

REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NURSING COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO

Meeting Highlights May 2004

REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAM

Alastair Lamb, Director Integrated Cancer Program, Kingston gave an overview of the early-stages in the development of the Regional Cancer Program (RCP) in SEO. A question asked of Alastair was what will be the regional responsibilities and communication between Aboriginal Cancer Care and the RCPs?

Linda Robb Blenderman, Chair and Jane Warner (Hotel Dieu Hospital) submitted a letter on behalf of the RONC-SEO to the RCP steering committee (copied was Peter Dixon, CEO Durhan Cancer Centre). RONC recommendations were to add two initiatives to the RCP draft document. These focused on expanding and strengthening the expertise of regional oncology nurses with the resultant outcome of improving the quality of patient care.

They were:

(1) To provide infrastructure support for the dissemination, implementation and evaluation of regional evidence-based oncology nursing practice guidelines, and

(2) To establish new roles of Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Practice Nurse to enable the management of the increasing incidence and

prevalence predicted for the next 10 years.

PRESENTATION: "What Should Change in Oncology Nursing in the Next Five Years"

Esther Green, CCO gave a presentation based on her article that was published in the Journal of Canadian Nursing Leadership.

REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NURSING RESEARCH

Dr. Joan Tranmer (PhD) (KGH) and Dr. Margareth Zanchetta (PhD) (Queens) developed a **Regional Oncology Nursing Research Agenda for 2004-2005**. The strategic priority is to generate new knowledge in oncology nursing through collaboration and participation in primary and translational research. Proposed strategies are to (1) Identify regional oncology nurse-led research or quality priorities (Phase 1), (2) Develop a research and quality agenda to address research priorities and (3) Develop research and quality teams to lead primary research or translational research.

The goal of regional oncology nursing research (Phase 1) is to

region, in and across settings, for which there is a lack of evidence to guide practice or the best available evidence is not sufficiently incorporated into practice. Oncology practice issues identified need to meet the one or more of the following criteria: high risk to patients and/or families; high volume problem or concern; high health care or organizational priority.

Research in Progress:

The Regional Oncology Nursing Council of Southeastern Ontario (RONC-SEO) **Learning Needs Survey: Registered Nurses Working in Cancer Prevention/Screening and Registered Nurses Working Cancer Patients From Diagnosis to End of Life** {Diane Batchelor (KGH), Linda Robb Blenderman (KGH), Margareth Zanchetta (Queens)}

Implementation of this regional survey is having two major challenges (1) agencies identifying appropriate registered nurses and (2) funding. A request for MOHLTC funding was submitted to Sue Matthews, Provincial Chief Nursing Officer to support the implementation and dissemination of findings for the Learning Needs Survey.

Meeting the needs of cancer patients and families today and tomorrow: **Oncology nursing**

demographics and clinical role functions: "Oncology Nursing Database Study" (MOHLTC):

Crooks, D., Green, E., Ferguson-Pare, M., Bakker, D., Tranmer, J., Fitch, M., Sharkey, S. Regional nurses have participated in this study. The study will (1) identify clinical role functions (activities) at general, specialized and advanced level and (2) Provincial survey of nurses who care for patient with cancer at least 50% of the time.

Optimization of functional well being in older person with cancer:

Tranmer, J., Green, E., Robb Blenderman, L., Groome, P., Ginsburg, D., & McCans, J. The study has three phases: (1) Description of cardiovascular health status, symptom burden, social supports and emotional and physical well being in patients greater than 65 years diagnosed with GU, GI, head and neck, lung, breast or hematological cancer (Clare Nelson Bequest and CNP-\$15,000) (2) Longitudinal follow-up for one year (Oncology Nursing Foundation-\$48,000 American) and (3) Development and validation of a self-report functional assessment measure (submitted to CIHR).

REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NURSING EDUCATION

An exploratory meeting was held between Linda Robb Blenderman and representatives from Queen's University and St. Lawrence College Gwen Duhn and Alice Welsh). The representative from Loyalist College (Katherine Bebee) was unable to make the meeting. The goals of the meeting were to:

1. Discuss the need for and interest in post-graduate (RN) educational opportunities in oncology.

2. Identify current assessable regional educational initiatives.
3. Identify gaps and areas of concerns.
4. Identify the appropriate delivery institutions and mechanisms.

The educational institutions acknowledge the importance of an aggressive curriculum timeline, which is needed to support the development of oncology knowledge for current practicing RN. Further meetings are planned. Margareth Zanchetta and Gwen Duhn will lead the development of a Regional Oncology Education Agenda.

EVIDENCE-BASED AND BEST PRACTICE

Regional working groups are making progress in implementation and dissemination of:

- Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Recommendations and Guidelines for Practice
- ONS Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs Guidelines
- CCO Telephone Practice Symptom Management Guidelines
- Fatigue Management

RONC-SEO has been invited to participate with the **Pediatric Group of Ontario (POGO) Nursing Advisory Committee** on standardization of central venous line care.

MOHLTC

Sue Matthews, Provincial Chief Nursing Officer has expressed an interest in attending a RONC meeting during one of her regular meetings with Esther Green.

An invitation will be extended to her for the September 20th meeting.

PROGRESS

Conference poster accepted: "Creation and Implementation of a Regional Oncology Nursing Council: Acting to Utilize and Disseminate Oncology Nursing Best Practice Guidelines." for the Nursing Research Day Conference – June 4, 2004 held in Kingston. Authors were Linda Robb Blenderman, Margareth Zanchetta (Queens) and Brenda Weir (Northumberland Hills Hospital).

Email account –

RONC-SEO@krcc.on.ca

now available for regional nurses.

RONC-SEO Poster –

Brenda Weir is leading the design of a RONC-SEO poster targeted to nurses to increase their awareness of the council roles and responsibilities. All agencies are submitting photos of nurses to be used in the background.

Logo – will be designed by Margareth Zanchetta (Queens), Mary Catherine Heffernan (Peterborough Regional Health Centre) and Karen Peel (KFL&A CCAC).

Cancer Matters – Brenda Weir (Northumberland Hills Hospital) and Linda Robb Blenderman wrote an article for the next publication.

RONC to Publish –was discussed.

