



2019 AONN+ ANNUAL REPORT • www.AONNOnline.org

ADVANCING ONCOLOGY NAVIGATION AND CARE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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AONN+ VISION & MISSION

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Our Vision:

"The vision of the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is to achieve patient-centered superior quality cancer care coordination through effective navigation from pre-diagnosis through survivorship/end of life."

Our Mission:

The mission of the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is to advance the role of patient navigation in cancer care across the care continuum by providing a network for collaboration, leadership, and development of best practices for the improvement of patient access to care, evidence-based cancer treatment, and quality of life.



AONN+ GOALS FOR 2019

Recognizing that milestone anniversaries don't happen every year, we decided to set a high bar for ourselves in 2019. We're pleased to share that with tremendous teamwork, and significant investments in time and resources, we were able to accomplish the following:

Actively pursue National Accreditation for Certification (a goal we expect to realize in 2020)

Make progress toward establishing navigation certification as a core component of accredited cancer programs

Continue to build and foster healthcare system and alliance partnerships

Complete the "National Evidence-Based Oncology Navigation Metrics: Multisite Exploratory Study to Demonstrate Value and Sustainability of Navigation Programs"

Expand Local Navigator Networks

Grow AONN+ membership by 15% year over year

Enhance marketing of the Midyear and National Meetings

Increase Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) webinar offerings to membership (10 CEU webinars in 2019 vs 4 in 2018)

Webinar CEU Popularity



112*

How Patients Can Use
Advocacy and Policy to
Improve Cancer Care



115*

The Unique Needs of
Adolescent and Young
Oncology Patients



130*

The Role of the
Navigator in Fertility
Intervention



156*

Understand the
Foundations of Acuity
in Oncology Patient

*Total number of participants

LETTER FROM LILLIE

When I received my first breast cancer diagnosis all those years ago, I never dreamed that it would ultimately lead me down this remarkable path. But here we are, celebrating AONN+'s 10-year anniversary. To say that this has been an incredible experience would be an understatement. In just one extremely fast decade, we've grown from a rag-tag group of 100 oncology and patient navigators who simply wanted a means to "connect," to a global, professional powerhouse of nearly 8900 strong.

Over these past several years, we've not only supported and educated our members but systematically worked to build a much-needed framework for the profession that includes the development of navigation metrics, certification exams, and specialty publications. Additionally, our work to forge government and industry partnerships, and undertake groundbreaking research has served to advance navigation and change the way our patients receive care.

Now, as we prepare for the decade ahead, I am excited to share that effective January 1, 2020, I am handing the reins of AONN+ leadership over to my colleague and friend Sharon Gentry. A very familiar face among our organization's ranks, Sharon has worked with AONN+ since the beginning, serving as a member of our Leadership Council, a key member of the Metrics and Acuity Committee, a speaker at our conferences, co-chair of the Conference Planning Committee for many years, a key contributor to AONN+ literature, and a force behind our Local Navigator Networks.

She also brings to the table 40 years of clinical experience (evenly split between oncology nursing and patient navigation). Sharon started the first navigation program in North Carolina and understands the creativity it takes to build and sustain a novel enterprise.

Now, as AONN+'s full-time Program Director, Sharon will be leaning on this deep experience to take the organization to the next level. The AONN+ Leadership Council and I have every confidence in Sharon and know that she is deeply committed to serving the needs of our members and profession.

As for me, I'm looking forward to focusing my energies on AONN+'s visionary needs. I'll also continue to work on some specific initiatives such as serving as AONN+'s representative on national boards, while maintaining my responsibilities as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship* and medical reviewer for *CONQUER*, and other key literary works. And, of course, I'll still be responding to all WWLD questions that you send my way.

It has been incredible to be a part of this professional organization and to serve as your Program Director. Thank you for your support and for believing in the work that we are doing. I can't wait to see what we'll be celebrating in 2029!

Sincerely,



Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG
Co-Founder and Program Director
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators
University Distinguished Professor of Breast Cancer
Professor of Surgery, JHU School of Medicine
Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins Medicine's Work Stride:
Managing Cancer at Work Program



Sharon S. Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, AOCN, HON-ONN-CG
Breast Nurse Navigator
Novant Health
Derrick L. Davis Cancer Center
Winston-Salem, NC



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH

From our inception, AONN+ has been working to erect the broad infrastructure that will help ensure the long-term viability of the navigation profession, while enhancing patient care and continuing to improve outcomes. And while we've accomplished much over our first decade, there are 10 notable events that have moved our cause forward in large strides and defined us in the process.

Growing our membership

Ten years ago, the Academy kicked off its first annual conference with fewer than 100 navigators. Today, we are nearly 8900 members strong—and growing. In the past 5 years alone, our membership has almost doubled.

Nearing national accreditation

In 2016, the Academy launched its one-of-a-kind certification exams for oncology nurse and patient navigators. To date, more than 600 have earned their certification. And the AONN+ Certification Task Force expects the certification programs will receive national accreditation before the end of 2020.

Devising metrics and acuity initiatives

The conception and implementation of our metrics and acuity initiatives are significant steps toward eliminating barriers to care, exemplifying return on investment, creating benchmarks, and, ultimately, helping our members create and maintain an effective navigation program.

Collaborating with industry leaders

On a number of occasions, we've partnered with industry allies to create products and programs aimed at improving the patient experience and developing the role of the navigator. Among the most impactful results of those endeavors: the Patient Navigation and Cancer Care 2.0 Toolkit, created in collaboration with Pfizer Oncology; a standardized acuity tool, being created in collaboration with Astellas Pharma; the "National Evidence-Based Oncology Navigation Metrics: Multisite Exploratory Study to Demonstrate Value and Sustainability of Navigation Programs," with support from the American Cancer Society; and the Cancer Advocacy & Patient Education (CAPE) initiative, created in collaboration with Takeda Oncology, among others.



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH

Publishing our first scholarly book

Written in collaboration with the Academy's leadership and members, and edited by Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, our first scholarly book, *Team-Based Oncology Care: The Pivotal Role of Oncology Navigation*, published in 2018, provides practical insight for developing an oncology navigation program.

Positioning the Academy to be heard

The Academy's national appointments have helped define us as the voice of navigation and given us unprecedented opportunities to shape the cancer care continuum for the entire country. Our alliance and health system partnerships enable us to advance educational and professional development opportunities for oncology navigators and to positively impact patient care.

Joining the Commission on Cancer

In 2015, the Academy was the 53rd professional organization to become a member of the Commission on Cancer (CoC). Ms. Shockney serves as a CoC Fellow and plays a central role in furthering the discussion around oncology navigation and survivorship.

Developing Local Navigator Networks

The Academy proudly boasts 24 Local Navigator Networks, which provide oncology navigators with an accessible means to increase communication and education among local and regional peers, while improving patient outcomes and survivorship in the community.

Launching *JONS* and *CONQUER*

Since its launch in 2011, the circulation for the *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship* (*JONS*) has more than tripled and helped countless professionals as the only publication written by oncology navigators for oncology navigators. *CONQUER* magazine, 5 years after its first issue was published, has nearly 150,000 subscribers.

Forming the Leadership Council and national committees

The Leadership Council and committees have proven integral to furthering the Academy's reach and deepening its impact.



ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



AONN+ Assists Commission on Cancer in Standards Review

Over a 9-month period in 2019, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) reviewed each of its standards for clarity and variances in interpretation and measurement among other things. AONN+'s CoC Fellow, Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, participated in the process as a member of the Clinical Services Standards Revision Committee. According to Shockney, the cancer survivorship standard was the most scrutinized. Ultimately, the survivorship care plan and accompanying treatment summary were downgraded from a requirement to an option.

However, she shares that cancer centers will continue to be encouraged to:

- Assess the ways in which they can prepare their patients for short- and long-term survivorships
- Provide ongoing education for survivors about short- and long-term and late effects from treatments
- Inform survivors of newly discovered late effects from treatment
- Address fears of recurrences by teaching coping mechanisms and providing relative information
- Educate primary care physicians about the various aspects of cancer survivorship that should be incorporated into their daily practices

The revised nursing certification standard now stipulates that the certification must be accredited in order for it to be formally recognized by the CoC. The new and revised standards went into effect on January 1, 2020.

A second significant focus of the CoC in 2019 was the implementation of a set of standards that describe new surgical benchmarks. Performance will be measured through medical-record abstraction of operative and pathology reports.

The CoC also formed, in October, a mentorship committee, to which Shockney was appointed. The committee aims to pair senior and new fellows in an effort to aid their orientation to the organization and better determine how the new fellows can best serve the CoC, and vice versa. Ms. Shockney, who also sits on the CoC's Accreditation and Member Organization committees, was matched with the medical director of the National Cancer Institute, who, in preliminary conversations, has already expressed an interest in learning more about AONN+'s metrics and acuity initiatives.

ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

AONN+ Enjoys Active Year with National Navigation Roundtable

The National Navigation Roundtable (NNRT) held its third annual meeting on November 18-19, 2019, in Washington, DC. Formed in 2017, the NNRT is part of an effort to address some of the greatest challenges facing navigators and their patients.

Themed “Sustaining Navigation in an Era of Value-Driven Care,” the 2019 meeting featured presentations and in-depth panel discussions. It also showcased the accomplishments of the NNRT’s task groups. The NNRT is comprised of more than 50 healthcare professionals from across the country with expertise in oncology navigation. It’s been meeting monthly in person and online to focus on 3 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.

In September, the American Cancer Society’s journal, *Cancer*, published an article by the NNRT Workforce Development Task Group titled “Findings from the National Navigation Roundtable: A Call for Competency-Based Patient Navigation Training.” In it, the task group, which includes AONN+’s Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, AOCN, HON-ONN-CG, and Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, urges that training be based on standardized patient navigation core competencies.

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

These include:

- Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director (NNRT Steering Committee, Workforce Development Task Group)
- Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, AOCN, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Leadership Council (NNRT Steering Committee, Workforce Development Committee, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Tricia Strusowski, MSN, RN (Co-Chair, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, AONN+ Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives (Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH (Co-Chair, Workforce Development Task Group)
- Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, HON-OPN-CG (Co-Chair, Public Awareness Committee, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW (Policy Task Group)

Biden Cancer Initiative Suspends Operations but Work Continues

On July 11, 2019, just 2 years after its formation, the Biden Cancer Initiative (BCI) announced that it would suspend all operations. The news—while expected with former Vice President Biden’s decision to run for President—was nonetheless sad given the energy that the organization had brought to the cause and the work it had been doing to advance cancer care, particularly in the area of oncology navigation.

As a member of BCI’s Advisory Committee, Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, AONN+’s Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives, worked closely with others in the field to support the work and efforts of both organizations. In her role as chair of BCI’s Patient Navigation Working Group, Ms. Johnston and other members were focused on developing a plan to grow the number of patient navigation programs across the country.

With the July announcement, BCI charged its working groups to identify ways in which the work that was being developed could continue and to keep the momentum moving forward. In response, the Patient Navigation Working Group continued to collaborate to finalize an article titled “Roles, Responsibilities, and Functions of Oncology Navigators: A Scoping Review,” which is due to be published in 2020.

ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Shockney Continues Work with National Lung Cancer Screening Roundtable

The American Cancer Society launched the National Lung Cancer Screening Roundtable in 2018 with the aim of increasing screenings among high-risk populations. Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director, has participated in the roundtable from its inception. Currently, the members of the roundtable are developing a white paper that they intend to serve as an institutional guide for developing a state-of-the-art lung cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment program. The paper will address the following: lung nodule screening guidelines; mandated reporting and quality metrics; programmatic and business development for the purpose of securing implementation resources; and marketing and community outreach recommendations, with an emphasis on how to effectively communicate with high-risk populations. Ms. Shockney is charged with co-authoring a section on multidisciplinary care as it relates to such a program.

"AONN+'s collective resources help empower ACS' navigators with the education and skill sets 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 have access to this wealth of resources through our partnership with AONN+. This partnership supports 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."

Engaging Men with Metastatic Prostate Cancer in Their Treatment

As AONN+'s representative on Us TOO, Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director, is working to develop methods to better engage men with metastatic prostate cancer in their treatment. Established in 1990, the nonprofit was founded by, and continues to be governed by, people directly affected by prostate cancer. Its mission is to better position men and their spouses and partners to make informed decisions about prostate cancer detection and their treatment options. Ms. Shockney participates in a task force that's been charged with creating a comprehensive overview of the shared decision-making process as it relates to those treatment options. The first component of that endeavor is a website that introduces users to each member of the multidisciplinary treatment team. In addition to describing their roles, users are also given the option to build their own treatment team. The site is expected to launch in 2020.

ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Identifying the Barriers in Patient–Provider Communications

In November, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) embarked on a project that seeks to highlight effective strategies in patient–provider communication, particularly through shared decision-making. Shared decision-making is defined as a collaboration between patients and their clinicians to reach agreement about a health decision involving multiple medically appropriate treatment options. This collaboration requires effective communication between providers and patients.

A steering committee, to which Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director, was appointed as a partner organization representative, is exploring shared decision-making in relation to specific patient populations, such as those with metastatic disease, low literacy, and advanced old age, in which principles for effective communication differ vastly.

With this project, the ACCC seeks to:

- Identify barriers and best practices in shared decision-making
- Improve the patient experience, access to care, shared decision-making
- Provide ACCC membership with models and tools to use to enhance shared decision-making across their programs and practices
- Create a reference that can be used to support effective design and implementation of programs employing techniques to increase the use of shared decision-making with patients

"To date, I have attended 5 annual AONN+ conferences. Each conference has inspired me to continue with my role as a navigator. The knowledge that is shared and the contacts that I made allow me to be a better navigator."
- Naja Wilson, BSN, Nurse Navigator

CDC Grant to Help Increase Access to Credible Breast Cancer Information

In October, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded a \$1.8-million grant to Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated to women, men, and families facing hereditary cancer. Together with Susan G. Komen and the University of South Florida, FORCE will work closely with AONN+ and the National Society of Genetic Counselors to develop continuing education workshops to increase healthcare providers' understanding in 2 areas: topics that are important to breast cancer patients and survivors, and the complex digital landscape and cultural context in which patients receive health information.

Said Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, AONN+'s Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives, "This collaboration will assist in providing training and education for oncology navigators and community health workers to empower this population in treatment choices and care support in order to improve personal health outcomes."

ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Bringing the Navigation Perspective to Advocacy Discussions

In the year since joining the Cancer Leadership Council in 2018, AONN+’s been working with advocacy organizations, professional societies, and research groups to bring the navigation perspective to advocacy discussions. Much of this work is being done by AONN+’s Policy and Advocacy Committee, which is chaired by Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW, Executive Director of the Cancer Policy Institute at the Cancer Support Community.

In addition to its work to promote access to comprehensive, timely, affordable, and high-quality cancer care; identify opportunities to advance the patient navigation profession; and develop grassroots tools to encourage AONN+ members to engage in public advocacy, the committee collaborated with allied organizations on key policy issues. This included signing the following letters:

- September 24, 2019 – Letter to President Trump in support of removing barriers to colorectal cancer screening
- September 27, 2019 – Letter to CMS expressing concern over the possible return of access barriers to timely testing
- December 2019 – Response to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation commending the potential Oncology Care First Model but expressing concerns regarding guidelines for patient navigation

“There are so many resources that I would not have known existed without coming to this conference. My boss has already said the information me and my co-worker have brought back has been such a great return on investment for her and our program.”

- Shayla Shuck, BSN, RN, Breast Cancer Nurse Navigator



AMPLIFYING AONN+'S MISSION THROUGH ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS



Partnership with American Cancer Society Leads to Extensive Collaboration

Now entering its third year, AONN+'s National Alliance Partnership with the American Cancer Society (ACS) has resulted in some tremendous collaborations between the two organizations. In addition to producing a joint webinar, ACS members participated as conference faculty, hosted a preconference workshop that provided coaching in patient engagement and activation, and contributed to several *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship (JONS)* articles on the topic of patient navigation. Larger projects on which AONN+ and ACS partnered included the National Metrics Study, development of the Metrics toolkit, and collaboration on the ACS Merck grant objective to support and guide navigator network implementation.



SARAH CANNON
The Cancer Institute of HCA

AONN+ and Sarah Cannon Formalize Long-Standing Relationship

Since 2015, AONN+ and Sarah Cannon have been united in the mutual desire to accelerate the growth and development of oncology navigation. The 2 organizations formalized the relationship this year with the establishment of a 2-year National Healthcare System Alliance Partnership. Under this agreement, AONN+ will provide Sarah Cannon oncology navigators with access to all member resources, including the professional certification exams when requirements are met. For its part, Sarah Cannon will continue to lend valuable support to AONN+ as it works to grow its Local Navigator Networks; it is also making editorial contributions to a new department in AONN+'s *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship (JONS)*.

Additionally, Sarah Cannon is now supporting AONN+ membership by offering navigation-specific continuing education unit content in *JONS*, through AONN+ webinars, and at conferences. A strong example of this was its preconference workshop titled "Implementing and Demonstrating Value in an Oncology Navigation Program," which select Sarah Cannon representatives gave at AONN+'s Ninth Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference.

"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."

AMPLIFYING AONN+'S MISSION THROUGH ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS



AONN+ and Masonic Cancer Alliance Work to Expand Navigation Networks

Since becoming an Alliance Partner in 2018, Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA)—the outreach network of The University of Kansas Cancer Center—has worked with AONN+ to enhance the skills of MCA-member oncology nurse navigators.

In 2019, the organizations worked together to establish a virtual Local Navigator Network that would provide oncology and patient navigators with the ability to connect and meet with their professional peers remotely. Additionally, AONN+ and MCA collaborated to develop and present 3 CEU-accredited webinars.

"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, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives.



Partnership with Ulman Foundation Aims to Elevate Understanding for the Needs of Adolescent and Young Adults

For the past 17 years, the Ulman Foundation has operated a distinct adolescent and young adult (AYA) navigation program. Working in conjunction with the medical care teams at institutions and within the community, Ulman navigators provide a holistic approach to patient care, addressing the various needs of young adults who face a cancer diagnosis, treatment, and life with cancer.

Now, as AONN+'s newest Alliance Partner, Ulman will be able to create a deeper understanding for the unique psychosocial and emotional barriers to care that AYA patients experience. "Together, our alliance will elevate the practice of AONN+'s 8900-person membership," says Christina Miller, LCPC, OPN-CG, Ulman's AYA Navigation Director.

"I have known the Ulman Foundation since its inception and have always been impressed with its dedication to young people battling cancer," says Lillie D. Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director. "It is a privilege to form a partnership with them in this way so we can work together to further support the navigation needs of this special cancer patient population."

AONN+'S GROWING NAVIGATOR COMMUNITY NETWORK

A decade since its founding, AONN+ has grown to nearly 8900 members strong. This collective group of industry and stakeholder advocates and nonindustry navigators are united under a common goal: to enhance patient care and outcomes through the advancement and growth of the navigation profession.

As the Academy looks forward to 2020, it will be employing the following tactics to achieve its goal of a 15% increase in overall membership:

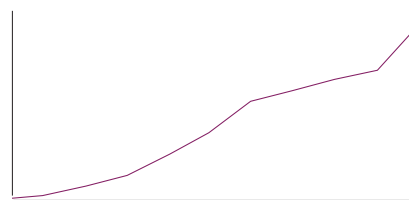
- Focused campaigns for Southwest administrators and nonclinically licensed patient navigators
- Focus on growth in the Western Region of the United States
- Local Navigator Network membership campaign
- AONN+ membership and conference recruitment
- Ad in Oncology Nursing Society conference guide
- AONN+ Ambassador Program
- Midyear "Bring a Colleague" promotion

2019 AONN+ Membership:



8,900

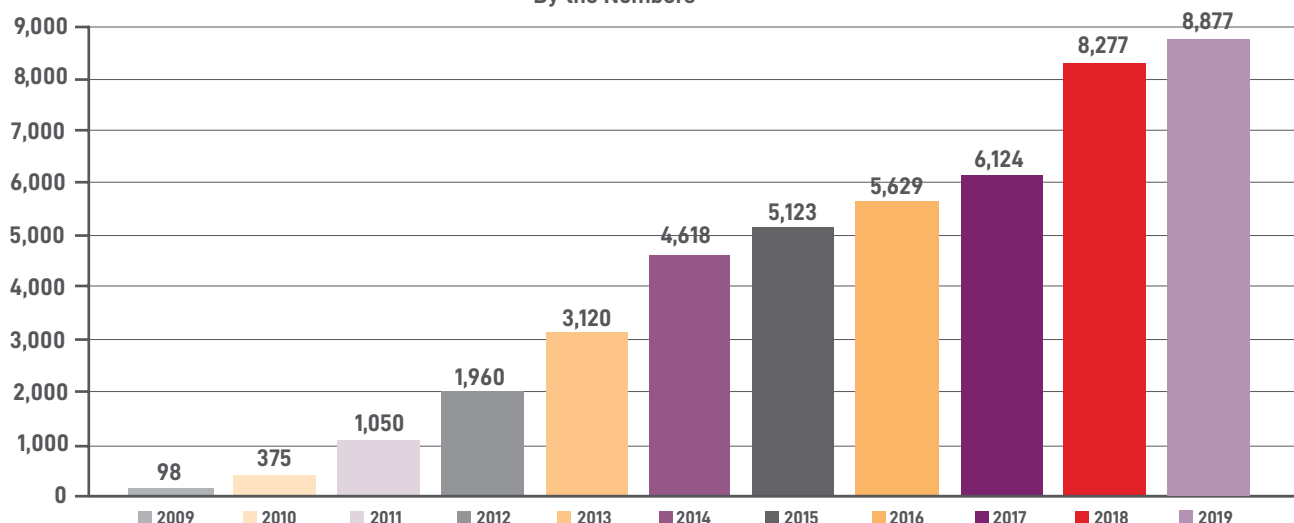
Year-Over-Year Growth Goal:



15%

Year-Over-Year AONN+ Community Network Members

By the Numbers



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Music City, USA" provided the perfect setting for AONN+'s 10th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Meeting and anniversary celebration. This year, more than 1100 attendees made the trip to Nashville to take part in several days of education, networking, and fun.

Preconference Workshops a Popular Offering

Building on the success of last year, AONN+ once again offered its members the option to participate in a series of preconference workshops. Designed to provide attendees with dedicated time to work on enhancing their skills, these workshops were taught by AONN+ faculty and representatives from partner organizations. Topics included financial navigation, patient engagement/activation, innovations in an oncology navigation program, and understanding the Commission on Cancer.



400

the Number of Attendees
at AONN+'s Midyear
Conference in San Diego



1100

the Number of Attendees
at AONN+'s Annual
Conference in Nashville



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A Promise Made, A Promise Kept: The Inspiring Story of Nancy Brinker

When Nancy Brinker's sister, Susan, was dying, she made a promise to her that she would do everything to end breast cancer. Today, Susan G. Komen® is a global powerhouse in the area of breast cancer. Since its launch by Brinker in 1982, the organization has funded more than \$988 million in research, more than \$2.2 billion in education, screening, and treatment, and serves millions in over 60 countries worldwide.

During her keynote presentation at AONN+'s 10th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference, Brinker talked about the journey that led to Susan G. Komen and recently the Promise Fund of Florida, which provides grants to community-based entities that help women who need screening or treatment for breast or cervical cancers.

A dynamic, passionate, and relatable speaker, Brinker shared how her desire to be an activist had been nurtured by her mother throughout her childhood in the postwar years in the Midwest. And she wove in bits of wisdom about gender, aging, and history that delighted and further engaged her audience. Following her presentation, Brinker joined Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+ Co-Founder and Past Program Director, for further on-stage discussion about her lifelong work as a cancer advocate.



"Being with a group of professionals that 'get it' and know exactly what patient navigation encompasses is powerful. It's very evident that the AONN+ leadership cares very much and worked so hard on everything!"
- Debbie Dilley, Patient Navigator

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Celebrating New Knowledge and Hard Work

The idea of conducting and publishing research is a very new concept for many nurse and patient navigators. At AONN+ we are working with our members to overcome their apprehension by creating a nurturing environment in which they can learn about the process and make mistakes safely.

A total of 89 abstracts were submitted for consideration in 2019 and 77 were accepted. From these, the following winners were selected:



**Abstracts were submitted
for consideration in 2019**



**Abstracts were
accepted.**



**Winners were
selected.**

Category I Winner: "Navigation Driven Lung Cancer Screening Program"

Author: Shawn Perkins, BSN, RN, OCN

Category II Winner: "The Thoracic Oncology Nurse Navigator and Using a Multidisciplinary Approach to Improve Timeliness of Care of Lung Cancer Patients in a Community Medical Center"

Author: Kammi Fox-Kay, MSN, RN, AOCNS

Category III Winner: "Patient Roundtable for Experience Improvement"

Author: Kay Hankins, RN

Category IV Winner: "Steps Through OC: Early Findings from a National Pilot to Deliver Virtual, Individualized Psychosocial Support to Ovarian Cancer Survivors and Caregivers"

Author: Marina Baroff, MPH, FACHE

Category V Winner: "Utilizing Volunteer, Non-Clinical Navigators (NCN) as Extenders of the Breast Nurse Navigator (BNN) to Provide Patient Education and Support"

Author: Debra Mascarenhas, RN, BSN, BSBA, CBCN

Category VI Winner: "National Evidence-Based Oncology Navigation Metrics: Multisite Exploratory Study to Demonstrate Value and Sustainability of Navigation Programs"

Author: Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN

Category VII Winner: "Nurse Navigators - Leading the Way in Education: Development & Implementation of a Cancer Program for Support Staff"

Author: Margaret Rummel, RN, MHA, OCN, NE-BC, HON-ONN-CG

Category VIII Winner: "High-Tech Navigation: Utilizing Digital Platforms and Developing Content in Survivorship Navigation Program"

Author: Katie Narvarte, LMSW, OSW-C, OPN-CG

LOCAL NAVIGATOR NETWORKS

Expanding Our Reach

AONN+ understands that its Local Navigator Networks (LNNs) are critical to the advancement of the profession. By bringing local and regional navigators together, these LNNs facilitate communication and education among peers, while improving patient outcomes and survivorship. In 2019, AONN+ added 6 new LNNs (a 22% increase), bringing our total number of LNNs to 29.

This year, AONN+ also took steps to further support the growth of existing LNNs. Procedures, rules, and terms were developed to guide the establishment of individual LNN Facebook pages. Additionally, quarterly "topics for discussion" or "news briefs" that compile the current AONN+ updates were sent to LNN leaders in a newsletter form after Leadership Council meetings. These help to keep LNN leaders and their members up to date on AONN+ information.

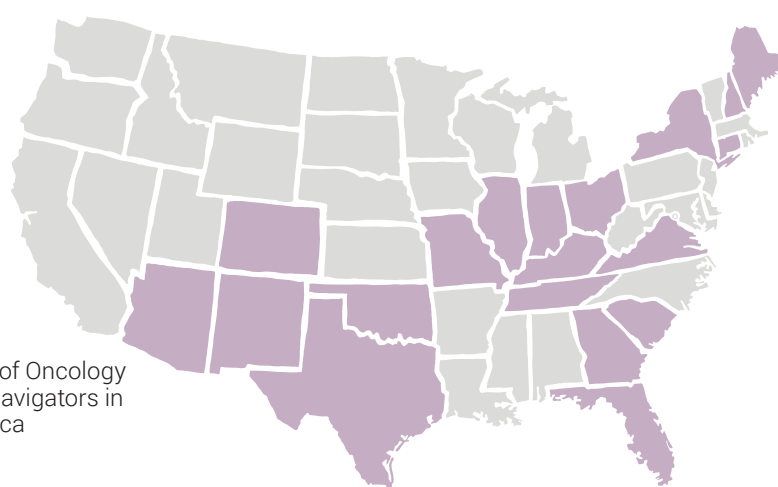
Arizona
Colorado
Connecticut
Florida
Georgia
Indiana
Maine
Missouri
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Carolina

Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
International

*Additional locations and virtual options available



Network of Oncology Patient Navigators in West Africa



LNNs that joined AONN+ in 2019 include:

- *Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia*
- *Cancer Patient Navigators of Ghana*
- *Fairfield County Patient Navigators*
- *Long Island Navigator Network*
- *North Carolina Piedmont Triad*
- *Virtual Midwest Navigation Network*

Additionally, Nigeria LNN changed its name to Network of Oncology Patient Navigators in West Africa.

And the LNN Award of the Year Goes to...

One of AONN+'s longest-sustained LNNs, Upstate South Carolina, was a top contender for the 2019 LNN of the Year Award. This recognition is awarded to the LNN that works to establish an open forum for professional development and networking that aligns with the AONN+ national mission.

Throughout 2019, members of the Upstate South Carolina LNN collaborated to create a calendar that combined patient and caregiver support groups and activities from the 3 local hospitals and numerous local agencies into one convenient location. Additionally, the group aligned its Facebook with AONN+ this year and committed to share and network, thereby aligning with the pillars of navigation.

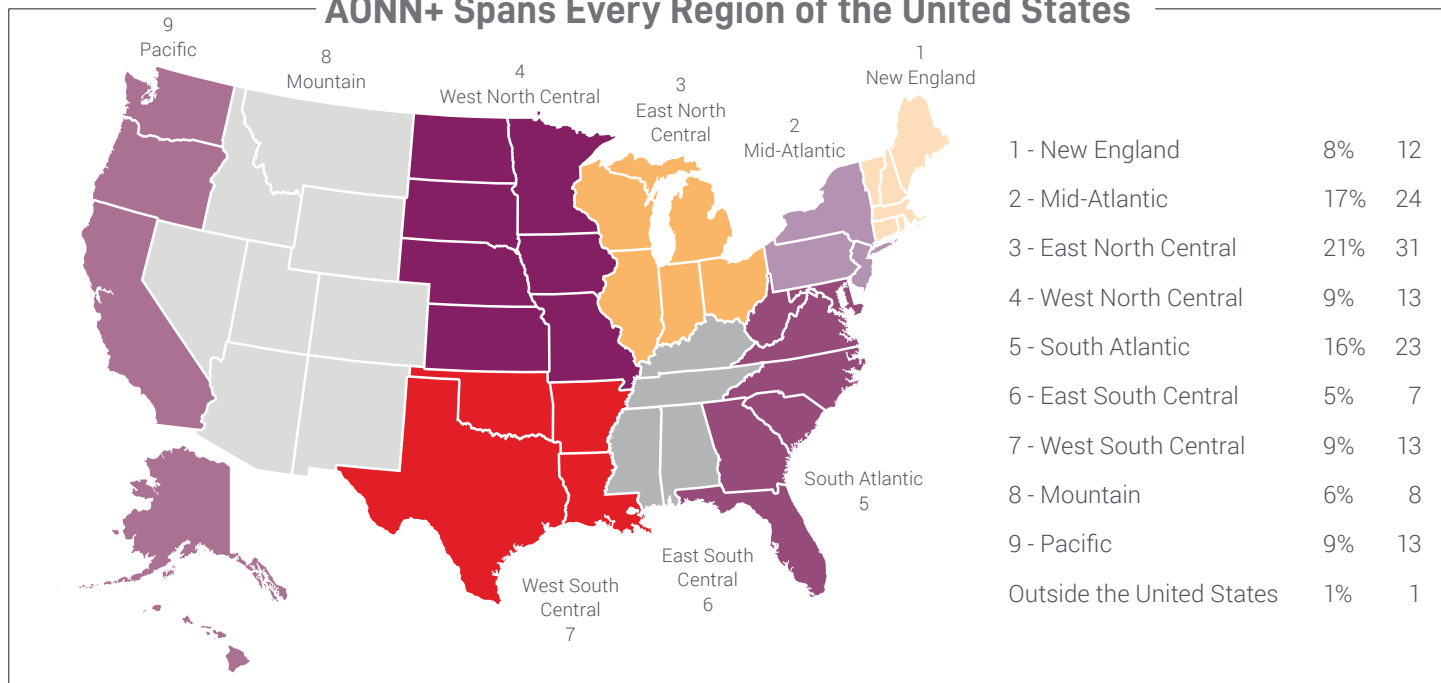
Upstate South Carolina's membership—which includes financial counselors, nurse and patient navigators, and nurse practitioners—participates in AONN+ committees, including research, survivorship, and navigation metrics. The group consistently has poster presentations and an on-stage presence at AONN+ annual conferences.

2019 MEMBER SURVEY—KEY TAKEAWAYS

What Our Members Are Saying – Key Results from the 2019 Member Survey

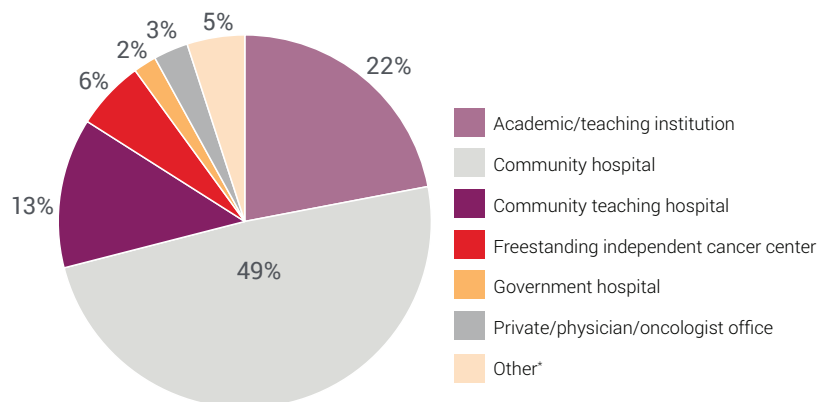
Data and member feedback collected through the annual member survey provides AONN+ with a clear understanding for the health and state of the profession. This information also helps AONN+ leadership develop growth strategies, goals, and initiatives for the coming year. Results of the annual survey are shared with leadership and members at the annual conference. In 2019, 145 AONN+ members participated in the annual survey.

AONN+ Spans Every Region of the United States



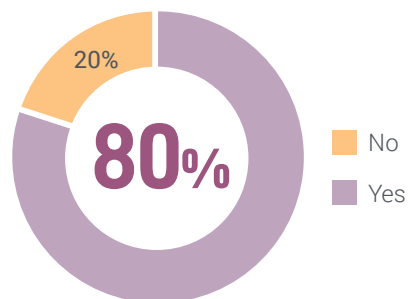
More than Half of AONN+'s Members Work in a Community Hospital Setting

Which of the following best describes your current primary practice or work environment setting?



*Primary Care, Health Maintenance Organization, Voluntary Health Organization (Nonprofit), Public Health Center, Life Science Organization

80% of Navigators Participate in Tumor Board Conferences for Treatment Planning Discussions



Based on meeting attendee and membership questionnaire responses. Solid Tumors Hematologic Malignancies Data on file with the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators.

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

AONN+’s committees are integral to advancing the Academy’s mission and success. This section of the report serves to highlight each committee’s prior year achievements and goals for the upcoming year.

Metrics Committee

Mission: 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

2019 Accomplishments

- JONS publication, “Navigation Metrics Committee Quality Initiatives,” outlining the accomplishments and best practice documents created by the Navigation Metrics team
- Committee members presenting best practices that support the AONN+ metrics
- Creating a navigation continuum of care algorithm/process map to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities for improvement
- Select Navigation Metrics team members who will be the reviewers for the Navigation Metrics Implementation Toolkit

2020 Goals

- Discussions/collaboration with payers regarding reimbursement for navigation programs by demonstrating return-on-investment metrics
- Demonstrate the importance of navigation programs utilizing evidence-based validated tools
- Process mapping and role delineation for different models of navigation
- Demonstrate how to use data to improve your navigation program
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees

Assistance for Quality and Research (AQUIRE/Mentorship) Committee

Mission: Provide mentorship support to AONN+ members in areas of quality, process improvement, metrics, and reporting.

Co-Chairs:

Patricia Johnson, BS, RN, OCN, CBCN
pjohnson@cvph.org

Natalie Fellers, BS
Natalie.Fellers@Northside.com

2019 Highlights

- Recruitment of new committee members
- Facilitated the webinar “Cancer Registrars Do More Than Just Run Numbers!” to better inform AONN+ members on the use of Registrars

2020 Goals

- Abstract development workshop to be presented at 2020 AONN+ Annual Conference
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees



ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

Abstract Review Committee

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

Co-Chairs:

Linda Bily, MA, CSA, OPN-CG

Linda.Bily@stonybrookmedicine.edu

Nicole Centers, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN, CN-BN

Nicole.Centers@SarahCannon.com

2019 Highlights

- Facilitated a webinar on how to grade abstracts prior to “Call for Abstracts”
- Paired all reviewers into mentor/mentee partnerships for abstract and poster reviews
- Created “Late-Breaking Abstracts” criteria and submission process
- Introduced separate rubric for poster winner criteria
- All abstracts that were rejected were reviewed and rescored by the committee chairs
- 89 abstracts submitted; 11 were “late-breaking”

2020 Goals

- Increase abstract submissions to 100+
- Maintain a robust committee of reviewers, including adding more patient navigators to the committee
- Continue to encourage poster authors to submit an article for publication
- Develop tips and tools to share with poster authors postconference to help them expand posters into a journal article

Newsletter Committee

Mission: 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

2019 Accomplishments

- Broader newsletters that will highlight each AONN+ committee (January 2019: *JONS* and website article featuring the AONN+ Survivorship Committee)
- *JONS* and website article featuring the AONN+ Abstract Committee Plan for Spring 2019 to coincide with Call for Abstracts
- *JONS* and website article featuring the AONN+ Metrics Committee

Survivorship Committee

Mission: Advance survivorship care throughout the continuum by providing resources and evidence-based education to oncology navigators.

Chair:

Nancy Corbitt, BSN, RN, OCN, CRNI

NCorbitt@umm.edu

2019 Accomplishments

- Published Survivorship Committee updates for *JONS*
- Developed multiple sessions with objectives for national conference, including sexuality, and partnered with Ulman Foundation for AYA session

2020 Goals

- Continue collaboration with Ulman Foundation
- Survey membership regarding survivorship needs in lieu of new CoC survivorship standards
- Move forward with best practice webinar for survivorship care
- Focus on LGBTQ survivorship care
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

Technology and Innovation Committee

Mission: 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, HON-OPN-CG
Linda.Fleisher@fccc.edu

Kathleen Gamblin, MSN
gamblika@gmail.com

Gena Middleton, MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS
gmiddleton@familycarepath.com

2019 Accomplishments

- Recruitment of new committee members
- Solicited 2 additional co-chairs for the committee as part of a succession process
- Developed questions related to technology and innovation for the National Membership survey
- Initiated a strategic approach for the committee and began survey data review

2020 Goals

- Work with AONN+ members and other committees to address obstacles the nurse navigator community faces in standardizing, collecting, and managing the data for the following metrics: patient experience, clinical outcomes, and return on investment
- Provide education and tools that assist navigators: identify opportunities to maximize the use of technical solutions; assess the capabilities and value of technology solutions supporting unique practice setting, patient population, and navigation program goals; advocate the value of technology supporting improved clinical efficiency and quality cancer care
- Foster sharing of innovative practices: support the use of technology for quality initiatives among AONN+ members; support the use of a broad range of technologies (e.g., telemedicine, AI); highlight navigators and practices that are using technology in innovative ways
- Engage technology vendors: ensure national navigation standards and the role of the navigator is incorporated into IT platform during development; identify technologies that offer technology platforms and advances that support the role of the navigator

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Mission: 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.

Co-Chairs:

Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW
EFranklin@cancersupportcommunity.org

Clara Lambert, BBA, OPN-CG
claral@tailormed.com

2019 Highlights

- Facilitated a webinar on Grassroots Advocacy 101
- Conference plenary presentation
- *JONS* article on Medicaid expansion and Advocacy Day participation
- Signed onto letters regarding:
 - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: Oncology Care First Model and Radiation Oncology Model
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Proposed rule to modernize Part D and Medicare Advantage, Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, Outpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule, and 14-Day Rule

2020 Goals

- Develop AONN+ legislative agenda
- Propose a reimbursement summit/meeting to AONN+ leadership
- Designate a committee member as a social media lead
- Regularly update the committee webpage with relevant information
- Write 6 blogs on policy issues
- Write 2 *JONS* articles
- Conduct at least 1 webinar

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – COMMITTEE UPDATES

Clinical Trials Committee

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

Chair:

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

2019 Highlights

- Publication in *JONS*, "Navigation's Impact on Clinical Trial Participation in Cancer Research: Barriers, Evidence, and Strategies"
- Networking with clinical trial organizations

2020 Goals

- Complete Clinical Trials Assessment Tool for Navigators
- Facilitate a preconference/conference workshop on clinical trials for fall 2020
- Recruit a committee co-chair
- Explore strategies so that navigators can gain awareness, knowledge, and participate in the clinical trial process
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees

Genetics and Genomics Committee

Mission: To empower and engage oncology nurses and patient navigators to play a role in linking patients and personalized medicine, with the ultimate goal of increasing access to genetic information for the purpose of shared decision-making.

Co-Chairs:

Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA
jen@jenklemp.com

Frank dela Rama, RN, MS, AOCNS, AGN-BC
fdelarama@gmail.com

2019 Highlights

- General session presentations at Midyear and Annual conferences
- Presented a joint AONN+/National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) webinar
- Committee members co-authored an article for *JONS*
- Initiated program development for the BRIDGE Program: Building Relationships in Developing Genetic/Genomic Education

2020 Goals

- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees
- Host preconference symposium on genetics/genomics at the 2020 Annual Virtual Conference
- Present at least 1 more joint AONN/NSGC webinar

Conference Planning Committee

Mission: 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

2019 Highlights

- Developed agenda for 2019 Midyear and Annual conferences
- Provided 2 preconference sessions at Midyear, and 4 preconference sessions at Annual conferences
- Highest attendance for a Midyear conference
- Record-breaking attendance of over 1000 attendees with uniformly excellent evaluations
- Wrote standard operating procedure for contacting speakers and outlining committee members' responsibilities
- Established goals and objectives for all sessions
- Changed format of conferences based on feedback from members

2020 Goals

- Initiate all topic submissions in an official, standardized online format via the AONN+ website
- Incorporate conference domains to foster certification and identify target audiences for each session
- Identify and integrate performance improvement emphasis
- Recruit new committee members
- Develop mentorship and format for committee leadership succession
- Provide educational sessions that are inclusive of all AONN+ members
- Utilize conference evaluations as conference essentials for future sessions
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees

AONN+ INITIATIVES

Working to BRIDGE the Genetics Gap

Disparities in genetic education led AONN+ to launch a new initiative called “Building Relationships in Delivering Genetic/ Genomic Education (BRIDGE).” Although still in development, the program aims to connect oncology nurse and patient navigators to cancer genetics/genomics professionals with the goal of ensuring that patients have access to the most current emerging technologies. It is co-chaired by Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA, CEO/Founder of Cancer Survivorship Training, Inc, and Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Clinical Oncology, Director of Cancer Survivorship, and Co-Program Leader for Cancer Prevention and Survivorship at the University of Kansas Cancer Center, and Frank dela Rama, RN, MS, AOCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Oncology/Genomics Cancer Care Nurse Navigator, Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

Education plays a key role in this effort and AONN+ plans to collaborate with its industry partners to disseminate information to providers, patients, and families. Additionally, AONN+ is in the process of securing funding for a preconference National Genetics and Genomics Symposium in November 2020. This is in response to a need for enhanced knowledge and competency—identified by AONN+ membership—and the integral role that somatic and germline testing plays in the management of individuals across the cancer continuum. AONN+ hopes that through BRIDGE, patients will experience an enhanced level of care and quality of life.

National Metrics Study Findings Released

Shifts in healthcare policy and funding over the past decade have put many navigation programs to the test as practitioners struggle to quantify the value of their services in terms of patient outcomes and their employer’s bottom line. In 2018, AONN+ launched a national, multisite study aimed at answering key navigation questions.

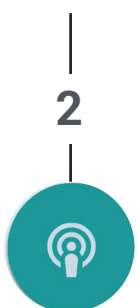
The study “National Evidence-Based Oncology Navigation Metrics: Multisite Exploratory Study to Demonstrate Value and Sustainability of Navigation Programs” was a collaboration between AONN+, The Chartis Group, Chartis Oncology Solutions, LLC, and the American Cancer Society. Its purpose was to evaluate the validity and reliability of 10 navigation metrics selected from a list of 35 evidence-based metrics developed by AONN+. The study also provided insight into the barriers and challenges that navigation programs encounter when implementing navigation metrics.

Core Navigation Metrics

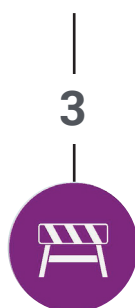
Proposed core metrics that are likely universally applicable:



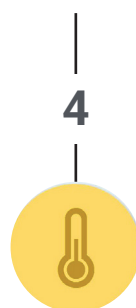
Navigator
Competencies



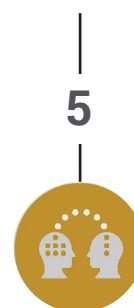
Navigation
Caseload



Barriers
to Care



Psychosocial
Distress
Screening



Interventions

AONN+ INITIATIVES

Study findings were compiled and released in 2019 and indicated the following:

- Of the 10 metrics, 5 were found to be core metrics that were applicable across sites: navigator competencies, navigation caseload, barriers to care, psychosocial distress screening, and social support referrals
- Involving navigators earlier in the care continuum had a positive effect on barrier assessment, diagnosis to treatment, and social support referrals
- Programs faced challenges with metrics implementation and struggled to define processes for data capture and reporting

AONN+'s next priorities include a collaboration with the American Cancer Society to develop a Navigation Metrics Implementation Toolkit using the study findings, and a collaboration between Astellas and AONN+ to develop, standardize, and validate an evidence-based, oncology acuity tool.

"Continued research and work around navigation metrics will be vitally important to ensure the sustainability of navigation programs," says Co-Principal Study Investigator Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AONN+'s Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives. "This includes training and messaging for navigators on the importance of tracking and reporting metrics, determining best practices for role of scope of metrics implementation, using and reporting on data, and placing oncology navigators in empowered positions."

Online Library for Lung Cancer Patients and Caregivers Nears Launch

Making sure that newly diagnosed patients get the answers and information they need in a timely and consistent manner is the goal of a new initiative being spearheaded by AONN+. The Cancer Advocacy & Patient Education (CAPE) initiative aims to create a web-based library of best practice information that providers in the lung cancer space can give to their patients and caregivers at each point of interaction. Although lung cancer is the initial focus of the initiative, other sites—gastrointestinal, head and neck, etc—will be added in the future.

To develop this library, AONN+ has partnered with Takeda Oncology—which is funding the initiative—and some of the country's leading patient advocacy organizations for lung cancer, including Addario Lung Cancer Foundation, Lung Cancer Alliance, LUNGevery, National Minority Quality Forum, Cancer Support Community, and Patient Advocate Foundation.

The committee overseeing CAPE, which consists of 3 AONN+ members and representatives from each of the advocacy groups, conducted an extensive literature review to identify the distinct domains on which this effort would focus; these include physical, psychological, social, and spiritual. The committee then developed 7 modules based on these domains that represent the most prominent areas of concern for oncology patients and their caregivers: physical well-being, self-care, understanding side effects, treatment-related side effects, palliative care, quality of life, mental and physical stress, and symptom alleviation.

At the 10th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference in November, 2 focus groups, comprised of 14 participants in all, provided CAPE developers with feedback on the practicality and functionality of the initiative prior to its official deployment. Also in preparation for the occasion, a white paper and scoping review article about the initiative were published.

According to project lead Cheryl Bellomo, MSN, RN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG, the CAPE program's web-based platform—which is being developed in partnership with HealthUnlocked—will ensure that navigators and healthcare providers can deliver a personalized digital prescription of curated, evidence-based, best-of-the-best resources to patients with lung cancer and their caregivers that is based on their physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs.

AONN+ INITIATIVES

Work on a Navigation-Specific Acuity Tool Continues

Since 2018, AONN+ has been collaborating with Astellas to develop, standardize, and validate an evidence-based, oncology acuity tool. When complete, this tool will help oncology navigators characterize the intensity of patient navigation workload, aid in the allocation of navigation resources, and measure the effectiveness of navigation on patient outcomes.

To identify existing evidence from a navigation standpoint, team members conducted an intensive literature review of oncology publications from the past 10 years using the following key search terms:

- Patient acuity
- Barriers to care
- Distress
- Acuity outcomes
- Patient navigation metrics

Of the 1711 search results, 199 full-text articles were reviewed, and 105 articles were identified for inclusion in the literature review. In their findings, published in *JONS* in July 2019, the team reported that of the articles reviewed, there is a:

- High level of variability and complexity in how acuity and its related factors are defined and determined
- Lack of consensus on the definition of acuity, and no standard categorization of barriers to care exist
- Lack of clearly established relationships between barriers to care and acuity and between distress and acuity
- Failure to provide sufficient support to demonstrate whether any of the AONN+ Standardized Metrics are patient acuity measures

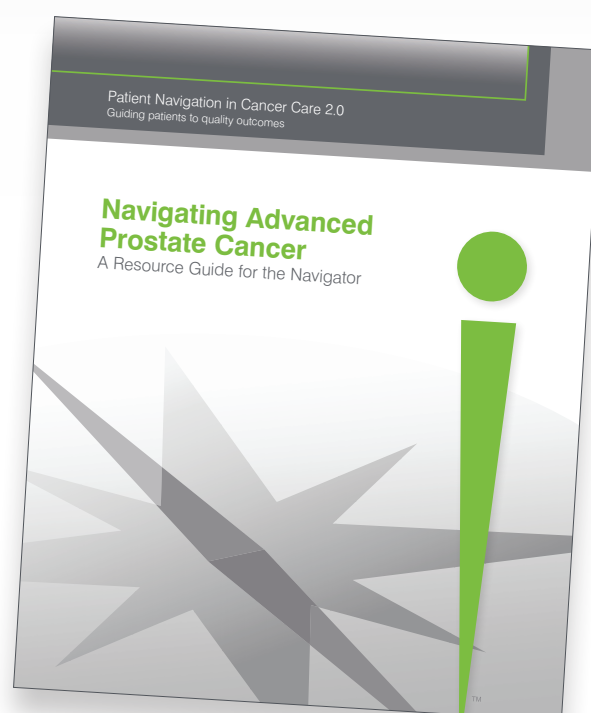
Based on these findings, the team has determined that there is a need for additional research to better understand how oncology navigation acuity is defined and determined. Further study is also required to evaluate how AONN+ Standardized Metrics perform as patient acuity measures.

In addition to its literature review, team members hosted focus groups at AONN+'s 2019 Midyear and Annual conferences to gain navigators' insights on the potential design and function of the acuity tool. They also wanted to take a closer look at common barrier categories and discuss possibilities for weighing specific barriers for acuity measurement.

AONN+ and Pfizer Collaborate on Prostate Cancer Toolkit

Once again, AONN+ and Pfizer have collaborated to develop educational content for nurse navigators, patient navigators, and other healthcare team members. The Prostate Cancer Toolkit builds on the popularity of the organizations' first 2 toolkits, providing materials to assist providers in the management of patients with advanced prostate cancer.

Using the Prostate Cancer Toolkit, nurse and patient navigators can address various key issues such as following survivors after their treatment, the continuing importance of early detection, and adherence to treatment in keeping with standards of care. This valuable resource was developed with the support of a dedicated Advisory Committee comprised of AONN+ leadership. The toolkit will be distributed by Pfizer through their sales and clinical educational team.



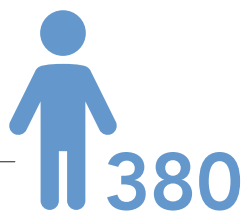
CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

Moving Closer to Accreditation

AONN+ is now one step closer to obtaining American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation for its ONN-CGSM and OPN-CGSM certification exams. In July 2019, AONN+'s Foundations for Learning, Inc. Certification Advisory Commission submitted the ANSI application and had an on-site audit in October. Now, the Commission is working to respond to ANSI feedback in hopes that the accreditation process will be completed by summer 2020. AONN+ certifications will be retroactively recognized upon ANSI accreditation approval.

Having ANSI accreditation will allow oncology navigation to be recognized as a professional specialty by national, regulatory, and community organizations; nursing peers and physicians; institutional leadership; and patients and their families. Additionally, it will help establish a baseline standard validation for oncology navigators centered on their roles, responsibilities, educational level of knowledge, and evidence-based best practices, that will help to ensure consistent delivery of optimized patient care across the care continuum.

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 Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM certified to date*



Number of Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM certified to date*



Number of Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified Generalist ThoracicSM certified to date*

***Total number of navigators certified to date - 647**

HONORS AND AWARDS



Expectant Mother Diagnosed with Cancer Named 2019 Hero of Hope

Kirsten Arbon, founder of the nonprofit KM3 Project, was named the 2019 Hero of Hope Patient Award recipient during AONN+'s 10th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference in Nashville.

Arbon was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer when she was 20 weeks pregnant with her son, the youngest of her 3 children. Following a year-long treatment protocol that included neoadjuvant chemotherapy during her pregnancy as well as surgery and radiation after she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Arbon realized she could not have done it without the love and support of the community around her.

"While the hand I was dealt was horrific it brought something to my attention, something quite beautiful: just how many people cared for me and my family," says Arbon. "I am now in a position to say thank you from the bottom of my heart but to also do unto others as was done to me."

With that in mind, in 2015 Arbon started the KM3 Project to fill the financial gap families face when a parent is diagnosed with cancer. With the mission statement, "Fighting cancer is rough; we're here to help," the KM3 Project raises money through community events and uses the money to directly pay bills so families can continue to function while a parent undergoes cancer treatment. In just 3 years, the KM3 Project was able to pay more than \$47,000 in bills for families, including mortgages, gas, prescription drugs, utility, and food bills.

The KM3 Project is a 90% Charity, meaning over 90% of funds raised go directly to pay patient bills. In 2019, the KM3 Project was also pleased to announce the addition of the KM3 Children's Fund to help support families who have a child who is battling cancer.

"A lot of people don't have the community support that I had when I was sick," says Arbon. "This is my way of paying it forward. We just want to help."

Recognizing Professional and Personal Excellence

The AONN+ Awards honor individuals and organizations for excellence in the field of oncology navigation, recognizing achievements in a variety of categories that tap into all aspects of the cancer care spectrum. Here are the winners of the 2019 AONN+ Awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, CBEC, HON-ONN-CG
Breast Nurse Navigator
Formerly Novant Health Derrick L. Davis Cancer Center
Winston-Salem, NC
Incoming AONN+ Program Director

Outstanding Local Navigator Network Award:

Upstate South Carolina

Ambassador Award:

Jo Maria Watson Weathers, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN
Oncology Multidisciplinary Center Supervisor for Navigation
Greenville Hospital System
Greenville, SC

Evidence into Practice Award:

Clara Lambert, BBA, OPN-CG
Oncology Financial Navigator
Bhorade Cancer Center Advocate
Good Samaritan Hospital
Downers Grove, IL

Organizational Recognition Award:

Masonic Cancer Alliance

Oncology Navigator Excellence Award:

Susie Ulloa, RN, OCN, ONN-CG
Breast Oncology Nurse Navigator
North Florida Regional Center powered by Sarah Cannon
Gainesville, FL

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Our Pledge for the Future

For the past decade, AONN+ has had one vision: to achieve patient-centered, superior-quality cancer care coordination through effective navigation from prediagnosis through survivorship/end of life.

Bringing this vision to reality, however, is no simple task. It is a significant undertaking that requires we first ensure the long-term viability of patient navigation. To do this, we are employing a dynamic, multipronged approach encompassing several key areas, including collaboration and networking, education and measurement, and research. This remains our focus as we look ahead to the next 10 years.

Collaboration and Networking

The Leadership Council will continue to collaborate with key navigation experts to help evolve the profession and our committees while advancing AONN+'s mission and vision. AONN+'s members will network with national initiatives to showcase the value of navigation.

Education and Measurement

AONN+ is committed to establishing the value of patient navigation amid a landscape where there are many variables in both the role and the program process. As such, the Academy and its Leadership Council have assumed the responsibility of answering many of the questions around competencies so that all navigators can speak to the value of their role.

AONN+ will continue focusing on metrics and educating the navigation population on how to collect, analyze, and report data that would prove the value of the navigator. Currently, there is no accurate way to measure the performance of patient navigators or illustrate that they are providing high-quality care that's impacting patient outcomes. One of our goals for the next decade is to develop a first-of-its-kind, evidence-based tool that can gauge the intensity of oncology patient care and, in turn, begin to frame the discussion about how many patients is an appropriate amount for a navigator.

Additionally, AONN+ and the Leadership Council recognize that there are different kinds of patient navigators working in many different settings—from community-based clinics to private practices and hospitals. We are committed to expanding our reach to create solutions and provide support for all patient navigators whom we serve.

2020 Key Priorities

- *Achieve National Accreditation for Certification*
- *Leadership Council succession planning*
- *Position statement – role and scope*
- *Key initiatives: metrics, acuity, CAPE, and BRIDGE*
- *Membership growth*

Research

We will continue to pursue and engage in initiatives around the latest evidence-based navigation practices that can be applicable to patients, caregivers, and navigators. In the short-term, this begins with the expansion of CAPE and BRIDGE.

Technology will help us achieve more, but people still factor heavily into all our strategic initiatives. Individuals from all areas and levels of navigation are invited to share their skills and knowledge in writing, development, and implementation of initiatives to support value-based care and address social and economic determinants.

Within the cancer care continuum, the navigator is integral to facilitate effective interprofessional collaboration and promote patient satisfaction and care quality, as well as the efficient use of healthcare resources to decrease costs across oncology patient populations and healthcare settings. As we look to the future, we recognize that it's important for the Academy and our members to maintain a holistic view of navigation.

HEADING THE CHARGE—LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG
Co-Founder and Program Director
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators
University Distinguished Professor of Breast Cancer
Professor of Surgery, JHU School of Medicine
Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins Medicine's Work Stride:
Managing Cancer at Work Program



Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH
Founder, Native American Cancer Research Corporation
President, Native American Cancer Initiatives, Incorporated
Pine, CO



Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN
Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic
Planning and Initiatives
The Lynx Group
Cranbury, NJ



Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, HON-OPN-CG
Senior Scientist, The Center for Injury Research
and Prevention
Adjunct Associate Research Professor, Cancer
Prevention & Control
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philadelphia, PA



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



Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW
Senior Director, Policy & Advocacy
Cancer Support Community
Washington, DC



Mandi Pratt-Chapman, MA, PhD, HON-OPN-CG
Director
Institute for Patient Centered Initiatives & Health Equity
George Washington Cancer Center



Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, CBEC, HON-ONN-CG
Breast Nurse Navigator
Novant Health Derrick L. Davis Cancer Center
Winston-Salem, NC



Michael Zincone
Pfizer Oncology
Strategic Alliances
Glenmoore, PA



Pam Goetz, BA, OPN-CG
Oncology Survivorship Coordinator/Navigator
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Sibley Memorial Hospital
Washington, DC



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 nonclinical monographs

The financial statements shown above were issued by BDO, USA, LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee. BDO has audited the accompanying financial statements of the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators, Inc. (AONN+), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows, for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

2019 Financial Overview

In 2019, AONN+ paired an effective financial management strategy with revenues from members and sponsors to grow its program portfolio. Annual revenues were increased by 12.2% in 2019, and AONN+ finished the year with 8 months of expenditures in reserve. The ratio of current assets (\$3,062,446) to current liabilities (\$1,172,883) is 2.61, slightly up from 2.22 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 2019

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Corporate Sponsorships and Membership Dues | \$3,999,179 |
| Donated Services | \$301,275 |
| Total | 4,300,454 |

OPERATING EXPENSES 2019

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Conference, Convention, Meeting | \$1,329,838 |
| Freelance Projects, Digital, Production, Editing | \$277,117 |
| Honoraria | \$169,650 |
| Insurance | \$45,261 |
| Management Fees | \$1,600,000 |
| Donated Services | \$301,275 |
| Paypal & Bank Fees | \$3,172 |
| Printing & Copying | \$45,604 |
| Registration Processing Fees | \$33,668 |
| Supplies | \$1,504 |
| Travel | \$152,875 |
| Total | \$3,959,964 |

OPERATING PROFIT

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Operating Profit | \$340,490 |
|------------------|-----------|

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 8,100 members. www.JONS-online.com

CONQUER®: the patient voice is the AONN+ premier forum for patients with cancer. *CONQUER* features articles written by and for patients with cancer, survivors, nurse navigators, and other oncology team members. This magazine addresses the issues that patients, their family members, and caregivers face every day in an easy-to-read format. Issues include interviews with patients with cancer, information on access to care, and articles on lifestyle topics such as nutrition, stress management, personal finance, and legal and employer issues. *CONQUER* also features patient stories that are nominated for the AONN+ Hero of Hope Patient Award, which is presented at the AONN+ Annual Conference. All stories are compiled in a special issue of *CONQUER* at the end of the year. *CONQUER* is circulated to 145,000.

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 16,891 oncology nurses.

www.TheOncologyNurse.com



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