

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Diane M. Otte, RN, MS, OCN®
Associate Editor

Dow Appointed to National Cancer Advisory Board



President George W. Bush has appointed Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Karen Dow Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, to serve on the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) for a six-

year term. Dow is a professor and the Beat M. and Jill L. Kahli Endowed Chair in Oncology Nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando.

As one of 18 members of the board, Dow will advise, assist, consult with, and make recommendations to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and director of the National Cancer Institute. The institute supports research on the prevention, early detection, treatment, and surveillance of cancer.

NCAB includes leading representatives of health and scientific disciplines, such as Dow, as well as leaders in the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics, and management.

"I am delighted and honored to be appointed. This gives me a unique opportunity to bring my perspective as a nurse and researcher to the National Cancer Program," Dow said.

Dow is the recipient of a \$1.6 million research grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research and National Cancer Institute and a \$250,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to improve the quality of life of breast cancer survivors. She also has a distinguished record of professional service. She recently completed six years of service as a member of the Florida Biomedical Research Council and for many years served as a scientific grant reviewer for the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Nursing Research.

In April, Dow was named a Pegasus Professor, the most prestigious award bestowed by UCF to a faculty member. The award honors individuals for going beyond the ordinary and consistently delivering an extraordinary level of excellence in teaching, research, and service to students, the community, and the profession.

Cunningham Named Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow



ONS member Regina S. Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN®, chief nursing officer at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) in New Brunswick and assistant professor in

the Research Division of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, is 1 of 20 nurses in executive leadership roles nationwide selected as 2006 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows. The three-year fellowship program is designed to strategically position the voice of nursing across many sectors of the economy in a healthcare system undergoing unprecedented changes and challenges.

"Nurses play a pivotal role in leading the redesign of healthcare delivery strategies now and into the future," Cunningham said. "The fellowship is an outstanding opportunity to develop additional leadership skills, work with a nationally recognized team of experts from within the healthcare industry as well as from other sectors of the economy, and benefit from the collaboration with other nursing and healthcare leaders from different parts of the country. It is an honor to be selected as a participant."

As part of the fellowship, Cunningham will have the opportunity to undertake a leadership project to benefit CINJ, with funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and matching funds from CINJ. Cunningham is interested in collaborating with members of the cancer center and primary care practices to develop and evaluate a model of care delivery that will enhance access to high-quality services for cancer survivors. The projected model of care delivery would represent a coordinated, interdisciplinary collaboration that would involve oncology specialists working with primary care providers. Oncology nurses would play a major role in transitioning care from the oncology setting to the primary care setting.

As chief nursing officer, Cunningham is responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and improving the delivery of all nursing services to adults and children receiving care at CINJ. In addition, she is an active member of CINJ's supportive care research group. Her research interests include factors influencing outcomes in patients receiving cancer treatment, with a focus on the role of the oncology nurse in improving outcomes, and issues of cancer survivorship.

CINJ is New Jersey's first and only National Cancer Institute–designated comprehensive cancer center and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment, and care of patients with cancer. For more information, visit www.cinj.org.

Reid Ponte Elected President of Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives



ONS member Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, senior vice president for Patient Care Services and chief nurse at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and director of Oncology Nursing and

Clinical Services at Brigham and Women's Hospital, both in Boston, MA, was elected president of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives (MONE). The gavel was passed at the group's annual meeting in Chatham, MA, on June 6. Reid Ponte succeeds Janet Madigan, MS, RN, CNAA, project manager for Patient Care Services Information Systems at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

A member of MONE since 1991, Reid Ponte has served four years as regional representative for metropolitan Boston and served last year as president-elect. She is the 2004 recipient of MONE's Mary B. Conceison Award, a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow, and a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Most recently, she led staff at DFCI on an 18-month journey toward attaining Magnet status, which the American

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/06.ONF.857-859