



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

CANO/ACIO
Council of Chapters Reports
2011-2012



British Columbia Oncology Nurses Group—Chapter Report

Submitted by: Johanna den Duyf, RN, BSCN, MA
Executive Position: President, BCONG

Group Characteristics:

BCONG is the chapter of Oncology Nurses in British Columbia and has been in existence since 1982. To date we have more than 75 active members across the province of British Columbia.

BCONG executive is constantly striving to improve communication among BCONG members and all oncology nurses in BC, to increase awareness of BCONG and ultimately to increase membership, to promote ongoing education and professional development opportunities, to provide mentorship and recognition of oncology nurse members and to strengthen the visibility of BCONG's connection to CANO.

For Oncology Nurses Day on April 3rd, an early evening dinner was co hosted by BCONG and BC Cancer Agency Professional Practice Nursing. The event was videolinked to 5 Regional Cancer Centres and 3 community oncology clinics in BC. A total of 81 oncology nurses attended this evening event.

The evening included a light supper enjoyed by all as well as an opening act of the video clip on the OND FLASH MOB event held earlier on in the day at Vancouver City Hall. Highlights of the evening included a panel presentation from 3 oncology nurses in different practice settings in BC and a Key Note Address from Barbara Fitzgerald, Vice President, CANO and Director of Nursing at Princes Margaret Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. Karen Levy, Advanced Practice Nurse at Vancouver Centre presented the BC Oncology Nurses Day Award to Elizabeth Beddard-Huber. Elizabeth is an Advanced Practice Nurse in Pain and Symptom Management/ Palliative Care at the Vancouver Cancer Centre.

The focus of activity over the upcoming year will be to support our BCONG/CANO conference planning group as they ramp up activity to prepare for CANO 2013 in Vancouver, BC. We are very excited to be hosting this National Conference. We also think that Vancouver in the Fall is a beautiful place to come to and we hope many of you will pencil Vancouver/CANO 2013 into your calendars NOW.

Oncology Nursing Interest Group of Alberta, South: Chapter Report

Jennifer Anderson, RN Stephanie Duffy, RN
Sydney Phillips, RN

The objective of ONIGA-South is to promote excellence in oncology nursing practice through educational events held quarterly through out the year. ONIGA-South also strives to build relationships and connections with supportive cancer care services both within our practice settings and local communities. Partnering with our local academic institutions has provided an opportunity for nursing students to learn more about oncology nursing practice and the diverse career possibilities it provides.

Membership:



Currently have approximately 40 members

Focused on engaging with students to entice them to develop an interest and passion for oncology nursing which would translate into membership

Working to engage with our colleagues outside of the adult ambulatory oncology setting: pediatric oncology and in patient adult oncology

Educational Events: Over the past year we have offered three education events focused around the theme of survivorship and one comprehensive educational day and half workshop.

October- facilitated by a young adult cancer survivor who had made a video describing the experience of survivorship from a young adult perspective.

January- facilitated by a spiritual care specialist at one of our tertiary cancer centers and focused on difficult conversation. This session also featured a former patient discussing her experience with survivorship.

Oncology Nursing Day- As part of our annual oncology nurses day dinner, which was hosted by ONIGA-South, we had several presentations from our colleagues in psychosocial oncology who have done several collaborative research studies around survivorship as well as two former patients who have created a support group for as a result of their experience.

Spring Update- In partnership with the nursing education department at the Tom Baker Cancer Center and offer a two day spring update. This spring update is open to all nurses working in an oncology setting within Southern Alberta. Each year we have a variety of expert speakers provide updates on best practice and evidence based care on a variety of topics related to the care of oncology patients and their families. This year our spring up date will focused on: new treatments in surgical oncology, the role of complementary and alternative therapies in cancer treatment, lung cancer treatment updates, sexuality in cancer, neuro-oncology treatment update, cancer related fatigue management, and changes to cancer screening guidelines.

Plans for 2012/2013:

Continue to seek out new ways to grow our membership and engage with our colleagues outside our ambulatory oncology. As a result of a recent membership survey we hope to tailor our education sessions for the upcoming year to be reflective of the needs and interests of our membership.

Several members will be presenting at the CANO conference in Ottawa.

ONIGA North Annual Report- CANO Northern Alberta Chapter Report

Submitted: Susan Horsman, RN, MN NP, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton, Alberta, Chapter President ONIGA North

Cancer nursing has never been in a more challenging time. New treatments constantly become available requiring nurses to improve their knowledge and skills, and we as a chapter continue in our commitment to seeking out ways to equip ourselves for the challenge.

In the last year the CANO Chapter for northern Alberta has held successful evening education webinar session on Tumor Lysis Syndrome Management. In collaboration with the Gastroenterology Nurses Association, we have continued to hold joint education sessions, most recently on the treatment of rectal and esophageal cancers. These education events included presentations from surgeons, gastroenterologists, medical and radiation oncologists as well as



enterostomal therapists, and were well attended by nurses, dieticians and radiation therapists from across the city, strengthening our collaboration with other facilities within the city, and increasing our understanding of challenges other facilities face when dealing with cancer patients. We have also seen the power of teamwork in hosting educational events, which is something we hope to capitalize on in the years ahead.

We held a post CANO “My Favorite Part of CANO 2011 in Halifax” education event, summarizing the experiences of some of our attendees to the annual conference, reviewing presentations on Complementary and Alternative Therapies, and the new Chemotherapy Administration Standards launch.

To celebrate Oncology Nursing Day, we held a Yoga Laughter and Pizza Lunch. It was a great hit, and reminder that nurses need to care for ourselves so we can care for others. On Nursing Day, we joined with our nursing unions to provide cake and refreshments for our nursing colleagues, in appreciation of their work this year.

Together with our Nursing Educators ONIGA North is a proud co-sponsor of Nursing Spring Update, a day and a half of clinical updates for nurses and allied health members in Northern Alberta working with oncology patients. This well attended event allows us to promote our nursing specialty, learn new treatments and to network with colleagues.

Our goals for the next year are to increase local nurse involvement in CANO and our local chapter, and to continue to organize educational events that prepare nurses for exciting changes in practice. As a chapter we are always eager to talk to new nurses who want to become involved, and would welcome any who are interested to talk with the executive about taking on active roles within our group.

This year one of our executive has taken on the role of CANO Director at Large. Karyn Perry is an outstanding educator, and we are proud that she will play an important role at the national level. Congratulations Karyn!

Our current executive slate:

Past president: Carole Szwajkowski Staff Development Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton

President: Susan Horsman, NP Radiation Oncology Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton

Secretary: Miriam Dobson, Nurse Educator Palliative Care Covenant Health, Edmonton

Treasurer: Karyn Perry, Resource Nurse, Ambulatory Care Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton

Members at Large: Romeo Felix, Lung Research Nurse Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton, Bev Larson, NCIC Research Nurse, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton

Education Awards and Grants: Nan Cox-Kennett, NP Clinical Manager Hematology and BMT, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton

Recruitment and Retention: Alan Besecker, Resource Nurse Ambulatory Care Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton, Carole Gallagher Lung Nurse Navigator Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton.

Manitoba Chapter Report

Submitted by Michelle Rosentreter RN CON(C)

President: Michelle Rosentreter

Vice-President: Darlene Grantham



Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology
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Treasurer: Barb Ammeter
Secretary: Rose Wolyshyn

Membership: Over 60 nurses within the city of Winnipeg and across rural Manitoba. CANO Manitoba mission is to provide educational activities and programs for Manitoba nurses who have an interest in providing care with cancer. We believe that supporting professional oncology nursing development is the best way for us to impact cancer care in our province. As an executive our goals are in keeping with the national strategic plan to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge within our membership, and increase awareness and visibility within our profession. Our goal is to increase active participants in their professional development. We strive to provide a blend of information that is relevant, evidence based, and clinically relevant to our diverse group of nurses. It is our intention to encourage and to support nurses to share their work with colleagues at the local, provincial and national levels. We are proud of the growing number of CANO-MB members who attend or present at CANO activities.

The local Chapter provides quarterly education sessions for Manitoba oncology nurses. Some of this years sessions included topics such a Sarcoma, Multiple Myeloma, EGFR & Targeted Therapies.

The Manitoba Chapter distributes a newsletter “The Oncologic” that is sent out quarterly with all the upcoming events and educational opportunities.

We also host an Annual Spring Education Workshop and AGM for a diverse group of Manitoba nurses who are in the field of oncology or have an interest in oncology. The 2012 OND Celebration and Education Day was held on April 14th. We hosted a number of speakers including CANO Board Member Jennifer Stephens who wowed us with her expertise in “Oncologic Emergencies”.

The Manitoba Chapter has been able to sponsor “The Best Poster Award” at the National CANO Conference for the past 4 years. The award is for \$500 and our membership feel that sponsoring this award is in keeping with goals of supporting and encouraging nurses to present their work in a safe and nurturing environment.

Each year we provide monetary awards toward education and an Awards of Nursing Excellence in Oncology. The recipients for the continuing education awards were Donna Hewitt and Lori Santoro. The Nursing Excellence Award was awarded to Agnes Remillard. Congratulations to all the recipients!

Ontario Northeastern Chapter Report

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Ballantyne, R.N. BNSc., MScN CON(C)

Executive/ Leadership

Barbara Ballantyne	-	President
Micheline Lapierre	-	Past-President
Lissa Gagnon	-	President-Elect
Terry MacKenzie	-	Fundraising
Denise Chaumont	-	Fundraising
Rhodine White	-	Secretary



Karen Mallet - Treasurer

Membership

The Northeastern Chapter of Oncology Nurses (NEOCON) currently has 32 members representing oncology nurses from all over Northeastern Ontario.

Mandate

To promote oncology nursing through meetings, educational and social events such as oncology nursing events.

Key Initiatives:

NEOCON provided 3 members with \$750.00 chapter grants to attend the 2011 CANO conference in Halifax. Recipients were: Barbara Ballantyne, Suzanne Levesque and Lizette Deacon. A number of chapter members had abstracts accepted to the annual CANO conference in Halifax. These included Terry MacKenzie, Barbara Ballantyne, Suzanne Levesque and Lizette Deacon. For Oncology Nurses Day 2012 NEOCON members Rhodine and Micheline Lapierre organized a breakfast for the in patient oncology nurses and promoted CANO initiatives and membership. They then did the same with the out-patient nurses. Rhodine and 2 others also created a display on which were highlighted staff, nursing and patients' and gratitude towards oncology nurses and the roles we play in patients lives.

An education event was held a few days later also as part of our Oncology Nurses Day celebration where Dr. K. Saidi presented on sarcoma and the role of the orthopedic services in cancer management.

Fundraising was very successful again this year. Funds have been generated through our annual Christmas gourmet basket and quilt raffle as well as an Easter bake sale/used book sale/penny table. Funds generated from these events are used to support members' attendance at the annual CANO conference.

Plans for 2012/2013

Increase CANO membership among new staff members hired to Oncology

Plan a series of coffee breaks to increase awareness of CANO and encourage membership by in-patient nurses.

Toronto Chapter of Oncology Nurses Report

Report Respectfully Submitted by: Simonne Simon, RN, BScN, MN(c), CON(c), President

The Toronto Chapter of Oncology Nurses (TCON) strives to provide various venues for registered nurses involved in cancer care to network and collaborate with other colleagues across the Greater Toronto Area. TCON continues to facilitate educational opportunities for nurses working with patients and family living with cancer. Through sponsorship with our pharmaceutical partners TCON has offered a number of these educational events. Topics have included:

Date	Sponsor	Topic	Speaker
Jan 26, 2011	Celgene	MM & Sx Management	Cindy Shobbrook
April 04, 2011	Janssen Ortho	MM & Velcade	Cindy Murray
May 30, 2011	Bristol Myers Squibb	Dermatologic Toxicity	Dr. Chen Masey Namellatohi

July 19, 2011	AMGEN	Denosumab	Val Ali
September 26, 2011	Janssen Ortho	Chemotherapy induce Fatigue	Lia Kutcher
November 28, 2011	Roche	CVAD Best Practice	Inara Karrei
February 28, 2012	Merck	CINV	Kathy Trip
April 03, 2012	Janssen Ortho	MM & Velcade	Angela Boudreau
May 31, 2012	Bristol Myers Squibb	Updates in Metastatic Melanoma and the Role of the Immunotherapy	David Hogg

Corsita Garraway, TCON's Immediate Past-President has decided to step down from the Executive Team as of May 31st, 2012. On behalf of the local chapter, we would like to thank Corsita for her dedication to the advancement of oncology nursing. She is truly an oncology nurse ambassador who constantly engages and mentors many individuals. We wish Corsita much success, as she continues to build oncology nursing membership as a member of the CANO Board.

TCON held there annual AGM on May 31st, 2012, which was well attended. The amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Toronto Chapter of Oncology Nurses was presented to the members and accepted by vote at the AGM. A motion to keep the existing Executive Team with a call for two (2) new member at large (MAL) and one (1) undergraduate student representative was voted and approved by members. We had 3 individuals who have requested to be a MAL – Sabrina Bennett, Shawne Gray and Christine Piescic. We requested each submit a copy of their CV and brief biography to the President. Then TCON will send out a copy of the individual profiles for members to vote for 2 candidates each.

In 2010 the boarder of the Toronto Chapter has expanded to additional regions beyond the Toronto. TCONs boarders now include Central West, Halton, Toronto Central, Central and Central East. The Executive Team felt that we need to have a new name which represents beyond Toronto. At the AGM the Executive Team proposed the following names:

- GTA-CON Greater Toronto Areas Chapter of Oncology Nurses
- GTCON Greater Toronto Chapter of Oncology Nurses
- TACON – Toronto Areas Chapter of Oncology Nurses

Members will be given the following options to vote on the new name. We will update the CANO head office TCONs new name was voting has commenced.
 Please welcome the 2012 TCON executive members:

2012 Executive Team:

- Simonne Simon, President
- Charissa Cordon, Director of Finances
- Philiz Goh, Director of Communications
- Diana Incekol, MAL –Editor of Newsletter
- Karen Lock, Events Coordinator



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Jacqueline Galica, MAL
Members at Large- 2 Positions Available
Undergraduate Student Representative – VACANT

Quebec Chapter/ Association québécoise des infirmières en oncologie (AQIO) Annual Report

Submitted by: Marika Swidzinski, RN., B.A., MEd., CON(C), Quebec Chapter, AQIO Representative to CANO, Nurse Manager Hematology Oncology Services, McGill University Health Centre, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal

Name of the executive:

President & Provincial Seminar for *infirmières pivots en oncologie (IPO)* – Sylvie Bélanger
Vice President – Linda Hershon
Treasurer & AQIO Annual Conference – Jacinthe Brodeur
Secretary – Julie Dallaire

Board Members:

Onco-Nursing Journal: Sylvie Croteau (Editor), Nicole Tremblay, Linda Hershon, Geneviève Mercier
Translation Committee: Marie de Serres
Communication and Website: Lise Lavasseur, Alexis Parent
AQIO Representative to CANO: Marika Swidzinski
Education Committee: Maryse Carignan, Lucie Tardif, Irène Leboeuf
AQIO Annual Conference: Jacinthe Brodeur

Group Characteristics:

The Quebec Chapter has a membership of 142 nurses.

Mandate:

AQIO recognizes the responsibilities and the role of nurses in Quebec in promoting and assuring quality care to individuals diagnosed with cancer or those at risk of developing cancer and their family. A cancer diagnosis is an event, which changes the life not only of individuals who are diagnosed with cancer but also their loved ones. In this life experience, nurses consider families or significant others as partners in care and also as individuals who are in need of support, information and counseling towards the resolution of problems.

Oncology Care encompasses prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, long-term survival, palliative care and end-of-life care. Nurses recognize the knowledge and skills required to assure competence in the complex needs of individuals diagnosed with cancer. In order to accomplish this, AQIO is implicated in the consolidation and development of quality evidence-based oncology nursing practice.

Objectives:

Establish a communication network among nurses in Quebec with an interest in Oncology.
Promote the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas in order to enrich the quality oncology care in Quebec.



To support the development of specialized oncology nursing education.
Promote oncology-nursing research in Quebec.
Assure that oncology nurses are represented in organizations implicated in the fight against cancer at the provincial and national levels.
Work collaboratively with the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology.

Meetings:

AQIO held 7 chapter meetings throughout the year.

Key Initiatives:

AQIO in collaboration with Amgen Canada sponsored two conference days. The first in Montreal, in May, was a partnership with the McGill University Health Center (MUHC) which focused on colorectal cancers was attended by 40 nurses. The second was held in Quebec City in November with the theme *Mieux soigner les personnes atteintes de complications osseuses*. This conference in collaboration with Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire de Québec (CHA) and the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec (CHUQ) was attended by 107 nurses.

Over the past year AQIO sponsored three Educational Evening Dinner Conferences. As every year, attendees who are CANO/ACIO members were able to attend the educational evenings without a registration fee.

The first conference in Montreal focused on sharing the highlights of the CANO/ACIO Annual Conference held in Halifax. Over 100 nurses attended the evening in November. The presenters were Lise Levasseur (Hôpital Sacre Coeur de Montréal), Monique Fillion (MUHC); Maryse Carignan (CSSS de Laval); Louise Compagna and Linda Perrault (Hôpital Maisonneuve Rosemount-HMR) AQIO would like to express sincere gratitude to Amgen Canada, Celgene, Roche for supporting this educational session.

The second educational evening, in Quebec City, also in November, focused on topics presented at the CANO/ACIO Annual Conference. This session was sponsored by Novartis Pharma Canada, Celgene and Amgen Canada. Sixty oncology nurses from Quebec City attended the presentations by Marie de Serres, Lise Doucet, Stephanie Duguay, Marie-Claude Fortin, Nathalie Gravel, and Sophie Paquet (CHUQ); Carole Fortin, and Geneviève Lepage (CHA). AQIO would also like to thank Marie de Serres for organizing this educational session.

The third educational conference in Montreal focused on Multiple Myeloma. This March conference was attended by 60 nurses. This was also the first time video-conferencing was used. Nurses from Drummonville (11) and St. George de Beauce (4) were able to listen to Louise Chevalier, infirmière pivot en oncologie (HMR) and Dr. Bernard Lemieux (Centre hospitalier Université de Montréal-CHUM) present. This continuing education event was sponsored by Jansen.

April 20, 2012 was the date of AQIO's Annual Provincial Conference entitled *Au cœur de notre engagement le patient et sa famille*. The conference provided oncology nurses the opportunity to choose from 8 different workshops and network with colleagues from numerous regions in Quebec. Over 260 nurses attended the conference presentations by Anne Plante, Lucie Laporte (Center intégré de cancérologie de la Montérégie-Hôpital Charles Lemoyne); Marie de Serres (CHUQ); Nicole Tremblay (HMR), Anne-Marie Martinez (MUHC), Line Tremblay, Marie Catudal,



Mireille Salvetti, Sophie Berger (CHUM); Sophie Cliche, Annie de la Sablonnière, Marie-Andrée Roy, Brigitte Benoit (Centre hospitalier Université de Sherbrooke); Helene Deutsch, Karine Lepage, Chantal Cloutier (Jewish General Hospital).

Once again this year, the 7th annual seminar for the *infirmières pivots en oncologie (IPO)* was organized as part of the content of the AQIO Annual Provincial Conference. In collaboration with la Direction de la lutte contre le cancer an afternoon workshop, *Encore du nouveau en oncologie... les thérapies pas si ciblées que cela!* was attended by 88 Pivot Nurses in Oncology. Lise Levasseur and Dr. Bernard Lespérance (Hôpital Sacre Coeur de Montréal) addressed the some of the new treatment modalities related to colon, lung, breast and prostate cancers.

AQIO would like to take the opportunity to thank the conference planning committee for their commitment in once again organizing an Annual Provincial Conference which continues to be a great success: Jacinthe Brodeur, Caroline Mathieu, Catherine Genest, Catherine Derval, Joane Brodeur, Lise Levasseur, Joanne Brodeur, Karine Bilodeau, Josiane Rousseau, Karine Lepage, Cania Vincelli and Linda Benoit.

Group Outputs:

The updated AQIO web site (www.aqio.org) was launched at the Annual Provincial Conference on April 20, 2012. The site continues to provide oncology nurses in Quebec and beyond with information and a venue to promote networking with colleagues. A link is also available via the CANO/ACIO website - Chapters section. AQIO would like to acknowledge the financial support of Roche, Sanofi Aventis, Amgen Canada and Jansen for this endeavor.

The Chapter journal, Onco-Nursing experienced difficulties in acquiring articles and consequently was not published over the past year. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to solicit support from sponsors to ensure the journal continues to be self-financed. The Chapter will explore alternatives such as an electronic newsletter on the website to provide oncology nurses the opportunity to share their knowledge with their colleagues.

The CANO/ACIO National Standards and Competencies for Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Practice were presented to Danielle Fleury, Nursing Director at the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services to assist AQIO in disseminating the Standards to the Directors of Nursing (DON) in the province. The document was presented at the provincial committee of DONs. AQIO is waiting for comments.

Special Recognition:

This year, AQIO honoured Nathalie Gravel from CHUQ in Quebec City with the *AQIO prix d'excellence* for her dedication in oncology nursing in Quebec.

AQIO also recognized the following individuals at the Annual Conference, for their achievements in receiving special awards: Andreanne Saucier-Award of Excellence CANO/ACIO- Pfizer for Leadership; Dr. Antoine Loutfi and Brigitte Laflamme for their years of dedication with the Direction de lutte contre le cancer.

Travel grants were awarded to Maryse Carignan, Lise Lavasseur, Jacinthe Brodeur and Marika Swidzinski to attend the CANO/ACIO Conference in Halifax. Manon Ferland received funding to



attend the SIDIIEF conference in Geneva and will present a workshop at the next Annual Provincial Conference in 2013.

Work Plan for Next Year:

AQIO's goals for the upcoming year include the following objectives:

Continue to increase the membership in Quebec.

Explore alternatives to the journal such as electronic newsletter.

Continue to offer educational opportunities for oncology nurses minimally twice a year as well as our Annual Provincial Conference.

Explore ways to offer educational sessions to our members in remote areas of the province.

Assure that oncology nurses are represented in provincial and national committees, which are implicated in the fight against cancer.

Develop a mentorship program to encourage members to become involved in the Chapter Preparations for the CANO/ACIO Annual Conference in Quebec City in 2014.

Nova Scotia Chapter Annual Report

Respectfully submitted: Jo-Ann Edwards NP, MN, CON (C), Nurse Practitioner, Capital Health BMT Program, President, CANO-Nova Scotia Chapter

Executive Team (Jan.1-2012- Jan.1-2013)

Jo-Ann Edwards- President

Kara Henman- Vice-President

Shannon Greek- Secretary

Vivienne Hudson- Treasurer

Jennifer Fahie- Education Chair

Michele Rogez- Cape Breton Representative

Charlene Porter- GASHA_District Representative (Guysborough, Antigonish, Strait Area_Health Authority)

Mandate

Provide oncology nurses across the province with an opportunity to learn and share with their fellow colleagues.

Promote nursing leadership in oncology.

Increase the awareness of CANO.

Increase the membership of CANO members within Nova Scotia.

Oncology Nurses Day:

Our chapter developed and distributed CANO magnets to members and non-members. I will attach a sample to this report. We have some left over and plan to give them out during our spring workshop.

Many CANO members including our CANO president Brenda Sabo met with the premier of Nova Scotia Darrell Dexter to declare OND.

Spring Workshop:



This year our CANO group was invited to join in the plans for the 16th Annual Symposium of the Atlantic Canada Oncology Group held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from June 14-16. Our workshop will be June 15 from 1300-1600. We have two great speakers: Dr Wanda Hasegawa will discuss oncology emergencies and Mary Campbell will discuss mindfulness. We hope that by having the workshop during the oncology symposium, we will have more people from across the province attend, and perhaps join CANO.

Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter Annual Report

Respectively Submitted: Kathy Fitzgerald, President, CANO NL

It is once again time to reflect on and share what has been happening at the local chapter level of CANO. Here in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) we remain a small but enthusiastic group of dedicated oncology nurses working to fulfill the mission and the goals of our national organization and to meet the goals and expectations of members at the local and provincial level. It is rewarding to see that our numbers are slowly climbing and it is exciting to look at the diversity within our small group. We have nurses and nurse practitioners. Members come from the domains of practice, education and administration. They work on inpatient units and in ambulatory treatment centers. They care for adults and children; those with haematological malignancies and solid tumours. They work in areas of general practice and of course, oncology settings and members work throughout the continuum of care from screening through diagnosis, treatment and follow up, survivorship and palliative care. How fortunate we are to have within our small group such diversity in knowledge and skill and a network of incredible oncology nurses to advocate for the care of individuals touched by or at risk for cancer in our province.

In the fall of 2011, CANO NL hosted a provincial conference entitled “Survivorship: Embracing the Journey – What does it really mean? Health care providers, from a variety of professional backgrounds participated in the day and contributed to its success. Topics were diverse - from issues surrounding fertility to those of genetics; we talked about the impact of cancer on young adults and the impact of lymphedema on life after a cancer diagnosis. We talked about the importance of hope and the role of assisting patient and families navigate the continuum of care. Perhaps most important, and certainly the most inspiring talks of the day, were those stories shared with participants by individuals who had lived the experience and spoke with us about survivorship as it related to them and their cancer journey. To engage the next generation of oncology nurses’ free registration was offered to 10 undergraduate nursing students. It was exciting to see that some of those student nurses in attendance had worked with one of our guest speakers to establish the NL Chapter of Kidney Cancer Canada. Our paediatric colleagues, who attended, have suggested working together on future educational endeavours so both small groups can enhance the learning of those attending future conferences.

This year we attacked the celebration of oncology nurses day with a vengeance. Although a flash mob was not on our agenda there was no shortage of celebrating in NL. Prior to the actual day, both the premier of the province and the mayor of the capital city signed proclamations recognizing the value oncology nurses bring to the care of individuals touched by cancer. Premier Dunderdale recounted a personal experience she had with an oncology nurse and how it had positively impacted the experience. Mayor O’Keefe provided the opportunity for us to address Council members. We reminded our municipal leaders of the impact their decisions have on the determinants of health and the role they play in making decisions which affect the health of our citizens particularly in the area of cancer.



We began OND with a coffee break, inviting oncology nurses from a variety of practice settings to come together in celebration of their achievements and the contribution they bring to lives of cancer patients and their families. In keeping with the day's theme, we invited our support staff colleagues to lunch. We wanted to acknowledge the significant but often unrecognized contribution they make to the care of oncology patients and families. CANO members also used this opportunity to present an educational session on compassion fatigue and the impact oncology work has on us as individuals - whether we are "out front" caring for individuals directly or "behind the scenes" ensuring care providers have what is necessary to care for the individuals seen in our practice. This was much appreciated by colleagues who admit that they often feel that they are not acknowledged for their important contribution to patient care and are not recognized as partners in that care. It was also an opportunity for them to recognize and acknowledge the impact their work has various aspects of their life. OND celebrations continued into the evening with oncology nurses hosting an open house at the local Cancer Centre. Oncology nurses "walked" participants through the centre explaining the varied roles of oncology nurses with in the cancer care program and encouraging dialogue that would benefit each of us in understanding the contributions of all in caring for individuals as they transition across care lines during their cancer journey. The social which followed provided an excellent opportunity to network with others and explore understanding as we developed partnerships that would advance excellence in cancer care.

At this time we are making decisions around members enjoying the national conference to be held in Ottawa. We will meet shortly to begin the planning process for our provincial conference. This year, we will be offering under graduate and post graduate nursing students the opportunity to apply for the Student Lectureship Award. This monetary award will provide the recipient an opportunity to present at the provincial CANO conference highlighting the theme of the national conference from their perspective. We look forward to the Ottawa conference as an opportunity to renew our passion for oncology nursing, learn from each other and network with colleagues across the nation.