



Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology  
Association canadienne des infirmières en oncologie

**CANO/ACIO**  
**Annual Report of Special Interest Groups**  
**2015 - 2016**

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## **Oncology & Aging Special Interest Group Annual Report**

October 2015 to September 2016

### **Description/Mandate:**

The purpose of the Oncology & Aging SIG is to create a national forum to bring together nurses that have a common interest in the care of older adults with cancer, by promoting Canada-wide activities that address concerns related to practice, policy, research, and advocacy for these older patients and their family members.

### **Specific Objectives:**

- Advocate for the optimal care of older adults with cancer and their caregivers, drawing awareness to their unique strengths, needs, and concerns within CANO initiatives and beyond
- Identify, develop, and share tools and resources that support knowledge and skill in caring for older adults with cancer and their caregivers
- Initiate projects to strengthen the care of older adults with cancer and their families, driven by issues, needs, and trends identified by our members
- Highlight the critical role of nurses in optimizing the care of older adults with cancer and their families within interprofessional and interdisciplinary care teams
- Promote Geriatric Oncology Nursing as a sub-specialty that strives to integrate expertise in cancer care and geriatrics, developing CANO standards and competencies for this sub-specialty
- Collaborate with other national and international organizations which strive to strengthen the care of older adults with cancer.

### **Key Events/Highlights:**

September 25, 2015 – Drafting of SIG terms of reference, purpose and goals

October 7, 2015 – Workshop at the CANO conference & Launching of Special Interest Group

- Workshop included two presentations which provided an overview the need to integrate understanding of oncology and aging, and highlighted the key challenges to optimal care

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- Attendees participated in a round-table discussion of issues and concerns identified in practice
- Potential suggestions for new SIG included:
  - Promoting awareness of issues related to the care of older adults with cancer
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  - Survey of members

November/December, 2015 – Launch of SIG website, Welcome letter to initial members  
April 27, 2016 – Initial meeting of the Canadian Network on Aging and Cancer (CNAC)

- Ms. Strohschein represented CANO at the first CNAC meeting in Toronto, ON A brief report was submitted to CANO leadership outlining the research, clinical, and educational issues identified during the meeting; highlighting the key role of nurses in providing comprehensive assessment and care of older adults with cancer, the importance of care coordination and navigation for these patients and their family members, and the need to define nursing competencies and skills (related to oncologic care of older adults, and related to specialization in geriatric oncology)

#### **Ongoing**

- Draft of article summarizing launch of SIG for the Canadian Journal of Oncology Nursing
- Liaising with members of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association to explore opportunities for collaboration
- Working to expand resources on website

#### **Next steps:**

- Welcoming of the 68 new members that have joined over the past year
- Planning agenda for SIG meeting at CANO conference, identifying issues of concern to members and mapping out a plan of key initiatives for the coming year.

#### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Fay Strohschein, RN, PhD(c) and Lorelei Newton, RN, PhD, Co-chairs