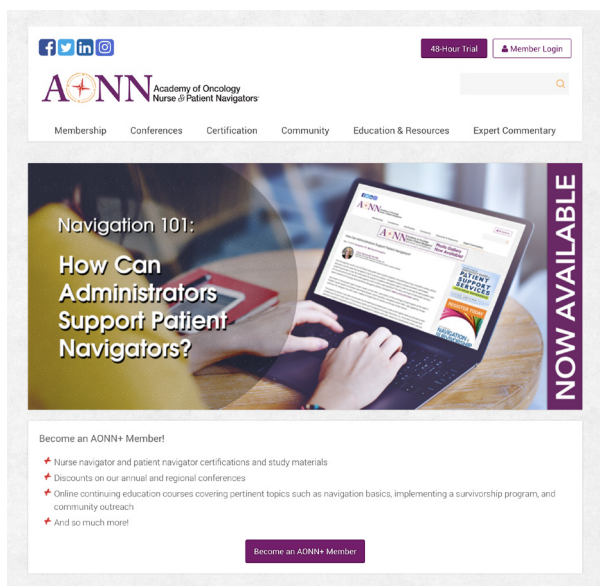


### Danelle Johnston Joins AONN+ in New Role

Longtime AONN+ supporter and Leadership Council member Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN, was named AONN+'s Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives in 2017. In this newly developed role, Johnston will be instrumental in supporting the activities of AONN+'s many committees, exploring and nurturing partnerships with other organizations in the clinical and oncology arenas, and providing key clinical and professional insight that will help AONN+ enhance its sponsorships and services.

### Longtime Member Recognized

AONN+ presented its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Elaine Sein, RN, BSN, during the 2017 Annual Conference in Orlando. The award recognizes Sein's work to advance both the Academy and the navigation profession.



### Award Recognizes AONN+ Website and Digital Team

AONN+'s website was selected by the 2017 Eddie & Ozzie Awards for an Honorable Mention in the category of Non-Profit Site Design. The Eddie & Ozzie Awards recognize excellence in magazine editorial and design across all sectors of the industry.

## HEADING THE CHARGE – AONN+ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



**Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, ONN-CG**

Co-Founder and Program Director, Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators; University Distinguished Professor of Breast Cancer; Administrative Director, The Johns Hopkins Breast Center; Director, Johns Hopkins Cancer Survivorship Programs, Departments of Surgery and Oncology; Professor, JHU School of Medicine, Departments of Surgery and Oncology; Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins Medicine's Managing Cancer at Work Program



**Ted A. James, MD, MHCM, FACS**

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Chief, Breast Surgical Oncology  
Co-Director, Linsey Breast Care Center  
Vice Chair, Academic Affairs  
Department of Surgery  
Boston, MA



**Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN**

Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives  
The Lynx Group  
Cranbury, NJ



**Jennifer R. Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA**

Founder/CEO, Cancer Survivorship Training, Inc.  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Clinical Oncology  
Director, Cancer Survivorship  
Co-Program Leader Cancer Prevention and Survivorship  
The University of Kansas Cancer Center  
Kansas City, KS



**Lynne Padgett, PhD**

American Cancer Society, Inc.  
Strategic Director, Hospital Systems  
Atlanta, GA



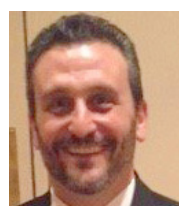
**Pam Ryan, RN, BSN**

Ochsner Manager  
Neuroendocrine Tumor Program/Infusion Center  
Kenner, LA



**Elaine Sein, RN, BSN**

Fox Chase Cancer Center (Retired)  
Retired Senior Project Manager  
Southampton, PA



**Michael Zincone**

Pfizer Oncology  
Strategic Alliances  
Glenmoore, PA



**Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH**

Founder, Native American Cancer Research Corporation  
President, Native American Cancer Initiatives, Incorporated  
Pine, CO



**Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH**

Senior Scientist, The Center for Injury Research and Prevention  
Adjunct Associate Research Professor, Cancer Prevention & Control  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Philadelphia, PA



**Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW**

Senior Director, Policy & Advocacy  
Cancer Support Community  
Washington, DC



**Sharon S. Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, AOCN, ONN-CG**

Breast Nurse Navigator  
Novant Health  
Derrick L. Davis Cancer Center  
Winston-Salem, NC



**Elizabeth Glidden**

Patient Navigator  
George Washington University  
South Atlantic Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.  
Washington, DC



**Pam Goetz, BA, OPN-CG**

Oncology Survivorship Coordinator/Navigator  
Johns Hopkins Medicine  
Sibley Memorial Hospital  
Washington, DC



## AONN+ BY THE NUMBERS

### Committed to Financial Stewardship

AONN+ values the trust of its sponsors, partners, and members, and works diligently to ensure that all resources and funds are managed responsibly and in a way that will directly benefit members and the navigation profession at large.

Annual revenues—which are comprised largely of membership dues and sponsorships—allow AONN+ to develop educational materials and programming, build networks, and generate new knowledge and tools that navigators at all stages of their career need to grow professionally. A percentage of these revenues also sustain the infrastructure necessary to support AONN+'s robust offerings.

At all times, AONN+ strives to demonstrate the highest standard of accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency in its day-to-day operations.

### A Venue for Knowledge and Engagement

AONN+ provides its corporate partners with a host of platforms through which they can engage and share new knowledge with oncology professionals and patients. These include:

- Qualitative and quantitative market research, including advisory boards, surveys, and focus groups
- Live events, including local meetings and webinars (either branded or unbranded), as well as annual and regional conferences with multiple sponsorship opportunities
- Steering committee, focus group, and advisory board management services (either single- or multistakeholder)
- On-demand resources, including web presentations and materials, and downloadable resources
- Marketing support through custom or repurposed patient education materials and unbranded nursing resources, as well as branded custom communications and non-clinical monographs

### 2017 Financial Overview

In 2017, AONN+ paired an effective financial management strategy with revenues from members and sponsors to grow its program portfolio. Annual revenues were increased by 6.4% in 2017, and AONN+ finished the year with 6 months of expenditures in reserve. The ratio of current assets (\$2,657,448) to current liabilities (\$1,114,734) is 2.38, up from 1.42 last year.

AONN+ anticipates that the Academy will continue on this upward trajectory as the demand for navigators increases and the need for professional and educational resources grows.

#### OPERATING REVENUE 2017

Corporate Sponsorships/Memberships	\$2,203,155
Conference Revenue/Registrations	\$1,332,543
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,535,698</b>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES 2017

Conferences/Meetings/Travel	\$1,314,638
Registration Processing Fees	\$29,775
Honoraria	\$165,700
Marketing Services	\$800,000
General & Administrative	\$150,491
Computer Services	\$16,158
Office Supplies	\$25,180
Printing & Copying	\$21,125
Bank Charges	\$24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,523,091</b>

#### OPERATING PROFIT

Operating Profit	\$1,012,607
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# Thank You to Our Corporate

## Corporate Sponsors



# Sponsors and Exhibitors

## Industry Relations Council Members



## AONN+ PUBLICATIONS

Among the many benefits of AONN+ membership is access to the Academy's vast publication library. This wealth of printed and digital resources exists to serve members' varied needs—from enhancing their own knowledge base to providing valuable information and resources to help patients navigate through their cancer experience.

### Our Publication Library Includes:

The **Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship® (JONS)** features original research, best practices, case reports, and expert interviews that empower oncology nurses and patient navigators with the knowledge they need on the job. JONS also serves as a platform through which these professionals can share new knowledge and ideas. In addition to the print and online versions, highlights from the latest issue are e-mailed to AONN+ members twice a month. JONS is circulated to more than 6,000 members. [www.JONS-online.com](http://www.JONS-online.com)

**CONQUER®: the patient voice** features articles written by and for patients with cancer, survivors, nurse navigators, and other oncology team members. CONQUER addresses the issues that patients, their family members, and caregivers face every day. Content includes human interest stories, information on access to care and lifestyle topics (nutrition, stress management, personal finance, and legal/employer issues). CONQUER is circulated to 137,500+. [www.conquer-magazine.com](http://www.conquer-magazine.com)

The **Oncology Nurse-APN/PA® (TON)** features articles written by and for oncology nurses, and specifically addresses the issues nurses and their colleagues face every day in clinical practice. Content includes news on the latest research findings, results of large clinical trials, interviews with thought leaders, articles of interest to student nurses, and lifestyle features (nutrition, stress management, personal finance, and communication/time management skills). Each issue offers a continuing education activity that readers can complete to earn free continuing education credits through industry partners. TON is circulated to more than 21,000 oncology nurses. [www.TheOncologyNurse.com](http://www.TheOncologyNurse.com)

