

PEOPLE & EVENTS

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Ferrell Appointed to the National Cancer Policy Forum



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Betty R. Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN, a research scientist in the Department of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope Cancer Centers in Duarte, CA,

has been appointed to the National Cancer Policy Forum. Ferrell was appointed by the Institute of Medicine, a private organization created by the federal government to serve as an independent advisor on scientific and technologic matters, and by Bruce Alberts, PhD, president of the National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council.

The National Cancer Policy Forum, established in May 2005, is a new initiative to allow representatives from government, industry, and academic groups to identify, assess, and make recommendations on emerging national policy issues relating to cancer care.

The forum consists of 20 members drawn from healthcare consumers, providers, and researchers in a variety of disciplines in the sciences and humanities working in the field of cancer. Forum members are designated to serve two-year terms and are appointed for their expertise, experience, and connections in the cancer community.

Ferrell is nationally known for her work in the areas of pain management, quality of life, and end-of-life care for patients with cancer. She has been in oncology nursing for 28 years, working to equip caregivers at healthcare institutions around the world with the knowledge and skills to meet the unique needs of patients with cancer and their families.

Throughout her career, Ferrell has led and contributed to hundreds of studies aimed at quantifying and improving patient care and quality of life. Currently, she is principal investigator for a study of palliative surgery funded by the American Cancer Society and the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium project funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Yarbro Named Honorary Alumnus of MU Sinclair School of Nursing



ONS member Connie Henke Yarbro, RN, MS, FAAN, has been recognized as the honorary alumnus of the Nursing Alumni Organization in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri–Columbia. Yarbro was honored because of her tireless efforts to educate and support healthcare professionals in the oncology field as well as her unyielding support of the university.

Yarbro was among the initial group of nurses who, in the early 1970s, provided the necessary care to patients with cancer and their families. Recognizing the need for an oncology nursing professional organization, Yarbro and three other nurses founded ONS in 1975, and, today, more than 32,000 members worldwide belong to the organization. For four years, she led the Society as president and nurtured the establishment of the ONS Foundation, which financially supports oncology nursing research.

As the founding editor of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing* and the lead editor of *Cancer Nursing Principles and Practice*, now in its sixth edition, Yarbro continues to nurture the profession's growth. Currently, she travels the world consulting and lecturing. Yarbro continues to be interested in and supportive of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. From 1996–2000, she served as an adjunct clinical assistant professor and now serves as an adjunct clinical associate professor.

“Connie is an example of someone who has gone above and beyond in the area of oncology,” said Rosemary Porter, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing. Her passion for helping patients, their families, and other nurses has touched many lives in a positive way.”

ONS Members Receive 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards

Nursing Spectrum, an RN-focused multimedia organization, recently honored ONS members Cynthia Mooney, CCRN, BSN,

Med, Ellen Lavoie Smith, RN, MS, APRN-BC, AOCN®, and Gail Wilkes, RN, MS, ANP, AOCN®, as regional winners of the Annual Nursing Excellence Awards. These nurses have been nominated by their colleagues, peers, and supervisors for outstanding service and dedication to their patients and the nursing profession.



Mooney, nurse clinician coordinator at FirstHealth of the Carolinas in Pinehurst, NC, was awarded in the Clinical Care category (Southeastern region), which recognizes RNs who demonstrate

excellence in direct care delivery in any clinical setting.

Smith, director of advanced practice nursing for hematology/oncology at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH, was awarded in the Advancing the Profession category (New England region), which recognizes RNs who have made contributions that have advanced and strengthened nursing as a profession.



Wilkes, a clinical instructor at Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts, was awarded in the Teaching category (New England region), which recognizes RNs who have made significant contributions in education, professional development, or long-term learning of nursing professionals.

All of the regional award winners will be eligible for Nursing Spectrum's National Nurse of the Year Awards, which will be presented this fall.

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