

## Community Co-Leader's Message

Jean Sellers, RN, MSN



Dear Nurse Navigator and Care Coordinator Colleagues;

I'm happy to share the following updates! The excitement continues to grow as the ONS team finalizes the details of our new community platform. Our anticipated launch date is November. This new platform will enhance our ability to collaborate with others as we share education, tools and resources that will improve access to quality care, psychosocial support and shared decision making. No longer will oncology nurses, who are new to navigation feel isolation. No longer will navigation leaders and administrators wonder how they can demonstrate value for their programs. This platform will be an opportunity to bring together a network of talented individuals in a way that will ensure collaboration within a group of amazing professionals.

Based on our desire to be more inclusive, the NN leadership team made the decision to include those who identify as Care Coordinators as part of our community platform. Moving forward, we will officially be known as the Nurse Navigation and Care Coordination Community.

Deb Christenson has been a valued member of our Leadership Team since 2014. I have personally found her to be a lifeline in more than one situation. I'm thrilled to say that she has assumed the the role as the co-leader of our newly formed community. She has been working as oncology nurse navigator since 2007. She is a gifted writer. Her leadership style opens door, encourages enthusiasm and promotes vision. We are so fortunate to have her in this role.

I'm also excited to share that ONS and Haymarket Media, INC recently announced a collaboration to produce a co-sponsored Nurse Navigation Conference in June, 2017. This conference will bring together national experts who will address leading topics and best practices that impact both oncology nurse navigators and care coordinators. This collaboration will allow us to reach even more members of the navigation profession as it will be open to both ONS members and non-members.

In closing, I want to give a huge shout out to our leadership team. You can view the profile of each member at this link <http://navigator.vc.ons.org/leadership> When I reflect on the years since we first came together as a team in 2013, I am awed at what has been accomplished and so very proud of every single person. Just to cite a few, we've developed the first [Oncology Nurse Navigation Tool Kit](#) and our voices led to the development of the new "Oncology Nurse Navigation Role and Qualifications" position statement. Without the team work that exists among us, very little of what has been accomplished would be possible. Our work is not over. In many ways, it's just beginning. I encourage every person that is reading this

message to think about how ONS can support your role as a nurse navigator. And then, please contact me or any member on our leadership team. We want to hear from you.

### **Get Enthused for the Soon to Launch ONS Community Platform** **Deb Christensen, MSN, APRN, OCN**

#### **Co-Leader**



I'll date myself here by admitting I did not grow up in the age of technology. I was married with children when I purchased my first computer in 1984. Now it is hard to imagine not using technology to streamline my life, answer my questions in an instant, and connect me to the people and things that matter most. And while I would prefer a face-to-face conversation, I can't deny that using technology to build connections has its merits.

During ONS Leadership Weekend, I learned how ONS plans to use a new online platform to encourage conversation, sharing, and connection among and between ONS Communities (formerly known as Special Interest Groups [SIGs]). Similar to other online platforms like Facebook and LinkedIn, the ONS Community platform will allow users to create a profile and connect with others who have similar interests. Users can further configure their personal page to deliver content (e.g. discussions, documents, resources, CNEs) from various ONS communities directly to their home page. Previously, SIG members had to visit each SIG site to get content specific to that specialty. The process was time consuming and cumbersome. Move over yesterday—I was able to create a profile and start a conversation directly from my cell phone in all of 5 minutes.

Here is a quick look at what I learned about the SIG/Community transformation:

- Plans are in place for the new ONS Community platform to launch beginning in November and continuing throughout 2017.
- There is no limit to the number of communities an ONS member can join.
- Only ONS members can post questions to the discussion boards, participate in committees, share best practice, and develop novel ways to support colleagues.
- Non-ONS members can view the site but have limited access to resources.
- Communities will provide opportunities for mentorship, continuing nursing credits, a document library and other media resources.

I am impressed with ONS leaders' vision of the future and the dedication of the entire ONS staff in initiating state-of-the-art ways for supporting oncology nurses. Change is necessary and as oncology nurses we know that life-altering change can

happen in an instant and seldom without some discomfort. One of the joys in journeying with patients and families is seeing how they adapt as the unknown becomes more familiar and eventually routine. Oncology nurses can emulate this resiliency by embracing new ways of learning and connecting—the evolution of SIGs to Communities is but one example.

To learn more about the ONS Community transformation [click here](#).

### **Spotlight/Tribute to Diane McElwain RN, OCN, M.Ed.**



We wanted to take a moment to give special recognition to our colleague and friend, Diane McElwain as she has recently made the decision to step down from her role on our Nurse Navigation and Care Coordination Leadership Team.

Diane's decision is based on her recent retirement from the York Cancer Center in York, Pennsylvania, after 24 years of service. Working with breast cancer patients, Diane pioneered the role of breast nurse navigator before the navigation role was even defined. As navigation became a more distinct role, Diane established the Head and Neck navigation program and has been the lead navigator for the program, as well as facilitating outreach and patient support activities at the center.

Diane has been an active member of the Oncology Nursing Society since 1986, having served as the coordinator of the Prevention and Early Detection Special Interest Group (SIG) and most recently as a member of the [Nurse Navigation SIG leadership team](#). She has made multiple contributions in advancing the Oncology Nurse Navigation Role. In 2010, she served as a member of the ONS/AOSW task force, helping create the first joint position on patient navigation. In 2013, she served on the project team that developed the first ONS Core Competencies for the role of the Oncology Nurse Navigator. She also served as a board member for the National Coalition of Oncology Nurse Navigators. She has presented nationally on the role of the nurse navigator and program development.

Fellow colleague Jean B. Sellers, RN, MSN, praises Diane's work, "Diane exemplifies excellence in oncology nurse navigation. Whether serving her patients or in an advisory role, she contributes in a meaningful way to change the way cancer care is delivered. She has been a hero to many and we wish her the best".

The leadership team and entire Nurse Navigation and Care Coordination Community members wish Diane well as she moves into a well deserved retirement.

### **Tools and Resources for the New and Experienced Oncology Nurse Navigator**

Several member of the [Nurse Navigation and Care Coordination leadership team](#) created the Oncology [Nurse Navigator Toolkit](#). The toolkit provides a list of

categorized resources complete with a detailed description and web address. The toolkit continues to grow and be updated. Do you have a navigation or care coordination resource to add? Please send suggestions to Dominique Srdanovic at [dsrdanovic@stamhealth.org](mailto:dsrdanovic@stamhealth.org)

### **Team Member News and Announcements**

- Susan Scherer, RN, BSN, OCN was invited to participate in the 2016 ONC Capitol Hill Advocacy Days Conference held on Sept 14-15. She participated with oncology nurses from ONS in order to advocate for patients and the need for improvements in healthcare.
- The Advisory Board recently featured the University of North Carolina Model of Lay Patient Navigation as one of three best practices in the country. This model is led by Jean Sellers and a dedicated team of volunteers and nurse navigators.
- ONS communication experts have designed an eye-catching flier promoting your NN/CC Community. Download, print, and use this flier at any oncology nursing gathering. [Why Oncology Nurse Navigators Should Join ONS](#)