

Imagining the Future of Oncology Nursing

Celebrating Achievements and Advancing Cancer Care

The 49th Annual ONS Congress® in Washington, DC, was a remarkable success for the Oncology Nursing Foundation, setting new fundraising records to support the future of cancer care. Through the generosity of our supporters, we raised a cumulative total of more than \$277,000, reflecting their shared passion and commitment to our mission.

Donors contributed more than \$67,000, while the annual Passport to Care activity further bolstered our efforts, with participation from 16 companies raising over \$142,000 to support oncology nurses. Sponsorships raised more than \$68,000, with support from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Genentech, Gilead, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Passport to Care participants with their completed passports at the Foundation's booth.



Bill Brummel at the 2024 Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lecture

In addition to the outpouring of support from attendees, ONS Congress featured several memorable events that energized and inspired. The 2024 Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lecture featured award-winning documentary producer and 27-year cancer survivor Bill Brummel. His powerful story deeply moved the audience, and the exclusive preview of his upcoming documentary, *Can You Hear My Voice?* left a lasting impact on everyone present.

Wellness was also front and center in the nation's capital, as we hosted the Energize and Empower Zumba Power Hour, sponsored by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. This early morning fitness event gave attendees the opportunity to celebrate wellness and take time for themselves, all while supporting a good cause. The event benefited the Ann Olson Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports oncology nurses pursuing doctoral degrees.

The Oncology Nurse Scientist Research Intensive exemplified the Foundation's commitment to advancing research in oncology nursing. Four early-career nurse scientists engaged in this immersive program, collaborating with a faculty of eight expert volunteers

who provided crucial feedback on their grant proposals during a mock study review session. ONS Congress also offered valuable learning opportunities in financial planning, with two financial planning legacy sessions hosted by the Foundation. Attendees benefited from expert guidance on retirement planning and charitable giving strategies, delivered by Jake Matysek, VP– Financial Consultant at the Charles Schwab Corporation.

The Foundation is deeply grateful for the support and participation that made the 49th Annual ONS Congress a success. Together, we've strengthened our community and equipped our oncology nurses with the tools and knowledge to continue their vital work in cancer care.



The 2024 the Energize and Empower Zumba Power Hour



“At Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, we believe in the transformative power of wellness, both for individuals and our community. The Energize and Empower Zumba Power Hour brought oncology nurses from all over the country together in the spirit of fitness and camaraderie, highlighting our commitment to supporting the Oncology Nursing Foundation's mission. We are proud to be investing in the future of oncology nursing through this fundraising event.”

- Anne H. Gross, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President,
Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

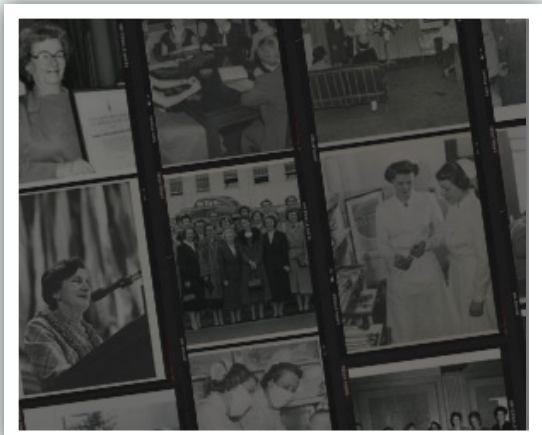


As we look ahead to the 50th anniversary of the Oncology Nursing Society next year, the Oncology Nursing Foundation has launched the **Imagining the Possibilities** campaign.

This campaign will ensure that the Foundation can continue to provide crucial support for oncology nurses for the next 50 years. This transformative campaign aims to fund two key initiatives: the Sustaining Impact Fund, which will be a source of flexible funds to react in real time to the pressing needs of nurses, and the Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center, which celebrates the rich legacy of the profession.



We have raised more than \$3.6 million toward our ambitious \$8 million goal, but we still need your support. Giving is easier than ever. You can join the Foundation in supporting the future of oncology nursing by [donating online](#), scanning the QR code, or sending a gift by mail to PO Box 3258, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-3258. Your generosity today will help shape the future of oncology nursing for decades to come.



Discover the Legacy of Oncology Nursing

Explore the Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center's digitized collections where you can access interviews with early ONS members, historical artifacts, documents, videos, and more. Learn how the history of oncology nursing shapes our future and discover valuable insights into the profession. [Dive into this rich history and celebrate our legacy by visiting today.](#)

Chapter Challenge

Join us in the Chapter Challenge, a new initiative replacing the Annual Parade of Chapters, and mark a new era in supporting cancer nursing excellence.

ONS Chapters have the power to shape the future by participating in the Chapter Challenge. Whether through making a gift, organizing a fundraiser, or working together on creative contributions, your chapter can play a key role. As we look ahead to ONS's 50th anniversary in 2025, 100% participation of chapter's helps strengthen our community and advance the field of oncology nursing. [Help encourage your chapter to get involved and make an impact!](#)

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Celebrating the 2024 Friends of the Foundation

Genentech and Puget Sound ONS Chapter Honored at ONS Congress

The Oncology Nursing Foundation proudly presented the 2024 Friends of the Foundation Awards to two outstanding recipients: Genentech and the Puget Sound ONS Chapter. These awards recognize their contributions to advancing oncology nursing and their commitment to our mission.

Since 2017, Genentech and the Genentech Foundation have invested over \$233 million in equity-focused giving, targeting inequities in healthcare and education; advancing diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and supporting underserved communities. Their support of the Foundation through scholarships, research grants, and career advancement opportunities has had a significant impact on the oncology nursing community. "We are thrilled to be recognized as one of the 2024 Friends of the Foundation and will continue to support and advocate for a thriving healthcare workforce," said Doug Beeman, marketing director, society strategy and engagement at Genentech.



Doug Beeman, Marketing Director, Society Strategy and Engagement at Genentech, and Laura M. Benson, MS, RN, ANP at the Foundation donor reception.



The Puget Sound ONS Chapter and Laura M. Benson, MS, RN, ANP at the Foundation donor reception.

The Puget Sound ONS Chapter (PSONS) exemplifies community engagement and dedication to the oncology nursing profession. Through its community service committee, PSONS has actively partnered with local organizations like the Downtown Emergency Services Center, supporting over 2,500 housing-insecure individuals by donating over 150 sets of sheets and sorting over three tons of donations in 2023. Their commitment extends to the Lynnwood Foodbank and their ongoing support of the Oncology Nursing Foundation. PSONS has also expanded scholarship opportunities for oncology nurses, demonstrating their dedication to education, research, and professional growth within the field.

Both Genentech and the Puget Sound ONS Chapter have made significant contributions that will continue to impact the lives of oncology nurses and the patients they serve. The Foundation is honored to recognize their efforts and looks forward to their continued partnership in the years ahead.

GIVING TUESDAY

Save the Date for Giving Tuesday! December 3, 2024

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Honoring Excellence in Oncology Nursing Mentorship

Jonathan Gapilango Receives 2024 Connie Henke Yarbro Award

The Oncology Nursing Foundation presented Jonathan Anotado Gapilango, MSN, RN, NE-BC, OCN®, with the 2024 Connie Henke Yarbro Excellence in Cancer Nursing Mentorship Award. Gapilango, an administrative director of oncology performance measures and accreditation at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ, was honored at the Oncology Nursing Foundation donor reception during the 49th Annual ONS Congress® in Washington, DC.

“Being awarded the 2024 Oncology Nursing Foundation Connie Henke Yarbro Excellence in Cancer Nursing Mentorship Award signifies Jonathan’s remarkable accomplishments within the field of oncology nursing,” said Marley A. Nicolas, MSN, RN, one of Gapilango’s nominators. “This esteemed award exemplifies his profound influence on patient care and the professional growth of aspiring nurses, recognizing his steadfast commitment, expertise, and leadership. Jonathan’s dedication to mentoring and achieving high standards in oncology nursing is an exemplary model that motivates and encourages others to emulate his achievements.”

Gapilango’s nursing career spans more than three decades, beginning with his BSN from Central Philippine University in 1993, followed by his move to the United States in 1995. He continued his education with postgraduate studies at STI West Negros University in the Philippines and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at Thomas Edison State University in New Jersey. Throughout his career, Gapilango has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to mentorship, providing guidance and support to aspiring oncology nurses. His contributions extend beyond individual mentorship, as he actively participates in professional associations and is preparing to lead as the incoming President of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey.

Gapilango’s exceptional mentorship and leadership continue to shape the future of oncology nursing, inspiring a new generation of nurses dedicated to providing outstanding patient care.



Connie Henke Yarbro, MS, RN, FAAN, Jonathan Anotado Gapilango, MSN, RN, NE-BC, OCN®, and Laura M. Benson, MS, RN, ANP, at the Foundation donor reception.



APPLY NOW!

Apply now for scholarships from the Oncology Nursing Foundation. The following opportunities for 2025 funding are now open:

Academic scholarship applications for undergraduate, master’s-level, and doctoral studies

ONS Congress scholarship applications for registered nurses

Ceira Boyle Student Nursing ONS Congress Scholarship for student nurses

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Advancing Oncology Care Through Research

The Oncology Nursing Foundation is proud to highlight the continued research efforts of two recipients of oncology nursing research grants, showcasing the lasting impact that our funding has on the field.

Mei Fu, PhD, RN, FAAN, first received an Oncology Nursing Foundation research grant in 2011 for her study “Genetic Variations and Lymphedema Risk Reduction.” Since then, Dr. Fu has been awarded ten additional grants, continuing her vital research on lymphedema and lymphatic pain, including one funded by the Foundation in 2022. Her work has resulted in over 32 publications, significantly advancing our collective understanding of lymphedema and its management. Dr. Fu’s current research, “HealthyME: Advancing Health Equity in Lymphatic Pain and Lymphedema in Black and Hispanic Women with Breast Cancer,” exemplifies her ongoing commitment to addressing health disparities. Her innovative approaches include developing AI-assisted therapies that aim to provide low-cost, effective solutions for managing lymphedema and related symptoms. Dr. Fu’s dedication to research is further demonstrated by her recent role as the Oncology Nursing Foundation’s Review Committee Chair for the 2024 Major Research Grant Review.



“I am very grateful to the Oncology Nursing Foundation for the great support of my program of research on lymphedema and lymphatic pain. The Foundation’s support for my lymphedema research in 2011 and 2022 has led to sustained research funding from various prestigious organizations. Publications based on the Foundation-supported studies have significantly enriched the knowledge base of lymphedema, lymphatic systems, and pain, which continues to change clinical practice and policy, improving breast cancer survivors’ quality of life.”

Mei Fu, PhD, RN, FAAN

Susan Storey, PhD, RN, AOCNS®, FCNS, received funding from the Foundation in 2019 for her study on symptom clusters in cancer survivors with diabetes. The pilot data from this study laid the groundwork for three additional grant awards, enabling Dr. Storey to further her research. She has since presented her findings at various conferences, both locally and internationally, and co-authored ten publications based on this research. The impact of her 2019 grant extends beyond her study, fostering professional growth and expanding her network within the research community.

“The award I received from the Oncology Nursing Foundation in 2019 has had a significant impact on my career. It has contributed to my personal and professional development, allowing me to lead teams, build relationships, and enhance my research capabilities. I am very thankful to the Foundation for awarding me this grant!”

Susan Storey, PhD, RN, AOCNS®, FCNS



As we celebrate the achievements ongoing research, we are reminded of the importance of supporting future innovation and breakthroughs. New research grant opportunities will open February 15, 2025. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply and join the ranks of those advancing patient care.

Creating a Legacy for Oncology Nursing

What does it mean to create a lasting impact and legacy? For the Oncology Nursing Foundation, it signifies the act of providing ongoing support to current and future oncology nurses who are committed to enhancing patient outcomes and pioneering groundbreaking cancer research. The Foundation offers legacy planning to individuals interested in making a planned gift—be it a direct gift, a donation through a donor-advised fund, inclusion in a will or living trust, or other methods.

Carol Sheridan, RN, MSN, is just one example among many who have forged a legacy in oncology nursing through a dedicated commitment to the Foundation's mission. We asked her about her journey as an oncology nurse, cherished recollections of ONS, and avenues to bolster the support for future generations.



Carol Sheridan, RN, MSN and Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN

Q: What led you to the field of oncology nursing?

I was inspired to become a cancer nurse during my time at the State University of New York at Albany, where I had a faculty member, Ann Chiappa, who was deeply involved in ostomy care. I was fascinated by her work with a surgeon who performed colostomy surgeries and how she was integrated into the preoperative care process. The recognition that nursing could significantly contribute to cancer care, combined with the understanding that the field would always evolve and present new challenges, led me to specialize in oncology nursing. I was impressed by the opportunities to continuously learn and grow in this field, which remains true even after 40 years.

Q: How did you hear about the Oncology Nursing Society and when did you first come to be involved?

I became involved with the Oncology Nursing Society early in my career as one of the founding leaders of the New York City chapter. Early on, I had the opportunity to witness the incredible leadership of Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN, who was not only a founding member of ONS but also became the first Executive Director in 1983. During my time on the ONS board from 1992 to 1995, I had the privilege of working closely with Pearl, whose dedication and vision for oncology nursing greatly inspired me. This experience motivated me to remain deeply engaged with ONS, contributing to annual

appeals, building funds, and various initiatives that support the Society.

Q: What is your favorite memory as a member of the Oncology Nursing Society?

Two ONS Congresses stand out as my favorite memories. The first was in Washington, DC, in 1978, my first ONS Congress, where I was so inspired that I later helped write an abstract with a friend to present the following year. Although I was excited about the work, I did not want to stand up in front of people. The second was during a later ONS Congress, where I vividly remember the debates at the business meetings. People were passionate, and they stood in line to get to the microphone. It really wasn't so much about the topic, but it was the engagement of people who then went home and put on their scrubs or put on their lab coats and took care of patients.

“The thing that I remember about both conferences was the sense of the community and that we’re all doing the same thing and we’re all struggling with the same challenges. These experiences exemplified the commitment of ONS members, and they remain some of my most cherished memories.”

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**ONCOLOGY NURSING
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Q: What are some ways you have volunteered for the Oncology Nursing Foundation?

I have volunteered in various capacities for the Oncology Nursing Foundation, from being on the Board of Trustees to serving on multiple committees at the national level. My involvement has included contributions to building funds, supporting the recognition of leaders like Pearl, and participating in initiatives that support the Foundation's mission. Additionally, during my time working in the pharmaceutical industry, I utilized matching fund contributions to maximize my financial support for the Foundation.

Q: What did you enjoy about this experience and why?

What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to give back to an organization that has given me so much throughout my career. It wasn't just about contributing to the broader field but also about personal connections and mentoring opportunities. For instance, I think about Hilda Haynes PhD, ANP-BC, AOCNP®, who started as a nursing student on our unit and later returned as a nurse practitioner. Watching her grow and knowing I played a small role in her journey is incredibly rewarding.

“It’s moments like these, seeing the impact on individual nurses and the community, that made my involvement so fulfilling. Being part of this supportive and passionate community has been a true privilege.”

Q: Would you suggest this experience for others and why?

Absolutely, I would recommend this experience to others. Being involved with the Oncology Nursing Foundation offers a meaningful way to give back to a profession that has given so much to us. It's not just about the work you do, but about the connections you make and the difference you can see in real time, both in the lives of patients and in the careers of fellow nurses. It's rewarding to know that your contributions, whether through volunteering or financial support, help build a stronger future for oncology nursing. It's about paying it forward to ensure that those who come after us have the resources and support they need.

Q: What inspired your generous legacy gift to the Foundation?

My gift was inspired by a deep sense of responsibility and gratitude. Over the years, I've seen how much ONS and the Foundation have done for oncology nurses and patients, and I wanted to ensure that this work continues. I've always believed that it's up to us, those who have benefited from ONS, to give back and support the organization in any way we can. possible. I encourage others, especially those nearing retirement or considering their legacy, to think about how they can make a lasting contribution. Even a small percentage of a life insurance policy can make a significant impact when combined with the contributions of others. It's important to leave a legacy that supports the future of oncology nursing and ensures that the next generation of nurses has the resources and support they need to continue advancing the field.

Give Smart and Make a Difference This Holiday Season

As you reflect on your philanthropic priorities this holiday season, consider the impact you can make on the future of oncology nursing. Giving smart not only supports the Oncology Nursing Foundation but also aligns your generosity with your financial goals.



Here are five ways you can give smart and make a lasting difference:

1. Make a Gift Through Your Donor-Advised Fund

Designate all or a portion of your donor-advised fund balance to make an immediate impact on the oncology nurses we serve. You can also consider making the Oncology Nursing Foundation a beneficiary, ensuring continued support for our mission.

2. Send a Donation of Appreciated Securities

Donating appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds not only supports the Foundation but also provides potential tax benefits for you. Contact us for transfer instructions and make a meaningful contribution today.

3. Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you're over the age of 70½, consider making a gift directly from your IRA. This option allows you to help oncology nurses and further the Foundation's mission of nursing excellence, while potentially reducing your taxable income.

4. Leave a Legacy with a Gift in Your Will

Including the Oncology Nursing Foundation in your will ensures your legacy lives on. A few words in your will can make a significant difference for oncology nurses now and in the future. We can provide you with the language that meets your needs and creates the impact you envision.

5. Name the Oncology Nursing Foundation as a Beneficiary

Naming the Foundation as the beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or donor-advised fund is an easy way to make a lasting impact. This decision can also result in tax savings for your loved ones, allowing your legacy to extend beyond your lifetime.

Consider including the Oncology Nursing Foundation in your estate plans. Your legacy gift will have a lasting impact on the future of oncology nursing, cancer care, and research. To learn more about how to include the Foundation in your will or estate plan or to join the Legacy of Care Society, contact the Foundation at 866-257-4667, option 4, or at info@onfgivesback.org.

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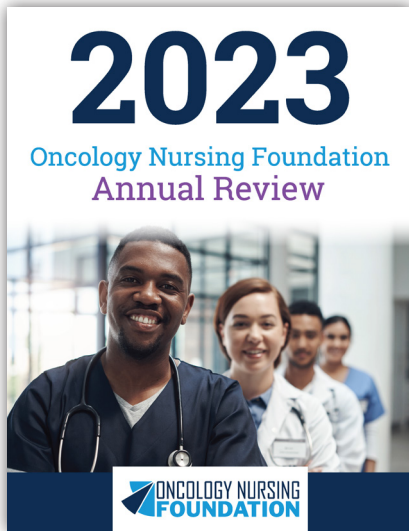
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TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TO
THE ONCOLOGY NURSING
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2023 Oncology Nursing Foundation Annual Review



Discover the inspiring impact of your support for the Foundation in the 2023 Annual Review. [Explore past achievements and see how they're shaping ambitious plans for the future.](#)

Meet Our Team

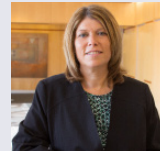
**HAVE A QUESTION?
WE CAN HELP.**



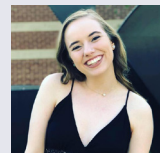
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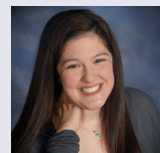
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Meet Our Board of Trustees

- **Laura M. Benson, MS, RN, ANP**, –*President*
- **Ryan R. Iwamoto, MN, RN, AOCN®** Emeritus, –*President-Elect*
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- **Anne H. Gross, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS FOR HELPING THE
ONCOLOGY NURSING FOUNDATION FURTHER OUR
MISSION TO SUPPORT CANCER NURSING EXCELLENCE!

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DEIC Commitment Statement

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), Oncology Nursing Foundation, and Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) are committed to advancing oncology nurses to deliver quality and equitable care to patients with cancer.

We know that diversity, equity, inclusion, and connection (DEIC) are critical to our efforts in supporting those who provide care for diverse patient populations.

Diversity

means all the ways that individuals differ from one another, which includes race, ethnicity, and gender as well as age, differing abilities, military service, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion and beliefs, background, experience, and education.

Equity

creates fair treatment and access by establishing and upholding policies and processes that remove and prevent the formation of barriers for all stakeholders who engage with ONS, ONF and ONCC.

Inclusion

fosters an environment where all stakeholders are able to participate fully and have a sense of belonging because they feel welcomed, respected, and valued.

Connection

Fosters dynamic relationships with diverse stakeholders of mutual understanding, trust, and rapport to enhance individual and collective success in the organization, oncology care, and the oncology nursing profession.



Contact Us

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