

# REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NURSING COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO

## Meeting Highlights September 2004

### CHANGE IN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Cheryl Rennick is replacing Cheryl Chapman (Palliative Care, St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville).
- Capt. Cindy McLaren is replacing Carla Burr (Canadian Forces Base Kingston).
- Community Nursing representation increased:
  - Carole Sproule, Manager, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, Kingston
  - Melanie Barnes, Manager of the Nursing Services, Victorian Order of Nurses, Hastings, Prince Edward County & Northumberland
- Geriatric Psychiatric Nursing Representative added, Linda Kessler, Administrative Director of Psychiatry Services, PCCC.

### PRACTICE ISSUES THAT IMPACT PATIENT CARE ACROSS THE CARE CONTINUUM

A need for a regional approach for the **management of febrile neutropenia** (an oncological emergency). This recommendation was brought forth to the KGH-CC-SEO Systemic Therapy Program Head, Dr. Richard Gregg who will present it to the Systemic Therapy Committee. Support was given and the next step is that Dr. John Matthews will discuss with Cancer Care

Ontario's Evidence-based Supportive Care Program.

Council identified a need to standardize **Venous Access Devices** e.g. PICC lines flushing solutions, amounts and frequency in the adult and pediatric populations. A recommendation was brought forth to Esther Green who discussed the issue with Cancer Care Ontario's Evidence-based Supportive Care Program and the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO). Support was given from both provincial agencies and the RONC is working collaboratively with both provincial agencies and other nursing representatives from other parts of the province in trying to standardize care.

### MOHLTC-PROVINCIAL CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

Sue Matthews has confirmed that she will attend the council meeting on January 24, 2005.

### RESEARCH-NURSING STAFFING STUDY

Regional nurses participated in a pilot questionnaire for the study. The principal investigator is Debra Bakker (Lakehead University, Sudbury) and co-investigators include Esther Green, Joan Tranmer (RONC member) and others.

### PROGRESS

The Council was unsuccessful in securing funding from the MOHLTC FOR the **Regional Learning Needs Survey**. The investigative team is working on other funding strategies.

A **RONC-SEO website steering committee** was implemented. The website will bring together local, provincial, national & international oncology nursing and patient information. Members include: Linda Robb Blenderman (Clinical Practice & Research), Gwen Duhn (Education), Angela McCallum (Prevention and Screening), Brenda Weir (Management & Leadership & Community Systemic Therapy) and Carole Sproule (Community Nursing).

Esther Green, CNO of Cancer Care Ontario has supported the council's request to have the **Provincial Oncology Nursing Rounds** available to all Oncology nurses in all settings across the region as well as covering the teleconference costs.

At the **13th International Conference on Cancer Nursing** held August 5-8, 2004 in Sydney, Australia, Margareth Zanchetta, Linda Robb Blenderman and Esther Green were among the presenters.

The **14th International Conference on Cancer Nursing**

will be held September 2006 in Toronto, Ontario. The council supported the idea of participating in the conference planning activities.

At the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO)** held September 25-29, 2004 in Calgary, Alberta Linda Robb Blenderman, Joan Tranmer, Diane Batchelor and Sarah Martinek were among the presenters. Nurses from Quinte Healthcare Corporation also attended the conference.