

## Oncology Nursing Society Member Named Visionary Nurse Leader



The School of Nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) selected Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Claudette G. Varricchio, DSN, RN, as one of its 60

Visionary Leaders. UAB recognized alumni who are leading with a vision to improve quality health care around the world.

Varricchio, a former program director of the Community Clinical Trials Research Group in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Wakefield, RI, is an expert in the field of oncology nursing. She taught in the graduate program for nursing at Loyola University in Chicago and collaborated with colleagues to establish the doctoral program curriculum at that institution. As a program director at NCI and associate director at the National Institute for Nursing Research, she developed and promoted the research programs in symptom management, quality of life, and survivorship.

Varricchio was coauthor of the seminal publication *The Nurse and Radiotherapy: A Manual of Daily Care*, published in 1979. She has written numerous articles, book chapters, and other publications related to symptom management, quality of life, and research related to oncology nursing. She has coedited issues of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, which focused on quality of life, and *ONS's Study Guide for the Core Curriculum for Oncology Nurses*.

Varricchio is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and served on the National Institutes of Health expert panel at the State-of-the-Science Conference on smoking cessation. She has been an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society, having served as chair for the Nursing Professorship and Scholarships Committee.

Building on a century of nursing education on the UAB campus, the UAB School of Nursing prepares nurse leaders to excel as clinicians, researchers, and educators and advances knowledge and delivery of high-quality health care in Alabama and

worldwide. The school offers leading-edge bachelor, graduate, and doctoral programs and offers students the opportunity to learn with faculty and student teams across health disciplines at UAB.

For more information, visit [www.uab.edu/son60](http://www.uab.edu/son60).

## Mayo Clinic Appoints ONS Member to Social Media Board



ONS member Joni Watson, MSN, MBA, RN, OCN®, was appointed to the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media's External Advisory Board for Health Care Social Media along

with 12 other candidates. The advisory board includes representatives from various healthcare roles, including patients, who have been actively using social media, as well as representatives from other industries whose insights will help support the center's mission. Members will provide advice and feedback to leadership of the center and will contribute to advancement of practical social media application in health care.

Watson is the program director for the Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP) of the Texas Nurses Association/Foundation and a blogger for *ONS Connect*. She has a passion for healthcare, business, education, technology, and the interplay among those disciplines. As director of NOEP, she is responsible for numerous health education programs on educational needs assessment as well as the creation, development, dissemination, implementation, and evaluation of continuing nursing education on cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship. Watson works to integrate technology into traditional, online, and mobile continuing nursing education and nursing efforts.

For more information, visit <http://socialmedia.mayoclinic.org/about-3/advisory-board>.

## ONS Member Named Ambulatory Nurse of the Year

ONS member Meldyne Hersman, RN, BSN, OCN®, a nurse in the Oncology Department at Alaska Native Medical

Center (ANMC) in Anchorage, was named the 2010 Ambulatory Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes awards honor exemplary RNs whose leadership and contributions have made a significant impact in their community and the profession of nursing.

Hersman had previously received the ambulatory nursing award in 2005. She has 16 years of nursing experience and has worked at ANMC for six years. Hersman believes passionately that nurses should take personal responsibility for their own professional growth. When she applied for a nursing position, despite having no experience in administering chemotherapy, she excelled.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my position as an oncology nurse is to be a source of encouragement, as well as to help other nurses who are caring for our cancer patients," Hersman said.

Continuing in the vein of nursing professional development and growth, Hersman requested an opportunity to gain more knowledge and qualifications to teach ONS's Chemotherapy and Biotherapy training course. Since receiving the instructor credentials, Hersman has been instrumental in educating 86 nurse colleagues in the fundamentals of chemotherapy administration. She also has provided outreach to nurses throughout Alaska.

"For Meldyne to win a March of Dimes award is a remarkable achievement," said Richard Hall, Chief Nurse Executive at ANMC. "This is a tremendous honor, and we share her vision to continuously find new ways to advance patient care."

The ANMC operates a state-of-the-art, 150-bed facility providing comprehensive medical services to Alaska Natives



Meldyne Hersman, RN, BSN, OCN® (center), and the Alaska Native Medical Center Oncology Team