

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE HAWAII (OAHU) ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY CHAPTER  
SUMMER 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ROBIN EASLEY, RN, MSN, OCN



**Robin Easley,  
RN, MSN, OCN  
Hawaii  
ONS President**

Aloha ONS Oahu Chapter members.

The board has been actively working to look at ways to continue to make our chapter strong. The Hawaii ONS conference is slated for August 2014. Registration is now available online as long as you have a PayPal account. Please register for this program. It is an opportunity for our chapter members to obtain CNE credits that are important in maintaining our licensure and certifications.

It is already half way through the year. I am looking for ideas for community service ac-

tivities. Please contact me if you know of an upcoming event or would like to support one. Pat Nishimoto has been actively working with multiple hospitals with the Oncology on Canvas project, which is now completed. Thank you to all who spearheaded and participated in this project. This event is so valued from our patients and families.

The board is also actively working to make a smooth transition for our dinner meetings. We value our representation as being a professional organization.

However, we have been having problems with mass cancellations to our dinner meetings from some of the members. This does not shine a bright light on our chapter as the sponsors are required to pay for dinners, even if the members don't show up. Please work with Alison Matsuo to limit these encounters.

Mahalo,  
Robin Easley,  
RN, MSN, OCN  
Chapter President



Magic Island  
Saturday, July 19, 2014 ~ 6pm

## SPARKING THE FIRE JOANNA AGENA, FNP-BC, APRN-Rx, OCN



I had finally made it. Nine years as an oncology nurse and two years practicing as an oncology nurse practitioner. My dream of being able to treat, manage, and make a difference in the lives of cancer patients had come true. Yet I continued to struggle with keeping up with the latest advancements in symptomatic management. I was developing a survivorship program but I felt it needed more substance. Between managing a one year old

child and taking care of the patients in the office, obtaining CE's to expand my knowledge seemed nearly impossible. I had heard that ONS Congress would give me the inspiration and knowledge I needed-but how would I get there?

Luckily the Hawaii Oncology Nursing Society came to my rescue. I obtained a scholarship and flew to Anaheim in May 2014. The conference was better than I could have imagined. Oncology nurses from all

over the nation and the world attended in order to educate themselves and better the lives of their patients. From early morning until late at night we filled our brains with review of how to treat pain, hypersensitivity reactions to chemo, manage patients receiving radiation, and so much more! Dr. Antoni Ribas (professor of medicine, surgery, and molecular and medical pharmacology at the University of California Los Angeles) updated us on the newest  
(cont on page 4)

## GOING BACK IS A GOOD THING CHRISTA BRAUN-INGLIS, MS, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC, AOCNP



I attended the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual ONS Congress in Anaheim, California May 1-4, 2014. I had a wonderful experience. I had not been to congress in 5 years and prior to going, I was apprehensive as I had thought this conference may not meet my educational needs. Well, I was wrong. I was able to attend so many wonderful sessions and learned so much, not to mention all the great networking involved. I was able to reconnect with old friends & colleagues as well as my Special Interest Group (SIG). I was for

tunate enough to attend Congress with Mary Jane Kanayama, RN, OCN the current Mana'olana & Joanna Agena, MS, APRN, FNP-BC, OCN, another Chapter Educational Grant recipient- both first time attendees. It was great to see how inspired they were, just as I was when I attended my first congress.

Educational highlights for me at this year's congress included Parenthood after Cancer, Case studies in Multiple Myeloma, Strategies to Impact Oral Chemotherapy, Preparing for

Practice: Educating the New Oncology APRN, From Bench to Bedside: Advances in targeted therapy and immunotherapy for melanoma.

Oral chemotherapy remains a very hot topic. This session was very helpful. It reviewed studies done with the HIV population and discussed helpful techniques for increased compliance. The reported rate of non-compliance is anywhere from 50-90%! And the fact that 50% of new therapies in the pipeline are oral. Of note, this has increased from just 2 years ago  
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# A FRESH BREATH OF HOPE FOR LUNG CANCER PATIENTS



A woman sits in the waiting room of her radiation oncologist's office when a representative from a well-known cancer support organization approaches her. The two hit it off and almost immediately the cancer patient is inundated with pamphlets and brochures for luxurious spas and high-end hair salons all of which aid women with breast cancer. Then it occurs to her. "Ma'am, I don't have breast cancer. I have lung cancer" and almost as quickly as they were thrust into her eager and appreciative hands the representative takes the brochures away. "These are only for women with breast

cancer" is her reply". Disappointed and dismayed, the patient receives her treatment and as the radiation targets the tumor within her, a spark is ignited. That spark would later become the catalyst for her involvement in the American Lung Association's new movement: LUNG FORCE.

LUNG FORCE is a nationwide health movement whose goals are to increase awareness for women with lung cancer, advance lung health, and remove the stigma of what it means to have lung cancer. Women are at the heart of LUNG FORCE's manifesto and awareness is their rally cry.

As more people join their cause, LUNG FORCE and the American Lung Association aim to create an environment free of lung diseases, where prevention and screening are a way of life. There are multiple ways for ONS members to become a part of this breath of fresh air in cancer awareness. Go to [lungforce.org](http://lungforce.org) for information on how to sign up for a LUNG FORCE Walk in your area or become a lung health advocate by signing up with the Lung Action Network.

Kimberly Hitchcock,  
BSN student,  
University of Hawaii at  
Manoa  
ONS member



QMC Oncology Nurses after a recent dinner lecture at Nobus.

## SPARKING THE FIRE CONT

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*I returned  
feeling refreshed  
and fueled with  
purpose  
and passion*

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treatments for patients with advanced melanoma. The amazing advancements in this area of immune regulators is not only prolonging the life of patients with this deadly disease but also giving them a much better quality of life. Three time Olympian Devon Harris gave an inspirational speech about what it means to be a leader. He reminded us, that in order to lead, we must continuously educate ourselves to gain respect and set ourselves apart from the people we are leading. On

cology nurse, Susan Leigh, gave a heart-warming presentation on her battle against lymphoma, breast, and bladder cancer. She opened our eyes to the needs of cancer survivors and how we can focus our attention on improving their quality of life after treatment.

I left ONS Congress feeling prouder than ever to be an oncology nurse. I came back to Hawaii feeling refreshed and fueled with purpose and passion for the field again. ONS congress sparked the fire in me again.

As the late Maya Angelou once said "They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel". Thank you Hawaii ONS for giving me the opportunity to be reminded of why I am an oncology nurse - because of the overwhelming joy I feel when I am learning and caring for cancer patients. I encourage every ONS chapter member to find an opportunity to visit ONS Congress. It will change your life for the better. I encourage you to spark the fire within you.

## UPDATE ON ONS DINNER LECTURES

The Board of Directors have met with many challenges this year in attempts to make changes to the format for access/sign up for dinner lectures. The following terms have been established.

If you sign up for dinner lectures, it is with the understanding that you have read, understand, and agree to the following terms.

1. **SIGN-UP.** I have signed up for **myself only** and no one else.
2. **DINNER FEE.** I will pay the dinner lecture fee<sup>1</sup>.

\*If my membership has expired, I will pay the non-member fee until my membership is renewed and in good standing. I alone am responsible for maintaining my membership.

3. **CANCELLATIONS.** The cut-off for cancellations is 9am **the day before** the program. If I cancel after this time, I still have to pay the fee<sup>1</sup>.

4. **NO-SHOW.** If I am a no-show to the dinner lecture, I will still have to pay the fee<sup>1</sup>, and will not be permitted to sign up for future dinner lectures until I have done so.

5. **PAYPAL.** I will pay through **PayPal** if I have an account.

<sup>1</sup>\$10.00 current member, \$20.00 non-member.

*newly approved and investigational agents making great advances in patients with this debilitating disease*

when it was reported as 25%! Predictors of poor adherence included: treatment of asymptomatic disease, inadequate follow-up, lack of belief in treatment, complexity of treatment & cost of medication or copayment, just to name a few. Lessons learned from the HIV population that increased compliance included: interventions providing education and support are effective, and increased support during 1st few months of therapy is key. In summary, oral chemo is here to stay, nurses need to take active lead and need to be involved early. Educational interventions show improved adherence. Technological based interventions also show promise. We need to improve our practice!

The other session I would like to highlight in this article is "From Bench to Bedside: Advances in Targeted therapy and Immunotherapy for Melanoma".

This was an excellent lecture presented by Antonio Ribas, MD & Grace Cherry, RN, MS, NP from UCLA. This session highlighted newly approved and investigational agents making great advances in patients with this debilitating disease. In the past few years, the oncology community has seen exciting new agents such as the immunotherapy ipilimumab as well as targeted agents that inhibit BRAF and MEC pathways. In current clinical trials they are also seeing exciting results with the immunotherapy anti PD-1. The PD-1 blockade works by expanding an intratumoral infiltrate by effector T cells which kill the melanoma cells. In addition to single agent trials there are multiple trials for the combination of multiple target therapies (one combination already being approved: dabrafenib and trametinib). One of the most exciting things

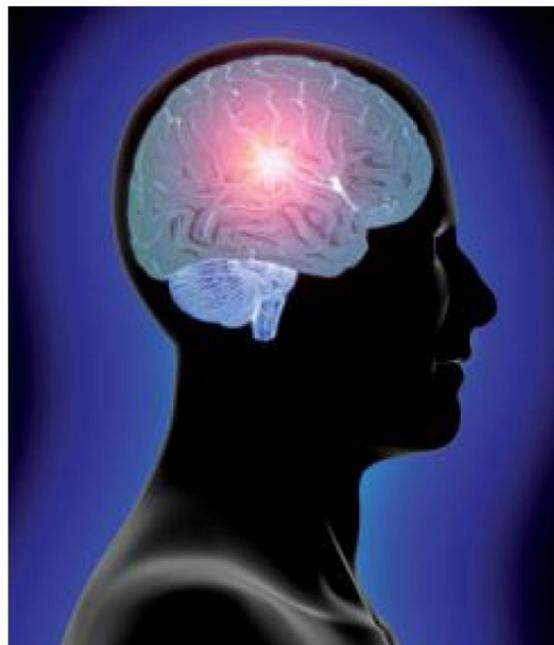
about this research, is that it is showing very few grade 3 & 4 toxicities, an overwhelming majority of the toxicities are grades 1 & 2. The most common toxicities are: fatigue, rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, peripheral edema, cough, headache, joint pain, night sweats, decreased appetite, constipation and muscle pain.

I am so happy I was able to attend this year's congress and will not let another 5 years go by until I get there again. With work, family and other responsibilities, sometimes it is hard to travel to the mainland to attend conferences, but this one was well worth it.

Once again, it renewed my passion for oncology nursing. I would like to thank the chapter for your support in helping me to attend congress through a chapter educational grant.



Our Chapter is looking for someone to take over the Nominations Chair. If you are interested, please contact Robin Easley at [robineasley63@yahoo.com](mailto:robineasley63@yahoo.com).



## **IT'S A NO BRAINER: DEMYSTIFYING THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Caring for Patients with Brain Tumors,  
Metastases & Neurologic Toxicities**

Friday, August 15, 2014  
7:45am – 4:30pm

Hilton Hawaiian Village  
Coral Ballroom

### **Keynote Speaker:**

Mary Lovely, PhD, RN  
University of California, San Francisco

### **Registration**

Online

Go to ONS Chapter website  
<http://hawaii.vc.ons.org>

**OR**

By check

Payable to **Hawaii ONS Chapter**  
Mail check to  
3427 Pinao Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Check must be postmarked by 8/8/14.

### **Fees**

- Current ONS National and Chapter member ..... \$125.00
- Non-member ..... \$150.00
- Student..... \$100.00
- Late fee  
(payment received after 8/8/14) ..... \$25.00

### **For Questions**

Contact: Christa Braun-Inglis  
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