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ADVANCING ONCOLOGY NAVIGATION AND CARE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

AONN+ would like to thank the following corporate sponsors and industry/alliance partners for their generosity and dedication throughout 2020. Your support was more important than ever this year as we pivoted to serve our mission despite the COVID-19 pandemic. With your ongoing help, we were able to continue improving patient care and quality of life by defining, enhancing, and promoting the role of nurse and patient navigators.

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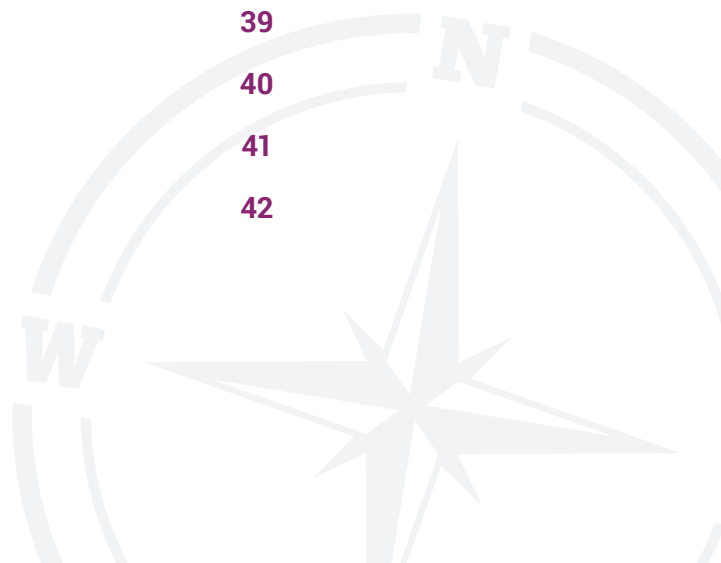
Health System and Alliance Partners



AONN+ VISION & MISSION

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LETTER FROM SHARON

When I was invited to join the AONN+ Leadership Council 11 years ago, I never dreamed it would lead to being the Program Director of a global professional organization with an authentic focus on patient care. Thank you to Lillie Shockney and the Leadership Council for the confidence they had in me to take the organization to the next level.

I like to say my leadership style is largely based on team play (4-year member of the UNC-Chapel Hill softball team!) and being raised on a farm. In both environments, a supportive team approach is the most productive.

Teamwork was the name of the game this past year for AONN+. The internal leadership team of Emily Gentry, Monica Dean, and Danelle Johnston created a formidable foundation that reviewed each project that AONN+ touched and set a clarifying strategy for the year. This cohesive group carried AONN+ forward despite COVID-19 challenges in the spring and the departure of Danelle in the fall.

As navigators reacted to the effects of COVID both personally and professionally, the basic core competencies of interprofessional collaboration and system-based practice led the way as they met the needs of their employers, reached out to their peers for best practices in digital-led patient care, and became a support network for each other.

AONN+ heard their collective voice. Within weeks, we transformed an in-person item-writing workshop to a virtual format, moved the Midyear Conference online, and established a COVID-19 Toolkit to assist them in their care and self-support. Monthly Facebook webinars and podcasts followed to meet the navigators in their new socially distanced environments. And as unrest continued into the summer, AONN+ released a Statement of Professional Responsibility to Ensure Racial and Health Equity.

Many hours of behind-the-scenes work championed the march to accreditation. In August, the American National Standards Institute accredited the AONN+ Foundation for Learning to offer the Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (ONN-CGSM) and the Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (OPN-CGSM) certifications. Now, nurses and patient navigators alike have an equal opportunity to competently demonstrate effective navigation services across the cancer care continuum within their scope of practice—another step toward the credibility of navigation as a professional member of the multidisciplinary oncology team.

An accumulation of teamwork over the years came to fruition as AONN+, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, launched the Navigation Metrics Toolkit in August. All navigation programs can equally apply and integrate measures to their unique programs to reflect patient experience, clinical outcomes, and return on investment. Again, another building block to support the navigation profession.

Thank you for your belief in navigation and trust in AONN+ as a professional organization. I am honored to walk among navigators with a professional commitment as they continue to meet their patient needs on a daily basis, no matter the challenges. I look forward to the exciting advances and opportunities that will come our way in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Sharon S. Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN
Program Director
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators

A TEAM IN TRANSITION

In 2020, AONN+'s Leadership Team experienced several changes, including the departure of Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, who stepped down from her role as AONN+'s Chief Nursing Officer after 3 years.

A member of AONN+ since its inception in 2009, Johnston enthusiastically took on various leadership roles over the years, including Co-Chair of the Evidence into Practice Committee, Co-Chair of the Metrics Task Force, and service on the organization's Leadership Council.

As Chief Nursing Officer and in all her roles, Johnston helped define the oncology navigation space, enhanced professional development for our members, and championed quality patient care and outcomes. She leaves us a better organization and on a strong footing. We wish her the best in her future endeavors and look forward to her ongoing involvement in AONN+.



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

We also saw some changes to our Leadership Council this past year. After serving on the council for 8 years, Pam Goetz, BA, OPN-CG, has stepped down to focus on some other projects. She will continue to be the patient navigator voice on the Certification Committee and other navigation avenues. Goetz's commitment, expertise, and dedication, along with her enthusiasm has laid an enduring foundation for patient navigation professionalism in the council.

Michael Zincone stepped away from the Leadership Council in late 2019 due to a new role with Pfizer in its Rare Disease team. He was a valuable member of the council, providing industry expertise and the health sciences perspective on how to equip all navigators with the proper resources and tools to make their job easier and ensure patients have the best experience in care.

Our council is fortunate to have 4 seasoned navigators stepping up to lend their expertise and support in 2019 and 2020 to fill the voids of Leadership Council succession. Please join us in welcoming:



Christian Downs
(2019)



Rani Khetarpal
(2020)



Cheryl Bellomo
(2020)



Jennifer Bires
(2020)



I. MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

At a Leadership Retreat in January 2020, we were afforded the opportunity to reflect upon our organization and develop a set of core values to guide AONN+'s activities moving forward. These include:

AONN+ Mission

The mission of 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.

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 prediagnosis through survivorship/end of life.

Core Values

- Advocacy
- Patient Empowerment
- Team-Based Quality Care
- Innovation
- Professional Development

Advocacy

We determined there are 2 levels to advocacy—individual/local and organization/national.

1) AONN+ supports patient advocacy by providing navigators with the tools and resources they need to help ensure better patient care. Resources provided by AONN+ membership give navigators the confidence and ability to adapt new methods into their own practice. In turn, navigators function as advocates in assuring that patients' life goals are identified and respected by all members of the oncology team.

2) AONN+'s Policy and Advocacy Committee formulates evidence-based public policy positions as they relate to the profession of patient navigation and/or the patients our members serve.

Patient Empowerment

According to the World Health Organization, patient empowerment is defined as a process in which patients understand their role, are given the knowledge and skills by their healthcare provider to perform a task in an environment that recognizes community and cultural differences, and encourages patient participation.

The role of the navigator along the continuum of care is bidimensional in nature. It is both patient-centered (providing empowerment through education and knowledge) and health system-oriented (multidisciplinary delivery of timely, seamless care).

Navigators are tasked with empowering their patients. They do this by encouraging patients to communicate their preferences and priorities for treatment to their healthcare team and helping facilitate shared decision-making in their healthcare.

I. MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

Team-Based Quality Care

This value emphasizes the importance of comprehensive team-based care. Here, oncology specialists and a myriad of other ancillary support staff—all with specific roles and responsibilities—focus on taking care of cancer patients in the best way possible. This begins with awareness and screening in the community setting and continues through diagnosis, treatment, and finally survivorship or end of life.

Navigators are essential members of the oncology team. They provide continuity throughout the cancer continuum and serve as the point person for the patient and the care delivery team. Navigators identify and resolve barriers to the patient's care and promote patient-centered care by discussing and documenting the patient's life goals so these milestones can be preserved whenever possible.

Innovation

At each conference, AONN+ provides the latest innovations from exhibitors to aid navigators in ensuring optimal patient care. Each program, project, or presentation from AONN+ exposes navigators to the latest trends, effective practices, and strategies to better position their program to support patients. AONN+'s Technology and Innovation Committee focuses on the use of technology to capture data/metrics for evaluation, improve quality in navigation, and provide patient education and navigator resources.

Professional Development

AONN+ is committed to the certification of navigation. The AONN+ Foundation for Learning, Inc., certification is unique to the field. The establishment of baseline competencies for oncology navigators, centered on their roles, responsibilities, educational level of knowledge, and evidence-based best practices, helps to ensure the consistent delivery of optimized patient care across the care continuum. AONN+ Foundation for Learning, Inc., certification provides specific credentials to enhance professional credibility, marketability, and opportunities for career advancement.

Navigation Continuum of Care

Prevention	Cancer Screening	Diagnosis	Treatment	Survivorship	End of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Diet/exercise ■ Sun exposure ■ Alcohol ■ Tobacco control ■ Chemoprevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pap test ■ Mammogram ■ PSA/DRE ■ Fecal occult ■ Blood test ■ Colonoscopy ■ Awareness of cancer risk, signs, and symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oncology/surgery consultation ■ Tumor staging ■ Patient counseling and decision-making ■ Clinical trials ■ Informed decision-making ■ Palliative care ■ Prehabilitation ■ Introduction of SCP components ■ Goals of care ■ Advance directives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chemotherapy ■ Surgery ■ Radiation ■ Symptom management ■ Psychosocial ■ Maintenance therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Long-term follow-up surveillance ■ Manage late effects ■ Rehabilitation ■ Coping ■ Health promotion ■ Prevention ■ Palliative care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support patient and family ■ Hospice ■ Informed decision-making
Phases of Cancer Care			We must initiate critical conversations earlier in the continuum. Your navigator can help.		

II. AONN+ GOALS FOR 2020

When planning our goals for 2020, we could have never predicted the enormous challenge that lay before us. Yet even while tackling the demands of a global pandemic, we are pleased to share that we were able to make tremendous progress and accomplish the following:

1. Establish Leadership Council Succession and Membership 3-Year Plan

This past year, our Leadership Council took steps to further define the composition of the council as well as the duties and term limits of its members. As part of this process, we recognized the need for racial and ethnic diversity on the council and are working to address this critical need as new positions are filled in coming years.

Our hope is that by undertaking this process, we will strengthen our council and ensure the health and well-being of AONN+ for the future.

Moving forward, the Leadership Council will be comprised of:

- AONN+ Program Director
- AONN+ Chief Nursing Officer
- AONN+ Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives
- Council members who represent the membership (administrator, advocacy, nurse navigator, patient navigator, social worker, physician, policy/regulatory, researcher, others)

Each appointed council member will serve for a single, 3-year term. They will be eligible for reappointment to a maximum of 2 terms on the council. In addition, council members will be responsible for developing strategic priorities and participating in the planning and execution of organizational initiatives. They will also take part in the annual evaluation of AONN+ programmatic outcomes.

AONN+ Leadership Council



Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN,
HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN



Cheryl Bellomo, MSN,
RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN



Jennifer Bires, MSW,
LICSW, OSW-C



Linda Burhansstipanov,
DrPH, MSPH



Christian G. Downs,
JD, MHA



Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH



Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW



Pamela Goetz, BA, OPN-CG



Danelle Johnston,
MSN, RN,
HON-ONN-CG, OCN
(Departure in
September 2020)



Rani Khetarpal, MBA



Jennifer R. Klemp, PhD,
MPH, MA



Mandi Pratt-Chapman,
PhD, MA, HON-OPN-CG



Lillie D. Shockney, RN, BS,
MAS, HON-ONN-CG

II. AONN+ GOALS FOR 2020

2. Enhance Leadership Council Engagement and Collaboration

In addition to having greater than 90% participation at each bimonthly call in 2020, every member of our Leadership Council participated in the annual preconference session, "Seed into Your Professional Development." This presentation explored the avenues through which AONN+ members could identify and improve leadership skills, promote team building, and address challenges. It also provided insights into effective professional branding, evaluated the current healthcare and oncology landscape, and discussed how navigators could gain a competitive advantage.

3. Increase in Overall Membership

AONN+'s membership grew to 9,065 in 2020, which represents a 12% increase in membership.

2020 AONN+ Membership:

 **9,065**

Year-Over-Year Growth Goal:

 **12%**

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.

4. Achieve National Accreditation

The AONN+ Foundation for Learning (FFL), Inc., achieved national accreditation in 2020 to offer the only national certification to Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (ONN-CGSM) and the Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (OPN-CGSM). These certifications ensure that clinical nurse and patient navigators have the knowledge to competently demonstrate effective navigation services across the cancer care continuum within their scope of practice. A heartfelt thank you to AONN+'s Co-Directors of Certification Monica Dean, HON-OPN-CG, and Emily Gentry, RN, BSN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG, who along with Rachael Baranoski, Director, Association Project Management, provided the support and push we needed to cross the finish line.

More good news came when the Commission on Cancer (CoC) confirmed that the AONN+ FFL, Inc., ONN-CGSM certification demonstrates compliance under Standard 4.2, entitled "Oncology Nursing Credentials." Many thanks to CoC Fellow Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, for championing this effort at the national level. This recognition further confirms that those professionals specializing in the field of oncology navigation have the training, skill sets, ongoing education, and commitment to provide quality cancer navigation and care.

To date, AONN+ has 685 ONN-CG– and OPN-CG–certified navigators, and 21 ONN-CG(T)–certified navigators. This brings the total number of navigators certified to 706!

 **685**

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

 **21**

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

 **706**

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

II. AONN+ GOALS FOR 2020

5. Mature and Retain Active Local Navigator Networks

This year we welcomed 6 new Local Navigator Networks (LNNs), bringing our total number to 31. We also conducted a network-wide survey of LNN leaders to explore the development and sustainability of these groups. (See page 25 for more.)

Another achievement was the launch of a Speaker's Bureau, which was developed and supported by Shannon Sweeney, Executive Vice President of The Lynx Group. This was in direct response to requests from LNNs for speakers at their local gatherings. LNNs received 10 virtual meetings in 2020 with more to come in 2021.

We're pleased to have also been able to provide LNN leaders with a 4-hour leadership training. This was held as a preconference session prior to the AONN+ 11th Annual Meeting at no charge.

Efforts to grow our LNNs were balanced this year with the creation of protocols for suspending LNNs. From time to time, an LNN leader may recognize that the network can no longer be sustained in their region. This can be due to leaders changing jobs or moving from the area. In 2020, 5 LNNs declared inactivation with one—Ohio—working to find a new leader to remain viable in the community. At any point in the future, an LNN can be reinstated per current AONN+ guidelines by a new leader.

6. Increase Midyear and Annual Conference Attendance

The emergence of COVID-19 less than 8 weeks prior to our Midyear Conference forced us to choose between canceling and going virtual. We chose the latter and were thrilled with the results. By using this platform, we were able to break past attendance records for this event, and in the process bring 438 attendees a dynamic learning experience in the safety of their own homes.

Bolstered by this success, we decided to also go virtual for our 11th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference in November. With more time to plan, we were able to provide 798 guests with an educational, engaging, and fun experience.

More highlights from this year's conferences can be found on page 21.

7. Formalize and Standardize Operations of Committees

A top priority for AONN+'s Leadership Council in 2020 was standardization of processes and procedures across all of the Academy's National Committees. The purpose of this effort was to provide greater support and ensure the success of committee deliverables. Following a training session hosted by the AONN+ Leadership Council, committee co-chairs worked to put into place uniform processes and reporting procedures to enhance efficiency. Examples of this work include standardized agendas/minutes, processes to support in-kind reporting and archiving documentation, and the creation of new committee roles, including social media leads.

In 2020, committee co-chairs also worked to align committee goals to AONN+ national goals and strategies. They also identified shared collaborative opportunities among committees.

8. Increase Continuing Education Credits (CEs) and Webinar Offerings for Members

At a time when digital content was not only in high demand, but highly necessary, AONN+ was uniquely positioned to deliver. Throughout 2020 we worked diligently to increase member access to CEs and webinars. By leveraging both our own resources and our collaborations with Health System and Alliance Partners, we were able to exceed 2019 offerings. Specifically, we:

- Evaluated every original research article in the *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship (JONS)* for accreditation and developed new policies and procedures for this process.
- Worked with Health System and Alliance Partners to create new evidence-based content (CE, webinars, etc.) that is relevant to the current navigation landscape. These included Sarah Cannon, the Ulman Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and the Masonic Cancer Alliance.
- Worked with AONN+ National Committees to develop new evidence-based content (CE, webinars, etc.) that is relevant to the current navigation landscape. Specifically, these include the Technology and Innovation, Policy and Advocacy, and Professional Development committees.

II. AONN+ GOALS FOR 2020

Top 4 Webinars (live and archived) in 2020



314*

"Understanding Isolation in Cancer Patients"



296*

"How to Have Difficult Conversations at End of Life"



275*

"Finding Your Contribution: When Things Don't Go as Planned...Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Pandemic"



173*

"Biomarker Testing and Adjuvant Therapy in Early-Stage Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

*Total number of member participants

9. Increase Original Research Submissions to Publications

Ongoing efforts to increase member research and publication led us to explore and put into place a plan for becoming indexed in PubMed. PubMed is a free resource supporting the search and retrieval of biomedical and life sciences publications with the aim of improving health. Publications that are indexed with PubMed can be searched and retrieved by interested parties globally. It is maintained by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the US National Library of Medicine (NLM).

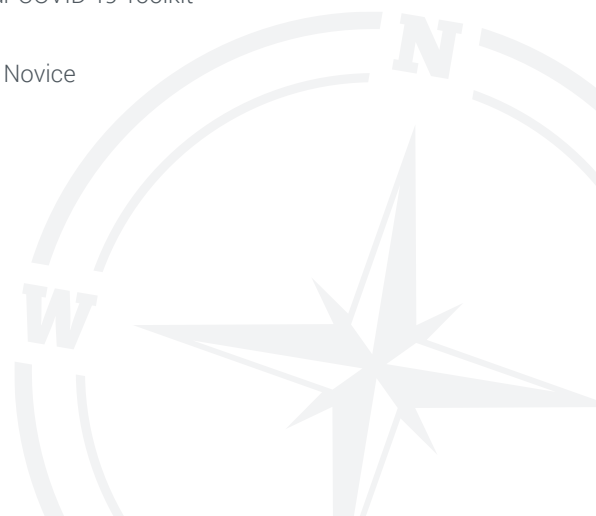
As part of our strategy, and with the support of the Leadership Council, we reviewed PubMed submission standards and developed a work plan to guide this effort. We are actively identifying mentorship opportunities to encourage submissions of original research.

10. Continue to Build and Foster Health System and Alliance Partnerships

AONN+ continues to enjoy robust partnerships with the American Cancer Society, Sarah Cannon, the Ulman Foundation, and the Masonic Cancer Alliance. In addition to previously planned activities, 2020 brought AONN+ and these entities the unique opportunity to collaborate on educational resources for oncology professionals serving on the front lines of the pandemic. Learn more about how these partnerships are benefiting members on page 17.

The pandemic also presented AONN+ with the opportunity to do some joint marketing with the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC). In return for adding their COVID resource library to our COVID-19 Toolkit and sharing an ACCC-produced health literacy video with our membership, the ACCC added our COVID-19 Toolkit to their resources page and shared our Coordination of Care podcast.

We also introduced the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Oncology Nurse Navigator (ONN) Novice curriculum—which was developed in collaboration with AONN+—and gave our members a discount to access the education modules. Read more about this effort on page 35.



III. KEY AONN+ INITIATIVES

Three-Year Project Culminates in Navigation Metrics Toolkit

The AONN+ and American Cancer Society Navigation Metrics Toolkit was launched in August. The new resource provides navigators with guidance on how to select, implement, report, and use navigation metrics to help improve patient care and foster navigation program development and growth.

The Navigation Metrics Toolkit is the result of an extensive 3-year project that focused on researching and designing the AONN+ Evidence-Based Navigation Metrics, a national standardized tool for measuring the elements crucial to coordinating high-quality, team-based care, and demonstrating the success and sustainability of navigation programs. The toolkit will help navigators, executives, and administrators understand, support, and track vital metrics, such as patient experience, clinical outcomes, and return on investment.

"This method of navigation validation is critical to this growing group of diverse professionals and is instrumental in advancing the profession of patient navigation."
- Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, Program Director, AONN+

New Advances in the Development of Navigation-Specific Acuity Tool

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. Based on their findings, published in *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship* in July 2019, the team determined that there was 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 the AONN+ 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.

With Astellas's continued sponsorship of this pivotal initiative, the team will carry out a third round of barrier validation in 2021.

III. KEY AONN+ INITIATIVES

AONN+ BRIDGE Initiative Is Creating a Roadmap for a Rapidly Evolving Field

The Building Relationships in Delivering Genetic/Genomic Education (BRIDGE) initiative was formed in response to AONN+ membership-identified needs and the integral role that somatic and germline testing plays in the management of individuals across the cancer control continuum. Educational interventions are used to connect oncology nurse and patient navigators to cancer genetics/genomics professionals, ensuring that patients have access to the most current emerging technologies that may directly impact the level of care received, as well as quality of life.

In a virtual preconference workshop in November, a multidisciplinary faculty comprised of genetics nurses, advanced practice nurses, certified genetic counselors, and researchers discussed 2 emerging genomics technologies that may soon impact cancer treatment and management. The panel also proposed a new position, a “genetic extender” for navigators. The genetic extender would help facilitate the gathering of a relevant family history, assemblage of a multidisciplinary team, and evaluating educational resources, among other responsibilities.

The AONN+ BRIDGE program is also spearheading a Genetics and Genomics Navigation Toolkit that would ultimately assist healthcare providers who manage and/or navigate patients in such a setting. The expanding role of oncology navigation requires enhanced knowledge and competency to meet the growing demands of incorporating personalized medicine into practice. The toolkit, which will incorporate evidence-based practices to meet national accreditation standards and best practices, is being designed to comprehensively address those quickly evolving needs.

CAPE Program Featured on Prestigious Platform and Nominated for Award

An electronic poster featuring the research findings of 3 AONN+ members was added to the website of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Annual Congress in May.

The study, authored by Amy Jo Pixley, MSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG(T), Cheryl Bellomo, MSN, RN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG, and Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN, was scheduled to be part of the ONS annual live conference, which was canceled because of the pandemic. Instead, presenters were invited to share their research on the ONS website. The abstract was also published in *Oncology Nursing Forum*.

In 2019, Pixley, Bellomo, and Johnston conducted a series of focus groups comprised of healthcare providers so that they could evaluate the performance and reception of the Cancer Advocacy & Patient Education (CAPE) program, a recently created AONN+ initiative. CAPE is a patient-centered digital education portal designed to provide patients with cancer access to information and support materials appropriate to their disease state and stage.

In August, *PM360*, a publication for marketing decision makers in the pharmaceutical, biotech, diagnostics, and medical device industries, named the CAPE program a Trailblazer Initiative finalist for Patient/Consumer Education. Since 2009, the *PM360* Trailblazer awards have recognized outstanding achievement and innovation in healthcare marketing. Nominations were judged by the *PM360* Editorial Advisory Board. The finalists were acknowledged during a virtual ceremony in October.

Development of Online Library for CLL Patients and Caregivers Begins

Making sure that newly diagnosed patients get the answers and information they need in a timely and consistent manner has been the overarching goal of the AONN+ Cancer Advocacy & Patient Education (CAPE) initiative. With its latest undertaking, the initiative is aiming to create a web-based library of best-practice information that providers in the chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) space can give to their patients and caregivers at each point of interaction. A similar site has already been developed by CAPE for lung cancer.

The CLL library is being developed by the AONN+ CAPE CLL Coalition, which is comprised of representatives from AONN+; the Association of Community Cancer Centers; the Cancer Support Community; the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; the Patient Empowerment Network; Pharmacyclics, an AbbVie Company; and Janssen Biotech, Inc. Funding for the project is being provided by Pharmacyclics and Janssen Biotech.

IV. ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Commission on Cancer Expands Credentials Standard to Include AONN+ FFL, Inc., Certification

At its annual plenary meeting, which was held virtually in 2020, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) shared with representatives that Standard 4.2, the Nursing Credentials standard, now includes the AONN+ FFL, Inc., Oncology Nurse Navigator—Certified GeneralistSM (ONN-CGSM). In her November 19, 2020, blog post, AONN+ Co-Founder and CoC Representative Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, states that the CoC deemed it a requirement that only accredited certification programs can be listed as approved for inclusion in this standard. Visit the blog post for Shockney's full update on the CoC's recent accomplishments. <https://aonnonline.org/expert-commentary/aonn-blog/3229-an-update-on-the-commission-on-cancer-s-recent-accomplishments>

AONN+ Members Take Part in National Navigation Roundtable Virtual Meetings

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Navigation Roundtable (NNRT) abandoned its annual in-person meeting and opted for 2 shorter virtual sessions. Themed "Navigation in a New Era: Crisis and Opportunity," the meetings explored a host of timely topics, including the challenges of COVID-19 and the impact of systemic racism and inequities on healthcare systems.

The first meeting, held in September, focused on solution-oriented approaches to improving access to care in communities. AONN+ Leadership Council Member Zarek Mena, OPN-CG, Women's Health Program Manager, Whittingham Cancer Center/MSK Physicians at Norwalk Hospital, shared her experiences with starting a food bank and responding to social determinants of health issues during the portion of the program titled "Navigation Experiences in 2020."

In December, the second meeting reviewed concepts discussed during the first meeting and used the time to build on lessons learned. AONN+ Leadership Council Member Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH, Cherokee Nation – Native American Cancer Research Corporation, gave the "Presentation from the Field" afternoon session, discussing how community outreach and health equity impacts patient treatment. Fellow Leadership Council Member Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, Principal Investigator, Fox Chase Cancer Center, presented on the NNRT's strategic plan and led a breakout session about NNRT task groups.

AONN+ Is Proud to Have Several of Its Members Participating in the NNRT

These include:

- Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN (NNRT Steering Committee, Workforce Development Committee, Annual Planning Committee)
- Tricia Strusowski, MSN, RN (served one-half year on Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, ONN-CG, OCN (served one-half year on Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH (Co-Chair, Workforce Development Task Group; Co-Chair, Public Awareness Committee)
- Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH (Co-Chair, Public Awareness Committee, Evidence-Based Promising Practices Task Group)
- Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW (Policy Task Group)
- Emily Gentry RN, BSN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG (Evidence-Based Promising Practices)

Continued Work with Biden Cancer Initiative

Although the Biden Cancer Initiative (BCI) suspended operations in 2019, volunteer members were encouraged to finish work that had been begun. For AONN+ Leadership Council Member Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW, and Monica Dean, HON-OPN-CG, AONN+ Director of Patient Navigation Program Development, this means keeping the momentum on patient navigation moving forward. Through their participation in the Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force (part of the BCI Patient Navigation Working Group), they are working to publish an article titled "Roles, Responsibilities, and Functions of Oncology Navigators" in 2021.

At present, the task force is working on creating standards for the oncology navigation profession that will help to better define the interdisciplinary roles of oncology navigators.

IV. ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Ongoing Efforts with National Lung Cancer Screening Roundtable

The American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Screening Roundtable is an ongoing initiative that was launched in 2018. Its focus is on bringing together organizations that share an interest and want to develop solutions that will lead to increases in the number of individuals receiving cancer screenings. Monica Dean, HON-OPN-CG, AONN+ Director of Patient Navigation Program Development, represents the Academy on both the Roundtable and its Eliminating Lung Cancer Stigma Task Group.

Improving Care and Treatment of Men with Prostate Cancer

Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, continues to serve as AONN+'s representative on Us TOO, a project that began in 2018 aimed at improving the care and treatment of men with prostate cancer (specifically those with advanced stage cancer). At present, the group continues to provide comprehensive educational materials and resources along with support services that include more than 200 volunteer-led support groups across the United States and abroad.

Shared Decision-Making Webinars Launch with AONN+ Member Support

In 2020, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) continued its work to study and implement ways to improve the patient experience as it relates to shared decision-making. Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, was asked to represent AONN+ on the ACCC's Shared Decision-Making Advisory Council and helped with the launch of a 6-part Shared Decision-Making webinar. AONN+ member Frank dela Rama, RN, MS, AOCNS, AGN-BC, participated in the webinar focused on patient decision aids and shared a case study on how to use decision aids with patients.

In addition, the article titled "Shared Decision-Making: Practical Implementation for the Oncology Team," which was started in 2019, is expected to be released in 2021.

Increasing Access to Credible Breast Cancer Information, News, and Research

Launched in late 2019, the nonprofit organization Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE) worked closely with its key stakeholder partners last year to develop a needs assessment survey for Oncology Nurse Navigators working with breast cancer patients. AONN+—represented by Leadership Council Member Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA—along with Susan G. Komen and researchers at the University of South Florida, had input in the development of this survey. Responses will help FORCE and its partners develop continuing education modules to meet the needs of breast cancer navigators.

In addition, Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, AONN+ Program Director, serves as a member of FORCE's XRAY Steering Committee. Project "eXamining the Relevance of Articles for You" (XRAY) was developed in response to the need for a reliable source of breast cancer information in news headlines. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the group has developed a program to review breast cancer topics reported in the media.



IV. ADVANCING CHANGE THROUGH NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Maintaining an Active Role in Navigation Policy and Advocacy

AONN+'s work with the Cancer Leadership Council continued throughout 2020. Serving in a new role as the council's AONN+ representative, Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, worked to bring the navigation perspective to advocacy discussions. Her efforts are supported by the work of AONN+'s Policy and Advocacy Committee, which is co-chaired by Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW, and Clara Lambert, BBA, OPN-CG.

AONN+ is a leader in the education of navigators and is not only empowering members with the knowledge needed for their day-to-day role, but also to serve as the voice of their patient and profession—locally and nationally.

At the request of members, the Policy and Advocacy Committee hosted sessions at both AONN+'s Midyear and Annual conferences. Committee members provided updates on accomplishments and discussed the impacts of COVID-19 (on patients with cancer) and Medicaid expansion. They also explained the fundamentals of advocacy, which include:

- Contacting elected officials
- Signing coalition letters
- Voting and helping others to do so
- Writing newspaper editorials
- Attending town hall meetings

While there's little question that much of the committee's attention was consumed by COVID-19 policy this past year, members did manage to weigh in on other pressing legislative issues. Letters signed by AONN+ in 2020 include the following:

- February 4, 2020 – Letter to Social Security Administration Commissioner Andrew Saul regarding SA-2018–26, Rules Regarding the Frequency and Notice of Continuing Disability Reviews
- April 9, 2020 – Letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Leader Kevin McCarthy, and Senate Leaders Mitch McConnell and Charles Schumer urging that eligibility for the paid family and medical leave program be expanded to include individuals deemed high risk for adverse complications from COVID-19 and the working members of their households
- April 20, 2020 – Letter to Governors/State Health Directors regarding care rationing during the pandemic
- June 26, 2020 – Letter to Chairman Lamar Alexander of the Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions regarding provisions that should be included in the COVID-19 relief package that was being discussed at the time
- September 4, 2020 – Letter to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus opposing the suggestion that in cases where vaccine supply is limited, individuals with cancer be required to have 2 of the designated underlying conditions to qualify in Phase IB
- October 1, 2020 – Letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from LUNgevity Foundation regarding updates to the 14-day rule issue
- November 23, 2020 – Letter to the US Preventive Services Task Force members regarding draft recommendation on colorectal cancer screening
- December 9, 2020 – Letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Leader Kevin McCarthy, and Senate Leaders Mitch McConnell and Charles Schumer urging them to include the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, HR 1570/S 668, in the year-end legislative package

Building Toolkits for Ovarian and Endometrial Cancer



Penny Daugherty, RN, MS, OCN, ONN-CG, is representing AONN+ as a member of an advisory group for dandelionRX to create 2 new evidence-based communication toolkits built using human-centered design—one each for ovarian and endometrial cancer.

V. AMPLIFYING AONN+'S MISSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



Partnership with American Cancer Society Yields Navigation Metrics Toolkit

The AONN+ National Alliance Partnership with the American Cancer Society (ACS) is now entering its fourth year. In 2020, collaboration between the 2 organizations resulted in the development of the Navigation Metrics Toolkit, which provides navigators with guidance on how to select, implement, report, and use navigation metrics as they engage in quality/performance improvement and strategic decision-making. The toolkit reflects current recommendations from AONN+ and the pilot study as well as best practices gleaned from navigators and navigation experts across the nation.



SARAH CANNON

The Cancer Institute of HCA

Collaboration with Sarah Cannon Continues

In 2020, AONN+ marked the second year of its National Healthcare System Alliance Partnership with Sarah Cannon. While the 2 organizations have been united in the mutual desire to accelerate the growth and development of oncology navigation since 2015, it wasn't until 2019 that the relationship was formalized. Under this agreement, AONN+ provides Sarah Cannon oncology navigators with access to all member resources, including the professional certification exams when requirements are met. For its part, Sarah Cannon is now supporting AONN+ members by offering navigation-specific continuing education unit content in the *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship*, through AONN+ webinars, and at AONN+'s Midyear and Annual conferences. These include 2 well-attended and highly engaging webinars this past year titled "Finding Your Contribution: When Things Don't Go as Planned...Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Pandemic" and "Engagement Across America." In addition, Sarah Cannon leadership and navigators have served as participating faculty for many AONN+ continuing education sessions, webinars, and conference sessions.



V. AMPLIFYING AONN+'S MISSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



Bringing the Perspective of Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer to the Forefront

The Ulman Foundation's focus on adolescent and young adult navigation brings a unique perspective to AONN+'s efforts, making it a valuable Alliance Partner. Collaborating with AONN+ in 2020, the Ulman Foundation provided faculty at both the Midyear and Annual conferences and for webinars including the following:

CE WEBINAR	LIVE PARTICIPATION	ARCHIVED PARTICIPATION
Self-Isolation (September 2020 – October 2021)	137	177
Difficult Conversations at End of Life (October 2020 – November 2021)	193	103
AONN+ MIDYEAR SESSION	LIVE PARTICIPATION	ARCHIVED PARTICIPATION
Fertility Preservation (May 2020 – June 2021)	435	112
AONN+ ANNUAL SESSION	LIVE PARTICIPATION	ARCHIVED PARTICIPATION
Fertility Preservation (November 2020 – December 2021)	182	65



MCA Helps AONN+ Expand Webinar Library

AONN+'s Alliance Partnership with the Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA) entered its second year in 2020. The outreach network of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, MCA's members collaborated with AONN+ this past year to develop 2 webinars:

- "Navigating Across Diverse Models of Care to Advocate for Patients with Cancer"
- "Advocacy: Crucial Conversations with Patients Addressing Treatment Decision-Making Considering COVID-19"

In addition, MCA members served as faculty for AONN+ events.

VI. AONN+'S GROWING NAVIGATION COMMUNITY

Now in its 11th year, AONN+ continues to realize steady upward growth with total members reaching 9,065 in 2020. Comprised of industry and stakeholder advocates and nonindustry navigators, this group is united by a common goal: to enhance patient care and outcomes through the advancement and growth of the navigation profession.

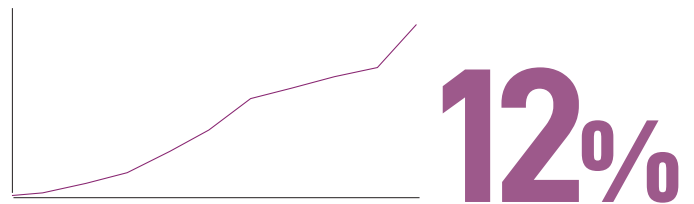
Moving into 2021, AONN+ will be employing the following tactics to increase overall membership by 5%:

- Engagement with national organizations
- Exploring new partnerships and collaborations
- Educate internal team, industry partners, and the health system on the value of non-clinically licensed patient navigation
- Research analysis of how many conference attendees convert their membership at renewal

2020 AONN+ Membership:

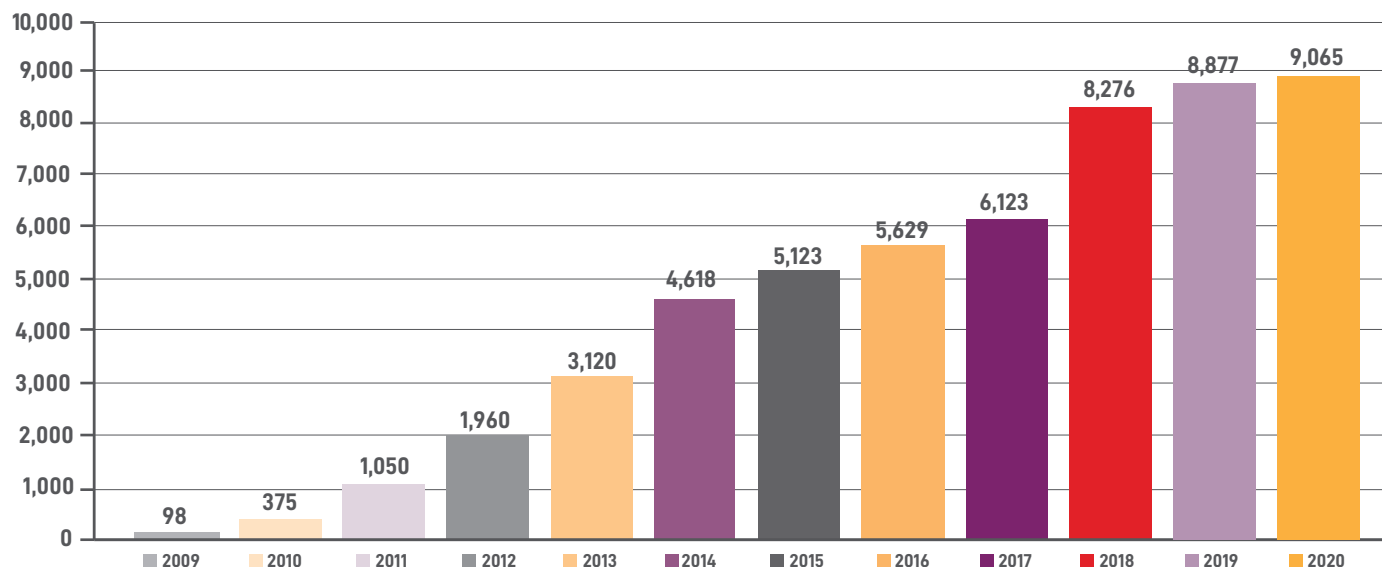
 **9,065**

Year-Over-Year Growth Goal:



VI. AONN+'S GROWING NAVIGATION COMMUNITY

"By the Numbers"



Spurred by Pandemic, AONN+ Launches Conference Scholarship Fund

From time to time, select members have needed help covering the cost of attending AONN+'s conferences. And AONN+ has risen to meet this need through travel grants. Things changed with the pandemic.

In response to budget constraints and lost revenues, many organizations cut travel stipends and some navigators were even furloughed. Those navigators who could, took it upon themselves to shoulder the cost of conference attendance. AONN+ was compelled to identify ways to help those members for whom the expense was too much. The solution came in the form of the AONN+ Conference Scholarship Fund.

Approved in October, the fund provides scholarship recipients with a set dollar amount to cover the cost of conference registration plus \$200. This additional amount can be used to offset travel, lodging, or other conference-related expenses. To qualify, interested members must complete an AONN+ Scholarship Conference Fund Application 3 months prior to the event. Applications are reviewed within 2 weeks of receipt by AONN+ Leadership and appointed Leadership Council members. Decisions will be returned to applicants within 60 days of the conference start.

This scholarship is funded through individual and corporate donations, donated speaker honoraria, and donations that are bundled with membership renewal, conference, or other AONN+ registration fees. It will be trialed in 2021.

VII. HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S 2020 CONFERENCES

A successful anniversary celebration and a record-breaking year in 2019 had energized AONN+ Leadership for its 2020 conference season. When COVID-19 threatened to take the wind out of their sails, the team rallied and successfully produced 2 history-making events.

Pivoting to Virtual for Midyear

Within a week of the pandemic's emergence, AONN+ had made its decision: The Midyear Conference had to be done virtually. It proved to be a great choice. With the digital platform, more navigation and oncology professionals were able to attend than in the past. **The result was a record attendance of 438 professionals, which included attendees from around the world!**

Over the course of the 2-day meeting, faculty and guests provided attendees with educational content covering a host of timely topics, including how to address the mental health concerns of patients with cancer, the community health worker's role in early detection, vaping, and, of course, COVID-19. Preconference sessions on policy and advocacy, and health equity for gender and sexual minorities were also offered.

When not attending sessions, guests were encouraged to visit the virtual exhibit hall for the opportunity to learn about new products and services, and to chat one-on-one with exhibitors.

Building on Success for the 11th Annual Conference

The decision to continue with the virtual platform for the 11th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference in November was made early on, giving the team the ability to focus its energies on maximizing the opportunity. Its efforts paid off with more than 798 professionals taking part.

The 4-day event kicked off with 4 preconference workshops that addressed issues of importance to navigators, including genetics and genomics, financial navigation, professional development, and motivational interviewing. Subsequent presentations focused on a range of topics, including delivering care digitally during a pandemic, the effects of COVID-19 on cancer, overcoming conflict at work, ensuring inclusivity in cancer clinical trials, and the AONN+ Navigation Toolkit. Additional disease site-specific presentations rounded out the agenda.

Confronting the Trauma of COVID-19 Head-On

With November marking the 8-month point of the COVID-19 pandemic, clinical psychologist Bina Parekh, PhD, proved to be the ideal speaker for this year's Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference.

During her Keynote Address, "Understanding Vicarious Trauma and Its Path to Resilience," Dr. Parekh addressed how direct COVID-19 trauma and vicarious trauma from the pandemic intersect among healthcare workers and other frontline responders. She discussed the risk factors for vicarious trauma, and its effects on therapists and helpers who engage with people and their traumas in an empathic way. Dr. Parekh also outlined for attendees what she calls the "ABCs of Vicarious Resilience," which include:

A – Acceptance that vicarious trauma is an occupational hazard and a normal response, and that overcoming it is a process.

B – Balance of work and leisure activities, as well as one's caseload with various types of patients.

C – Connection with oneself and others, as well as with a sense of spirituality.

An expert in cross-cultural psychology, gender and class issues, substance-related disorders, pain management, and trauma, Dr. Parekh serves as Associate Department Chair and Associate Professor in the Clinical Psychology program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Irvine.

VII. HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S 2020 CONFERENCES

Pursuing New Knowledge Through Hard Work

AONN+ creates a nurturing environment in which nurse and patient navigators can learn about the research process and make mistakes safely. The success of this approach continues to be evident in the high number of abstracts that are submitted for consideration each year. In 2020, 46 abstracts were submitted, and a total of 40 were accepted for consideration. Join us in congratulating the winners of each category:



**Abstracts were submitted
for consideration in 2020.**



**Abstracts were
accepted.**



**Winners were
selected.**

Category I - Community Outreach/Prevention Winner: "Increasing Lung Nodule Program Awareness Thru Community Outreach and Education"

Author: Lisa McGuire, MBA, BSBM, HCA Healthcare, Ocala, FL

Category II - Care Coordination/Care Transitions Winner: "Application of a Navigator Acuity Scale on Diverse/Underserved Populations"

Authors: Carla Strom, MLA; Maria Alejandra Combs, JD, OPN-G; Emily Copus, MSW; Alexis Daniels, MS; Kelsey Shore, BA, CCRC; and Karen M. Winkfield, MD, PhD, Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center, Winston-Salem, NC

Category III - Patient Empowerment/Patient Advocacy Winner: "Study of a Smartphone-Based Symptom Assessment (OurBrainBank) for Subjects with Glioblastomas"

Authors: Jessica Morris, Bruce Hellman, Kelli Duprey, Jacob Ellen, Lakshmi Nayak, Fabio Iwamoto, and Florian Boele, OurBrainBank, Brooklyn, NY

Category IV - Psychosocial Support/Assessment Winner: "Impact of Pink & MetaPink Stars Cancer Support Group on Metastatic and Early-Stage Breast Cancer Patients"

Authors: O. Odumosu, A.O. Alabi, T. Akinremi, A.A. Luqman, and J.T. Oladele, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba, Lagos, Nigeria; Amorvard Services

Category V - Professional Roles and Responsibilities and the Need for Navigation Winner: "High-Risk Benign Breast Disease"

Authors: Melissa Eades, BSN, RN, RT(R)(M), OPN-CG, and Debra Kelly, RN, BSN, OCN, ONN-CG, Gulf Coast Division, HCA Healthcare, Houston, TX

Category VI - Research, Quality, Performance Improvement Winner: "Development of a Comprehensive Nurse Navigation Intake Form"

Authors: Jessica MacIntyre, APRN, NP-C, AOCNP; Sophie Torrents, MHA; Nancy Farfan, BSN, RN; Aixa Figueroa; and Gilbert Pebanco, RN, University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami, FL

Category VII - Operations Management, Organization Development, Health Economics Winner: "Navigating Uninsured Lung Cancer Patients: One Thoracic Oncology Nurse Navigator's Experience In Removing Financial Barriers"

Author: Kammi Fox-Kay, MSN, RN, AOCNS, ONN-CG(T), HCA South Atlantic Division—Powered by Sarah Cannon Trident Cancer Center, Charleston, SC

VII. HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S 2020 CONFERENCES

Recognizing the Contributions of Our Members, Partners, and Patients

Each year, at the Annual Conference, AONN+ recognizes the hard work and achievements of several individuals and partner organizations. This year's awards are clear reminders of the tremendous talent that exists within our membership and broader community. Congratulations to all our winners and nominees!

Putting Evidence into Practice Research Award

Recognition of an AONN+ member who has conducted evidence-based research that builds upon the body of work in navigation.



Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH, is 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. Her clinical practice focuses

on cancer genetics, and she has completed advanced clinical training in cancer genetics through the Fox Chase Cancer Center. She shares her expertise as Co-Chair of the AONN+ Genetics and Genomics Committee, and her support and contribution to the BRIDGE (Building Relationships in Delivering Genetic/Genomic Education) initiative is coming to fruition as another toolkit for navigators in 2021. A preconference session this year encompasses much of this work. Jennifer has also served on the Leadership Council and as Co-Chair of the Survivorship Committee.



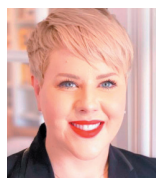
SARAH CANNON
The Cancer Institute of HCA

AONN+ Organizational Recognition Award

Sarah Cannon has created a patient navigation system that allows nurse navigators to comprehensively manage a patient's experience with cancer. Patients routinely comment on the positive effect their navigators have as they experience one of the most challenging times of their lives. AONN+ recognizes Sarah Cannon's navigation colleagues for their hard work and dedication, and their collective contribution to advancing navigation. Their commitment to professional development and lifelong learning is exemplified as they offer engaging Webex education; serve as faculty at the AONN+ Midyear and Annual conferences and Facebook Live events; lead and serve within national committees; and publish abstracts and articles to grow the navigation profession. In addition, Sarah Cannon colleagues serve in leadership positions within the AONN+ Foundation for Learning and helped achieve national accreditation. This award serves to highlight the achievements of the Sarah Cannon navigators and recognize them as a valued partner with AONN+.

AONN+ Ambassador Award

In recognition of exceptional leadership and devoted service sharing AONN+'s mission to oncology patients, families, and professional communities.



Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW, is Executive Director of the Cancer Policy Institute at the Cancer Support Community (CSC), Washington, DC, the largest direct provider of social and emotional support services for cancer patients and their loved ones nationwide. She was previously Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy at CSC. Elizabeth helped evolve the AONN+ Policy and Advocacy Committee and has been a driving force for AONN+ to be a part of the solution within healthcare. She recognizes the effect of policy on patients and strives to promote patient advocacy. She represented CSC on the Leadership Council with her social work talents and insight to promote inclusivity and multidisciplinary approaches to navigation. AONN+ has been enriched by her knowledge of the ways patients define value in the cancer care system and how those definitions can be incorporated into public policy and clinical practice.

VII. HIGHLIGHTS FROM AONN+'S 2020 CONFERENCES

Oncology Navigation Excellence Award



Margaret (Peg) Rummel, RN, MHA, OCN, NE-BC, HON-ONN-CG, is currently employed at the Penn Medicine Abramson Cancer Center, Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine in Philadelphia. Here, her program specialties include amyloidosis, multiple myeloma,

and oral, head, and neck cancers. In addition to providing navigational support to countless patients throughout her career, Peg has made numerous contributions to the profession. Some of these include publishing case studies in *Oncology Nursing: Text and Review*, co-editing the first comprehensive textbooks on Oncology Nurse Navigators, and serving as an Expert Reviewer in 2017 for the Oncology Nurse Navigator Core Competencies. Peg served as an AONN+ representative at the inaugural Biden Cancer Summit in 2018 and presented at the anchor event in Washington, DC. That same year, Peg was also part of the team that won the ONS Team Achievement Award. As Co-Chair of the AONN+ Conference Planning Committee, she ensures relevant and high-value agendas and speakers that enhance the professional growth of attendees. Peg is a true leader in oncology navigation and a valuable voice for her patients, her profession, and AONN+.

Lillie Shockney Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of oncology navigation and to the Academy.



Over the past 3 years, in her role as Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives, **Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG**, led strategic imperatives for AONN+. She initiated and grew partnerships with other organizations

and provided key clinical and professional insight that allowed AONN+ to enhance its message and services of oncology navigation. With her leadership, AONN+ has demonstrated consistent membership growth as well as an increase in Midyear and Annual conference attendance. She's been an active participant in projects such as Metrics, with the creation of a national study and toolkit; Acuity, with the evidence-based foundation for an applicable tool for all navigators; and the Cancer Advocacy & Patient Education (CAPE) Lung Cancer concept. Danelle drove the AONN+ Foundation for Learning to achieve national accreditation and to offer the only national certification to Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (ONN-CGSM) and the Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (OPN-CGSM). With her vast oversight, she helped create structure and processes to monitor and evaluate contributions that reflect high quality from AONN+.

2020 Hero of Hope Strives to Improve Early Detection and Treatment in Nigeria



Khadijat Fatai-Banwo, breast cancer survivor, advocate, champion, and researcher, was named the 2020 Hero of Hope Patient Award recipient at the AONN+ 11th Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference.

In 2010, Fatai-Banwo was diagnosed with HER2 triple-positive breast cancer. Her diagnosis was further complicated by the limited access to healthcare in her native Nigeria. Now a 10+-year cancer survivor, Fatai-Banwo's grace, positivity, and resilience helped lead her from prognosis to remission: she lost her husband just 1 week after having a radical single mastectomy.

This mother of 3 is passionate about public awareness, early diagnosis, and breast cancer advocacy. In 2013, she and her team started Project PINK BLUE (PPB), an organization engaged in cancer awareness, advocacy, research, and fundraising in Africa. The group also provides free cancer screenings, navigation services, training for healthcare professionals, and other support services. Their mission is to reduce the incidence of cancer and phase out advanced/late detection of cancer in Nigeria.

In 2017, Fatai-Banwo also co-founded Abuja Breast Cancer Support Group (ABC-SG), which uses WhatsApp to connect patients who need support but live in remote areas. She's also spearheaded fundraising activities for numerous cancer patients in her community, helping to raise more than \$75,000 to date for a number of indigent cancer patients.

Fatai-Banwo is the Breast Navigator at Project PINK BLUE and a certified Patient Navigator at George Washington Cancer Center in Washington, DC. Previously, she worked for the Network of People Impacted by HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN). Her experience there, along with her cancer diagnosis, compelled her to a career in navigation to care for cancer patients, their caregivers, and families. Visit www.Projectpinkblue.org for more information.

VIII. SUPPORTING AND GROWING AONN+'S 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 2020, AONN+ added 6 new LNNs, bringing our total to 30.

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced much of the world's engagement online, AONN+ took steps to ensure that its LNNs could continue to flourish in such an environment. Protocols were developed to guide the establishment and execution of individual LNN Facebook pages. In addition, quarterly "topics for discussion" or "news briefs" that compile the current AONN+ updates were sent to LNN leaders in an e-newsletter form after Leadership Council meetings, a practice that was started in the prior year. These help to keep LNN leaders and their members up to date on AONN+ progress.

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

The Central Indiana Local Navigators Network was undeterred in 2020. The group moved its monthly education-based meetings online in the spring to ensure that its members remained safe and informed. By the midway point of the year, it had already met the minimum meeting requirement for the year (4). This made Central Indiana the clear choice for the LNN Award of the Year, an honor presented to the LNN that works to establish an open forum for professional development and networking that aligns with the AONN+ national mission.

Beyond its regular meetings, Central Indiana LNN frequently e-blasts resources for navigators in its region and links to them on its Facebook page, which became an invaluable support system during the pandemic. The group's members foster a community-wide navigator network that supersedes affiliations and puts the patient's care at the forefront of all its actions, which include participating in a number of other like-minded organizations, such as PanCAN, Little Red Door, Cancer Support Community, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The Central Indiana LNN also trialed an AONN+ speakers bureau program in 2020 and hosted a regional certification testing site.

LNNs that joined AONN+ in 2020 include:

East Valley Arizona Local Navigators Network

Kentucky Oncology Navigator Network

Maryland Patient & Nurse Navigator Local Network

New York City Five Boroughs

North Carolina Piedmont Triad

Triangle Oncology Navigator Network

West & Central Florida Oncology Navigator Network

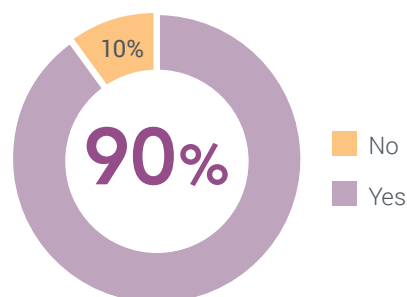


VIII. SUPPORTING AND GROWING AONN+'S LOCAL NAVIGATOR NETWORKS

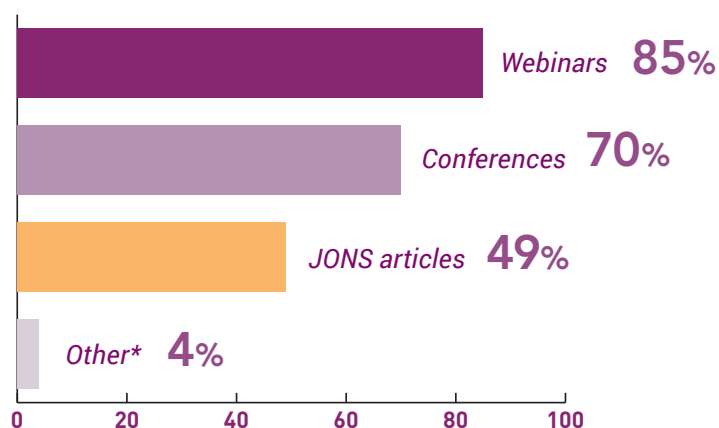
Key Results from the 2020 National Committees Survey

In place of the annual member survey that provides data and feedback about the state of the profession, the Chairs of the AONN+ national committees developed a survey in 2020 that was designed to provide deeper insight into how AONN+ members engage with the committees' various initiatives. This information helps AONN+ leadership develop strategies to communicate more effectively and more than 100 members participated in the survey. AONN+'s goal is to publish results in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship* (JONS).

90% of Members Participate in AONN+ Continuing Education

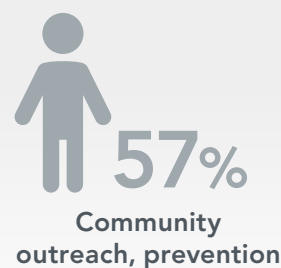
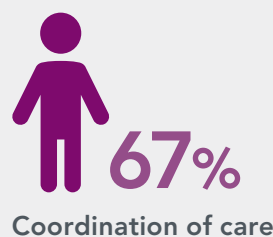


Which educational opportunities do you prefer?



*Virtual conferences, prerecorded programs, podcasts, or roundtables.

What are you most interested in learning more about?



VIII. SUPPORTING AND GROWING AONN+'S LOCAL NAVIGATOR NETWORKS

What features are most valuable to you?

(Listed in order from most to least.)

1. *Navigator toolkit*
2. *Virtual events*
3. *Live events*
4. *Metrics toolkit*
5. *Local Navigator Network*
6. *JONS subscription*

Addressing Additional Areas of Interest

When asked about additional areas in which they are interested, the 2 most frequent responses on the survey were additional CE opportunities and mentoring. AONN+ is actively working to address these requests in the following ways:

Additional CE Opportunities

This request was specific to individuals who aren't able to attend AONN+ conferences in person or may not have the time to watch an entire conference in one sitting. In response, AONN+ has committed to making the recordings of the conferences available for 1 year following the event. In addition, individuals may access the entire conference as a CE bundle or per session for a monetary value.

Mentoring

Most respondents preferred an expert to novice format and focused on tasks that included developing an abstract, assisting with publishing an article, and program development as well as general and disease-specific navigation.

In response, AONN+ leadership, in collaboration with the Professional Development Committee, is building the framework for a specific initiative focused on mentorship. This was presented during an educational webinar in August titled "Mentorship: The Key to Personal and Professional Growth." Looking ahead, the Professional Development Committee will be exploring avenues to promote mentorship opportunities through education, collaboration across national committees, and designing opportunities based on membership feedback (especially in disease-site navigation and program development).



IX. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – NATIONAL 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 as well as goals for the upcoming year.

Abstract Review Committee

Mission: The mission of the Abstract Review Committee is to objectively review AONN+ member abstracts and provide feedback for revision, with the greater goal of building momentum and evidence around navigation.

Co-Chairs:

Nicole Centers, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN, CN-BN
Nicole.Centers@SarahCannon.com

Linda Bily, MA, CSA, OPN-CG
Linda.Bily@stonybrookmedicine.edu

2020 Accomplishments

- Increase abstract submissions
- 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 post-conference to help them expand the poster into a journal article

2021 Goals

- Succession planning for new clinical trial co-chairs to assume responsibilities in 2021/22
- Increase the percentage of abstract submissions
- Continue to encourage poster authors to submit an article for publication
- Collaboration with other AONN+ committees (Professional Development) on an “Abstract/Authorship 101” workshop

Professional Development Committee

Mission: The mission of the Professional Development Committee is to 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
Natalie.Fellers@northside.com

2020 Accomplishments

- Presented a webinar and CE article on “Mentorship”
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees
- Updated committee name from ACQUIRE (Assistance for Quality Improvement and Research) to Professional Development

2021 Goals

- Develop a framework for AONN+ Mentorship Academy
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees
- Present a podcast on mentorship
- Participate as a panelist in the Midyear preconference workshop, “Navigation Program Build”
- Leverage AONN+ committee survey comments to provide educational offerings/resources dedicated to professional development

IX. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Metrics Committee

Mission: The mission of the Metrics Committee is to support oncology value-based cancer care initiatives utilizing the AONN+ 35 national evidence-based metrics in the areas of patient experience, clinical outcome, and return on investment.

Chair:

Tricia Strusowski, MS, RN
TStrusowski7@gmail.com

2020 Accomplishments

- Collaboration with other AONN+ committees (Policy/Advocacy and Innovation/Technology); this will continue in 2021
- Select navigation metrics team members will be the reviewers for the Navigation Metrics Implementation Toolkit. Team identified and outline reviewed by team (November 2019-January 2020)
- Discussions/collaboration with payers regarding reimbursement for navigation programs that demonstrate return-on-investment metrics
- Role delineation, metrics, and national standards cross walk and article (*Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship*, January 2021)
- Process mapping and role delineation for different models of navigation (May 2020)

2021 Goals

- Translate AONN+ 35 evidence-based metrics into Spanish
- Present/publish how to create an evidence-based validated tool
- What DON'T we need to collect for metrics discussion (what is nice to know vs need to know)
- What should navigation metrics reports look like; discussion/ provide examples (ie, barriers, interventions)
- What are your barriers to collecting metrics discussion?
- Ask AONN+ co-chairs: We want to hear your metric stories. Who has metrics in place? What has been the process?
- Value-Based Cancer Care presentation and discussion focused on what metrics should take priority, return on investment, and why patient experience is so important. Led by Rani Khetarpal
- Collaboration with AONN+ Survivorship Committee
- Presentation and discussion on decreasing emergency department visits. Led by Sonya McGatha

Survivorship Committee

Mission: The mission of the Survivorship Committee is to advance survivorship care throughout the continuum by providing resources and evidence-based education to clinical navigators and nonlicensed patient navigators

Co-Chairs:

Jason Morrow, BSN, RN, OCN
Jason.Morrow@PrismaHealth.org

Nancy Corbitt, BSN, RN, OCN, CRNI
NCorbitt@umm.edu

2020 Accomplishments

- Jason Morrow, BSN, RN, OCN, became committee co-chair
- Amy Bearden, Patient Navigator, volunteered as Facebook representative
- Megan Solinger, MHS, MA, OPN-CG, presented "Fertility Preservation Discussions: An Opportunity Not to Be Missed" at the 2020 Midyear Conference, and "When the Clock Is Ticking: The Importance of Fertility Preservation for Adolescent and Young Adult Patients with Cancer" at the 2020 Annual Conference

2021 Goals

- January webinar focused on oncology rehabilitation
- Topic submission: Annual Conference 2021
- Review membership questions and suggestions for our committee and choose topic to address

IX. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Technology and Innovation Committee

Mission: Support the AONN+ National Technology and Innovation priority by identifying member needs and providing education, tools, and best practice solutions to advance the use of diverse technology solutions that improve efficiency and value across unique practice settings, navigator roles, and patient populations.

- Advocate for the value of technology that supports improved efficiency and the delivery of quality cancer care
- Collaborate with AONN+ members and committees to address obstacles in standardizing, collecting, and managing data for the following metrics: patient experience, clinical outcomes, and return on investment
- Develop and deliver educational programs and tools
- Foster sharing of innovative practices
- Engage AONN+ members, national navigation thought leaders, and technology vendors to ensure a national navigation standard and the role of the navigator is represented and communicate impact of collaboration to members

Co-Chairs:

Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, HON-OPN-CG

Linda.Fleisher@fccc.edu

Gena Middleton, MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS

gmiddleton@familycarepath.com

2020 Accomplishments

- Analyzed AONN+ Member Survey and National Navigation feedback and trends
 - Use to develop strategic plan for execution in Q4 2020 and 2021
 - Publications reporting results in progress
- Prioritized Telehealth and Remote Navigation in response to COVID
 - Facebook Live – Remote navigation panel discussion
 - Annual Conference – Telehealth session input
 - AONN+ COVID Toolkit – Remote navigation best practices
 - Member Polling Questions – Conferences, Facebook Live, surveys
- Proactively seek opportunities to collaborate
 - Integrate technology best practices into AONN+ resources
 - Outreach to AONN+ committees – Metrics, Conference Planning, Advocacy
- Committee Team-Building
 - Recruited 4 new members
 - Subcommittees established – Advocacy, Education, Research
 - Ongoing efforts to improve team communication (established shared drive, e-mail updates)
- 2021 Strategic Planning with focus on delivering resources

2021 Goals

- Support National Strategic Plan for education and resource development by:
 - Providing resources to increase member awareness and utilization of available technology (platforms). Primary objectives include:
 - Deliver a series of “Technology How-To” educational sessions to include best practice sharing
 - Conduct virtual focus groups to solicit member feedback
 - By role (Clinical, Nonclinical)
 - By topic (Financial Navigation, Survivorship Planning)
 - Develop and distribute technology-related patient education resource for navigators
 - Collaborate with AONN+ committees to integrate technology/innovation education into educational content
 - Conduct outreach to third-party vendors to ensure that navigation workflow is represented during development

IX. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Mission: The mission of the AONN+ Policy and Advocacy Committee is to utilize 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, PhD, MSW

efranklin@cancersupportcommunity.org

Clara Lambert, BBA, OPN-CG

claral@tailormed.com

2020 Accomplishments

- Webinar: Navigating Pandemic Policy Challenges
- Podcast: How to Best Use Advocacy Organizations
- Facebook Live: Resources and Support Services
- Multiple conference presentations
- Partnered on ACA Infographic and Blog
- Partnered on 2 Association for Value-Based Cancer Care webinars
- Advocacy Toolkit creation underway
- Committee member designated as social media chair (Michele Hubert)

2021 Goals

- 2 Webinars
- 2 *Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship* articles
- 1 Conference presentation
- 1 Social media post per week
- 1 Facebook Live
- Partner with the Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force on a navigation reimbursement strategy

Genetics and Genomics Committee

Mission: The mission of the Genetics and Genomics Committee is 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 R. Klemp, PhD, MPH, MA

jen@jenklemp.com

Frank dela Rama, RN, MS, AOCNS, AGN-BC

fdelarama@gmail.com

2020 Accomplishments

- General session presentations at the AONN+ Midyear and Annual conferences
- Initiated program development for the BRIDGE Program: Building Relationships in Developing Genetic/Genomic Education, including webpage development, webinars, and resources
- Hosted preconference symposium on genetics/genomics at the 2020 Annual Conference
- Collaborate with nursing leaders and industry partners to further develop the BRIDGE program

2021 Goals

- General session presentation at the AONN+ Annual Conference
- Enhance program resources for the BRIDGE initiative, including:
 - Webpage development
 - Webinars
 - Article development
- Collaborate with leaders and industry partners to further develop the BRIDGE program
- Create a navigation toolkit focused on genetics/genomics

IX. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION – NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Conference Planning Committee

Mission: The mission of the Conference Planning Committee is to provide current, relevant, excellent conference agendas that will enhance and develop multidisciplinary professional growth and development as navigators.

Co-Chairs:

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

Penny Daugherty, RN, MS, OCN, ONN-CG
Penny.Daugherty@northside.com

Darla Rummel {CPC “therapy dog”}

2020 Accomplishments

- Provided all AONN+ members with relevant, current, crucial, and practical topics at both Midyear and Annual conferences
- Developed a viable plan for Conference Planning Committee leadership evolution
- Kristina Rua and Clara Lambert will be Conference Planning Committee co-chairs going into 2022 and are being mentored for these roles in 2021
- Karen Wilson will be the point person for preconference and breakout sessions
- Enlarged our intercommittee collaboration
- Recruited new Conference Planning Committee members
- Created an online submission process for session topics

2021 Goals

- Incorporate navigators from other disease sites into the conference agenda
- Increase conference participation by Local Navigator Network membership
- Continue to provide educational sessions for all domains of the navigation practice
- Add AONN+ domains of practice to agenda sessions for those studying for exam
- Implement restructured committee format
- Succession planning for new Conference Planning Committee chairs to assume responsibilities in 2022
- Increase committee membership to include the diversity of our membership
- Structured networking sessions at conferences

Clinical Trials Committee

Mission: The mission of the Clinical Trials Committee is to provide education and support to navigators to promote clinical trials to their patients and institutions.

Co-Chairs:

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

Emily Gentry, RN, BSN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG
egentry@the-lynx-group.com

2020 Accomplishments

- Presented a Facebook Live event titled “State of Clinical Trials and the Role of the Navigator”
- Explore strategies so that navigators can gain awareness, knowledge, and participation in the clinical trial process
- Collaborate with the other AONN+ committees

2021 Goals

- Succession planning for new clinical trial co-chairs to assume responsibilities in 2022
- Increase committee membership to include the diversity of our membership
- Develop educational resources to enhance/equip oncology navigators in their role within clinical trials

Community Outreach, Prevention, & Early Detection Committee (New in 2020)

Mission: The mission of the Community Outreach, Prevention, & Early Detection Committee is to advance the role of navigation within the care continuum of those at risk, through prevention, screening, and early detection. The committee will provide a network for collaboration and development of best practice within the outreach and screening of the cancer care continuum. Shared learning and collaboration will occur from best practice of prevention programs, screening programs, early diagnosis, and improving potential patients at risk to those newly diagnosed patients.

Co-Chairs:

Andrea (Andi) Dwyer
Andrea.Dwyer@cuanschutz.edu

Kim Parham, RN, BSN, CN-BN
KParham@go2foundation.org

2021 Goals

- Recruitment of committee members
- Best practice sharing of community outreach, prevention, and screening programs

X. HEADING THE CHARGE – AONN+ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, CBEC, HON-ONN-CG
Program Director
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators



Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW
Senior Director, Policy & Advocacy
Cancer Support Community
Washington, DC



Cheryl Bellomo, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN
Oncology Nurse Navigator
Intermountain Cancer Center Cedar City Hospital
Cedar City, UT



Rani Khetarpal, MBA
Vice President, Provider Partnerships
New Century Health
Brea, CA



Jennifer Bires, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C
Executive Director, Life with Cancer and
Patient Experience
Inova Schar Cancer Institute
Annandale, VA



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



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



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



Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA
Executive Director, Association of Community Cancer
Centers
Rockville, MD



Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Oncology Navigation &
Survivorship*
Co-Founder, Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient
Navigators
University Distinguished Service Professor of Breast Cancer
Administrative Director, The Johns Hopkins Breast Center
Director, Johns Hopkins Cancer Survivorship Programs
Professor of Surgery and Oncology, JHU School of Medicine
Co-Creator, Work Stride—Managing Cancer at Work



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

XI. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

Elevating the Role of Nutrition in Cancer Care

A 2-day meeting hosted by the Abbott Nutritional Health Institute brought oncologists, nurse navigators, dietitians, and researchers together to discuss new evidence and guidelines related to nutritional care in patients with cancer. During this meeting, it was ultimately demonstrated that nutrition intervention is key in improving patient outcomes.

AONN+'s East Tennessee Navigator Network President **Shila Newman, RN, OCN, ONN-CG**, shared with guests the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to nutrition and how nurse navigation can serve as a central point of contact for not only the patient but also the care team. In addition, she addressed how nurse navigation is essential in helping patients overcome barriers that may hinder them from accessing needed interventions.

Meredith Smith, BSN, RN, OCN, is also helping to shine a light on the importance of nutrition in cancer care through her work with a multiorganizational effort, led by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, on evidence-based clinical recommendations for malnutrition in outpatient cancer centers. The team's findings are currently in review, and organizational approval of the paper will be requested in 2021.

Meeting the Needs of Disadvantaged Patients with Cancer Around the World

Of worldwide cancer deaths, 70% occur in countries in the low- to middle-income brackets. This realization has led to the formation of a Global Advisory Committee, with representatives from 11 countries across 5 continents, united under the banner of the American Cancer Society's Building Expertise, Advocacy, and Capacity for Oncology Navigation (BEACON) initiative. Together, this committee, which includes AONN+ members, is working to address the disparities between high-income countries and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

At present, efforts are focused on the creation of a patient navigation program development methodology and implementation toolkit for use by health institutions and nongovernment organizations in LMICs around the world.

This methodology and toolkit will contain practical, adaptable, and freely available resources—including downloadable video and audio clips, anecdotes from various countries implementing patient navigation, and educational infographics—to guide health institutions in designing, launching, refining, and sustaining locally appropriate patient navigation programs. It will also provide valuable support via questions and practical exercises, instructions, templates, worksheets, and curated examples of resources used by other patient navigation programs. The toolkit will be bolstered by a Project ECHO® clinic, in which users can share and reflect on their experiences, encourage one another, exchange resources, and work together on problem-solving. The toolkit is expected to be ready for widespread dissemination by 2022.

XI. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

AONN+ Participates in Pfizer Oncology's Patient Centricity Initiative

Launched in 2019, Pfizer Oncology's "Patient Centricity Initiative" aims to give patients with cancer, their advocates, and key opinion leaders a voice in how Pfizer Oncology designs and carries out its clinical trials and programs.

AONN+ is proud to have a role in this effort and, in 2020, was asked to have representation on 3 Workstream Partners groups that represent areas of focus for the near future:

- **Health Equity (Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, Program Director)** – focuses on the unmet needs of older people regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or location. The goal of this group is to identify ways in which Pfizer can address medical, policy, and societal challenges to help ensure older people living with cancer can equally benefit from advances in science and get the best care possible.
- **Health Literacy (Monica Dean, HON-OPN-CG, Director of Patient Navigation Program Development)** – focuses on providing feedback on Pfizer's "e-Health" literacy program as well as its ongoing Abstract Plain Language Summaries (APLS) initiative. APLS aims to involve patients in research, the development of patient-centered resources and learning opportunities, and to empower them with knowledge and the skills to engage in shared decision-making/care management.
- **Clinical Trials (Emily Gentry, RN, BSN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG, Senior Director of Education and Program Development)** – focuses on near-term activities aimed at engaging patient insights and enhancing diversity in clinical trial participation.

Collaboration Empowers Novice Navigators

A joint effort between AONN+ and the Oncology Nursing Society begun pre-pandemic, has resulted in the launch of a special program titled "Equipping the Novice Oncology Nurse Navigator." The program aims to provide a foundational knowledge of the nurse navigator role for those new in the position. It also gives an overview of critical elements to the navigator role, including care coordination, reducing barriers to care, and patient advocacy.

Thank you to **Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, Program Director; Cheryl Bellomo, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN; and Tricia Strusowski, MSN, RN**, for serving as AONN+'s key knowledge leaders in this effort.



Photo: AONN+ key knowledge leaders Sharon Gentry, Tricia Strusowski, and Cheryl Bellomo joined representatives of the Oncology Nursing Society for a 2-day workshop to collaborate on developing a novice oncology nurse navigator curriculum.

XII. KEY PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020

Like most other organizations, the events of 2020 threw AONN+ into uncharted territory. The tremendous challenges presented by COVID-19 were compounded over the summer with the national focus on racial equity. It was plainly clear that the priorities we had set for this year would need to be adjusted to accommodate the current landscape. Within this section of our report, you'll learn about the ways in which AONN+ supported its members and their patients during this trying time.

Calming Fears and Improving Care Through Education and Support

Cancer is a complex disease, and its treatment requires tremendous care and understanding. The emergence of COVID-19 threatened this balance by putting both the caregiver and patient at increased risk. AONN+ recognized the challenges facing oncology professionals and jumped into action to provide support and credible resources/information to educate, empower, and alleviate the fears of its members and their patients.

The outcome of this effort was AONN+'s free COVID-19 Toolkit, which contains written materials and resources to help oncology professionals explain to patients how the virus could affect them and ways in which they could protect themselves and loved ones. This is achieved through simple-to-read items such as FAQs, tips for boosting immune systems, helpful definitions, and self-care strategies. Materials were updated regularly to reflect the latest findings and most recently to include a vaccine fact sheet for healthcare professionals and patients. The toolkit was recognized with a 2020 *Folio*: Eddie and Ozzie Award (see page 39 for more information).

At a Midyear Conference session, sponsored by Genentech, **Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN, Program Director**, gave a presentation about patient navigation and COVID-19 that recognized navigators' dedication to managing patients throughout the pandemic, explored common themes of COVID-19 from the navigators' perspective, looked at creative tactics that navigators were using to respond to patient care and their own self-care, and acknowledged the fear and risk of vicarious trauma that navigators and other healthcare professionals face.

Confronting Racial and Health Equity – AONN+ Takes a Stand

Among a navigator's greatest asset is her or his ability to help *all* patients gain access to the care they need. AONN+ recognizes the importance of this role and supported its members, patients, and broader healthcare community by issuing a statement on June 4, 2020, emphasizing its firm stand on racial and health equity.

In an insightful blog post titled "Race and America: How Did We Get Here, and What Can We Do About It," published on August 3, 2020, Leadership Council Member Mandi Pratt-Chapman, PhD, MA, HON-OPN-CG, explores the roots of the Black Lives Matter movement. She also explains why, at this time, it's critical that we understand the path that led us to this place and why we all have a responsibility—to ourselves and fellow Americans—to move toward health equity.

XII. KEY PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020

AONN+ Statement of Professional Responsibility to Ensure Racial and Health Equity

The Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is dedicated to improving patient care and quality of life. We are committed to supporting the professional workforce that has historically served cancer patients in greatest need. This includes patients of color who have long dealt with systemic and institutional injustices and racial inequities. These impacts have been well documented in our health and cancer care systems and were the catalyst to create the profession of navigation.

We stand at a moment of national tragedy, built on a history of racial injustice. This is compounded by the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Navigators work to make our healthcare system a more just and equitable place as they help patients identify personal strengths to empower their preference and priorities. They bear witness to the extraordinary challenges facing all cancer patients. A core competency of patient navigation is to demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including, but not limited to, diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, age, culture, religion, abilities, and sexual orientation. With this basic value, all navigators work to expose health inequities and find solutions to ensure that all people have the opportunity to live healthy, fulfilling lives as they respond to patient needs and barriers. The need for this work has never been more profound. AONN+ implores all navigators to recommit in this moment to their professional obligations to advance racial and health equity.

Making Certification More Accessible

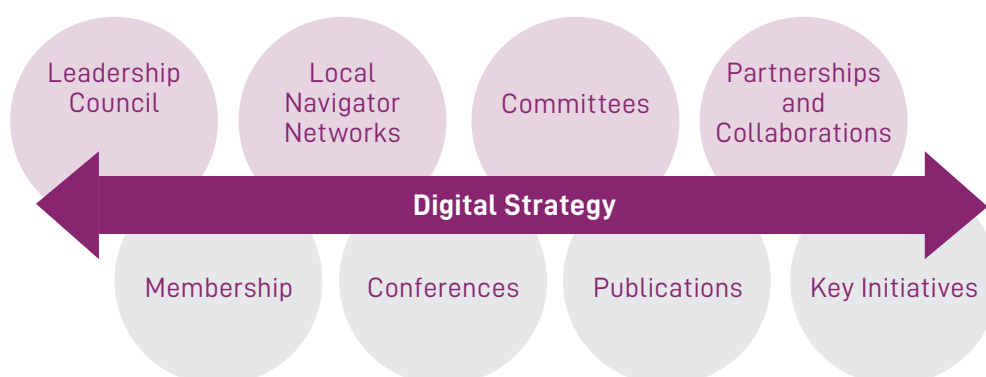
In the absence of in-person conferences, and in response to the feedback from members, the AONN+ Foundation for Learning made the decision in 2020 to provide navigators with the opportunity to sit for the Oncology Nurse Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (ONN-CGSM) and the Oncology Patient Navigator–Certified GeneralistSM (OPN-CGSM) certification exams at 1 of 5 regional locations in November. These locations included:

- New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania: Iselin, NJ
- Texas: Austin, TX
- Florida: Miami, FL
- Indiana: Indianapolis, IN
- North Carolina: Winston-Salem, NC

These are the first exams since accreditation by the ANSI National Accreditation Board in August. Achieving accreditation would not have been possible without the hard work of the AONN+ Foundation for Learning team, which includes the:

- Certification Advisory Commission
- ONN-CG and OPN-CG Scheme Committees
- ONN-CG and OPN-CG Exam Development Committees

Expanding Digital Offerings to Meet the Virtual Needs of Navigators and Patients



XII. KEY PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020

Digital content has long been a bedrock of AONN+'s educational efforts and was a focus of the 2020 strategic plan to promote across all of the Academy's entities. So when COVID-19 forced the world to suddenly engage with one another virtually, AONN+ was well prepared. That's not to say, however, that it didn't capitalize on the opportunity at hand to expand its digital offerings. Throughout the year, AONN+ launched several new digital initiatives aimed at connecting its members and safely bringing them the support and education they need at home or work.

Facebook Live provided one obvious avenue for this effort. Through its series "Navigate Now: How Can We Help?," AONN+ connected its leaders and faculty with key knowledge navigators in the community using Facebook's familiar platform. During these events, navigators had the opportunity to engage with experts on a series of topics ranging from metrics and navigation models to telehealth and compassion fatigue. Sessions were promoted in advance on AONN+'s website and social media channels. Following each live event, sessions were archived on the website for public availability and access. The 12 sessions in 2020 reached more than 38,000 people—a number that continues to climb as navigators visit the archived sessions.

Harnessing the popularity of podcasts, AONN+ saw the successful launch of its own series in 2020. "Heart and Soul of Oncology Navigation" is a monthly program that features AONN+ leadership and members highlighting stories from the front lines, best practices, and lessons learned on the job reflective of the Academy's 8 domains of knowledge. Monthly presentations premiered in July, and topics have included implementing a successful virtual environment for support programs, tapping into the patient advocacy/patient empowerment domain, and accessing credible information about genetic testing. Presentations are also archived on the website as a resource for navigators and support services, with an average of 240 downloads per session.

Toolkits have become a virtual mainstay for navigation education and allow navigators to stay at the forefront of their field. The resources in this format deliver relevant, timely information directly to the navigator, are a time-efficient method of training, and deliver expert knowledge free of charge. Examples of topics shared with navigators in 2020 include:

- Navigating Advanced Prostate Cancer: A Resource Guide for the Navigator
- Guide for Patients with Lung Cancer
- Biomarker Testing for Lung Cancer
- Implementing the Commission on Cancer Standard 8.1: Addressing Barriers to Care - A Road Map for Comprehensive Cancer Control Professionals and Cancer Program Administrators

Partnership Aims to Increase the Efficacy of Telehealth

In July, AONN+ and its association management and marketing company, The Lynx Group, entered into a partnership with GoMo Health, a leader in population health management and digital therapeutic solutions, to increase the efficacy of telehealth with patient-partnered care. This evidence-based telehealth system is designed to enable shared decision-making between the patient and the care team, thereby increasing patient adherence to their treatment plan.

Together with AONN+, GoMo Health will combine BehavioralRx®, a proven behavioral engagement method for integrated psychosocial digital support for "compromised" cancer patients at times of crisis, with AONN+'s evidence-based national oncology navigation metrics. The end result has the potential to be an interactive program that can increase patient engagement and enhance education to support clinical best practices for oncology healthcare professionals, organizations, and patients worldwide.

XIII. GARNERING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

AONN+ Co-Founder Lillie Shockney Named 2020 Master Educator Among *PM360* ELITE 100



AONN+ Co-Founder Lillie D. Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON-ONN-CG, was named among the 2020 *PM360* ELITE 100 in the Master Educators category.

Established in 2015, the *PM360* ELITE (Exceptional • Leaders • Innovators • Transformers • Entrepreneurs) awards recognize individuals who have made a significant impact on the healthcare industry throughout their careers. More than 500 submissions were received, and nominees were evaluated and selected by the *PM360* editorial staff based on their accomplishments; testimonials from their bosses, clients, and colleagues; and supporting evidence that reflects the impact of their efforts. A total of 100 winners were selected across 18 categories. The winners represent the most influential people in the healthcare industry today. *PM360* is the premier information resource for marketing decision makers in the pharmaceutical, biotech, diagnostics, and medical device sectors.

"At a time when the world is being impacted by a healthcare crisis in the COVID-19 pandemic, it is nice to be able to reflect on the extraordinary work those in the life sciences do to discover, develop, and promote life-saving treatments," says Anna Stashower, CEO and Publisher of *PM360*. "Our ELITE winners epitomize the very best of our industry. We are incredibly thankful for everything they do and proud to honor all of their achievements."

Read about all the winners in *PM360*'s May 2020 issue.

Navigation Project Tab

In an effort to reduce "virtual" fatigue for navigators and limit inundation of survey requests to members, the AONN+ Leadership Council developed the Navigation Project Tab on the AONN+ website. Here, members and affiliates may request that AONN+ circulate information from an institution, publication, or activity that pertains to a navigation or survivorship project. The Program Director will review all requests and approve those that are in sync with the AONN+ mission and vision. The AONN+ Leadership Team (Chief Nursing Officer; Director of Patient Navigation Program Development/Co-Director of Certification; and Senior Director of Education and Program Development/Co-Director of Certification) will be involved if needed for final approval. Approved projects will then be released on AONN+ social platforms, thus giving the navigators a choice to respond or not. The Navigation Project Tab is just another example of how AONN+ leadership is looking after navigators, recognizing their increased workloads, and reducing digital clutter so they can operate more efficiently!

Initiatives Recognized with 2020 *Folio*: Eddie & Ozzie Awards



AONN+ is proud to announce that it has received 2 Eddie & Ozzie awards. One was for the AONN+ Facebook Community, which received an Honorable Mention in the Social Media/Online Community – Association/Nonprofit category. The other was for the AONN+ COVID-19 Toolkit, which received an Honorable Mention in the Overall Digital Brand Extension – Association/Nonprofit category.

In addition, the AONN+ publication *CONQUER: the patient voice* received an Honorable Mention for Consumer Overall Editorial Excellence.

Presented by *Folio*, the awards recognize excellence in engaging content and gorgeous design across all sectors of the publishing industry. Roughly 300 winners were selected from a pool of thousands to receive Eddie & Ozzie awards this year.

XIV. 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 were issued by BDO, USA, LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the US 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.

2020 Financial Overview

In 2020, AONN+ paired an effective financial management strategy with revenues from members and sponsors to grow its program portfolio. COVID-19's impact on the Midyear and Annual conferences affected revenue for each of the conferences negatively. Annual revenues decreased by 30.95% in 2020, and AONN+ finished the year with approximately 12 months of expenditures in reserves. The ratio of current assets (\$3,948,532) to current liabilities (\$1,717,294) is 2.30, slightly down from 2.61 last year.

AONN+ anticipates that the Academy will continue to flourish as the demand for navigators increases and the need for professional and educational resources grows.

OPERATING REVENUE 2020

Corporate Sponsorships and Membership Dues	\$2,740,098
Donated Services	\$229,201
Total	\$2,969,299

OPERATING EXPENSES 2020

Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$205,998
Freelance Projects, Digital, Production, Editing	\$287,978
Honoraria	\$214,050
Insurance	\$45,019
Management Fees	\$1,600,000
Donated Services	\$229,201
PayPal & Bank Fees	\$4,206
Printing & Copying	\$14,382
Registration Processing Fees	\$11,705
Supplies	\$4,521
Travel	\$10,564
Total	\$2,627,624

OPERATING PROFIT

Operating Profit	\$341,675
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XV. 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 8,900 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). Select issues offer 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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