



ONS Nurse Navigation Leadership Team

Juli Aistars, RN, MS, APN, AOCN, TTS



Juli is the Prostate and Lung Nurse Navigator, facilitator of the Lung Cancer Screening Program and a Tobacco Treatment Specialist at Northwest Community Healthcare, Arlington Heights, IL. She has practiced in oncology nursing for 34 years. Her publications include articles in nursing journals and a book chapter on radiation therapy. She has presented at national conferences on cancer-related topics and was recently elected CNS Representative on the ISAPN Board of Directors 2014-2015.

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Debbie Bickes, RN, MN, OCN



Debbie is the CMS Program Coordinator at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute, managing a team of lay navigators as part of a demonstration study with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. She has been a nurse for over 30 years, earning her B.S.N. from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a Master's Degree with a subspecialty in Oncology Adult Health from Emory University. She has held various staff and leadership roles in inpatient and outpatient settings throughout her nursing career, and worked as a breast nurse navigator at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute prior to her current position. She has been a member of ONS and of the ONS Metro Atlanta Chapter for several years and recently attended the ONS Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh.

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Karyl Blaseg, RN, MSN, OCN



Karyl is the manager of Cancer Programs at Billings Clinic in Montana which has grown from a single nurse navigator in 2004 to a team of 10 navigators today. Karyl promotes collaboration, innovation, critical thinking, and quality standards to support optimal care and outcomes for oncology patients.

Karyl has presented at a variety of national conferences on the topic of patient navigation including the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators, the National Consortium of Breast Centers, the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Magnet Program, the National Cancer Institute's Community Cancer Centers Program, and Cerner Health.

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Cindi Cantril, RN, OCN, MPH



Cindi has over 40 years of oncology nursing experience working in areas of research, clinical care and program development and leadership. She is active in nursing leadership at national, international, and local levels. She is the Director of Oncology Service Lines and Patient Navigation for Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation in Santa Rosa and serves as the lead Nurse Navigator, helping guide patients through their care.

In addition, Cindi facilitates support groups and conducts a variety of recovery programs such as an Equine Therapy Program and women's cancer survivor retreats.

In 2012, Cindi developed a successful resource navigation program for the underserved Latina women and men granted by To Celebrate Breast Cancer Foundation and The Community Foundation of Sonoma.

She received the Oncology Nursing Society's Distinguished Service Award in 2010 for her novel work in patient navigation. In 2014, she received CURE Magazine's Extraordinary Healer Award. She has published over 12 articles and authored several book chapters.

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Ellen Carr, RN, MSN, AOCN



Ellen has been a nurse case manager with the Moores UCSD Cancer Center in San Diego for more than 12 years, practicing primarily with Head/Neck Oncology (Surgery).

She has been a member of the NN SIG Leadership Team for the past four years. Ellen currently is an Associate Editor of the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, responsible for the column "Oncology Essentials". In addition for the past five years, Ellen has been e-newsletter editor for the local San Diego ONS chapter (SDONS).

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Deborah Christensen, RN, BSN, HNB-BC



Deb Christensen is employed as an oncology nurse navigator at Southwest Cancer Center in St. George, Utah. She is currently enrolled in the oncology clinical nurse specialist program at Loyola University Chicago and is board certified with the American Holistic Nurse Association. She has published an article and several poster abstracts in the *Journal of Navigation and Survivorship*. Deb also serves as an ONS Connect contributing editor, LIVESTRONG leader, and American Cancer Society volunteer.

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Rebecca Crane-Okada, PhD, RN, CNS, AOCN



Dr. Rebecca Crane-Okada is an advanced oncology certified nurse with over 35 years in cancer care. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Texas Christian University; a master's degree in cancer nursing and her doctorate in nursing from UCLA; and certification as a Spiritual Director from the Haden Institute. She is currently training with Capacitar; and has completed Urban Zen level 1-training.

Dr. Crane-Okada is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the American Holistic Nurses Association, the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, and Spiritual Directors International. She has published and presented on many aspects of quality of life in breast cancer, with research funded for studies of volunteer support, mindfulness

and dance/movement therapy, and patient navigation in breast cancer. She is the 2007 recipient of the ONS's Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lectureship which recognizes leadership in the psychological and spiritual aspects of cancer care, presenting about the wisdom of breast cancer survivors. Dr. Crane-Okada is committed to integrating the clinical medical needs of those facing cancer with the emotional, spiritual, and social aspects. She approaches her work with openness, interest, deep listening, presence, caring, and intelligent discernment. She encourages and teaches people to be empowered in their health care. At Providence Saint John's Health Center she directs the breast cancer navigation program and co-directs the integrative therapies program. Office: (310)829-8950 Rebecca.Crane-Okada@providence.org

Pamela J. Haylock, PhD, RN, FAAN



Dr. Haylock is an acknowledged leader of efforts to bring attention to the complex health needs of cancer survivors. Her peer reviewed papers emphasize advancing the science and knowledge of cancer survivorship, the nature and significance of nursing research and nurse advocacy. She also contributes to efforts to advance the Oncology Nurse Navigation Role – co-chairing the ONS/AOSW effort to create a joint position on patient navigation. Her trade publications (*Women's Cancers, Men's Cancers, & Cancer Doesn't Have to Hurt*) encourage lay readers to gather knowledge that empowers them to make fully informed decisions, to be engaged members of cancer care teams, and to become effective advocates for themselves and others.

Dr. Haylock received her BSN and MA in Nursing from the University of Iowa College of Nursing, and her PhD from the University of Texas Medical Branch Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2011. Dr. Haylock is currently in an adjunct faculty role, teaching "Professional Nursing Concepts" in the online RN to BSN program at Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX.

Joy V. Hepkins, RN, BSN, OCN



Joy is a graduate of the Sarleh Dollie Nursing College, Tygergerg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa and received her BSN from Gwynedd Mercy University, PA. She has been working as a nurse navigator/coordinator since 2008 at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Darby, PA. She has been a member of ONS since 2007, serving in various leadership positions at the chapter level. She is fluent in several languages and promotes cancer prevention at community events.

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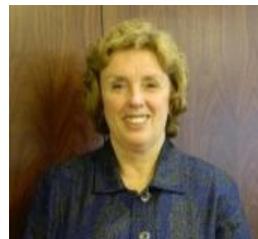
Judy Koutlas, RN, MS, OCN



Judy earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the College of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati in 1983. She later received her MS in 1988 at Rush University in Chicago with a focus in the Oncology Nurse Specialist program. She is responsible for the Vidant Health Cancer Care Navigation program throughout Eastern NC. She possesses 5 years of experience as a GI nurse navigator and has over 20 years of oncology nursing experience. She is a member of AONN and NCONA. Judy developed and facilitates a local cancer support group and actively participates in numerous survivorship and community cancer awareness events. She is an active board member of the Cancer Support Community of Eastern NC.

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Diane McElwain, RN, OCN, M.Ed.



Diane was a founding staff member of the York Cancer Center and began navigating breast cancer patients. The program has evolved to several multidisciplinary navigation team members and Diane now navigates the head and neck and lung cancer patients. She also does the outreach activities for the Cancer center as well as the patient support activities. Diane is a past Coordinator of the Prevention and Early Detection SIG and the Program Chairperson for the PA Capital Region ONS Chapter. She has presented at Congress several times.

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Susan Scherer RN, BSN, OCN



Susan is the founder and CEO of RN Cancer Guides. Her medical career spans over 24 years. Susan received her Bachelors in Science of Nursing at the University of South Florida. Her company, RN Cancer Guides, utilizes Oncology Certified Nurses to guide cancer patients in navigating all the emotional, medical and financial barriers of their care outside of the hospital system. The company also started and trademarked the first Employee Cancer Assistance Program in the country.

Susan has been a national speaker on various radio programs and conferences discussing cancer patient advocacy and nurse entrepreneurship. She serves on various boards and is a member of state and corporate cancer control committees. This past year she participated in Florida's HPV Vaccination and Awareness Collaborative. Her work has been recognized and awarded nationally and regionally. Currently she is the legislative liaison for the Greater Tampa Bay ONS board.

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Jean B. Sellers, RN, MSN



Jean is the Administrative Clinical Director of UNC Lineberger's Cancer Network. She consults with oncology practices throughout the state to assist with their cancer support programs including the development of patient navigation processes. She is a nationally recognized public speaker on advocacy, oncology nursing issues, patient navigation and palliative care. She is one of the founders and current President of the North Carolina Oncology Navigator

Association (NCONA), a non-profit association supporting the role of patient navigators. She serves as adjunct faculty for UNC School of Nursing and was appointed as a member of the President's Council for the National Patient Advocate Foundation, representing North Carolina. Most recently, she was elected to serve as the coordinator for the ONS Nurse Navigator Special Interest Group (SIG).

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Kathy A. Seymour, BSN, RN, OCN



Kathy has been an oncology nurse for 18 years, serving the acute oncology population at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier, California. Two years ago, Kathy became OCN certified and started the Colorectal Cancer Navigation program. Kathy says that studying for certification created an “awakening for me and I have become active in my local ONS chapter in the membership committee.” She expresses gratitude for being able to attend the ONS Congress in Anaheim last summer, where she networked with other navigators and Denise Wiley. When she is not working with patients, Kathy enjoys working in her garden.

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Dominique Srdanovic RN, MA, OCN



Dominique is a GU Nurse Navigator Supervisor at Stamford Hospital. She has extensive experience in oncology nursing as a clinical nurse and leadership positions. She is certified in Oncology Nursing and has been an active member of ONS Nurse Navigation Special Interest Leadership Team and Newsletter Editor since 2010.

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Tricia Strusowski, MS. RN, Senior Clinical Consultant



Tricia has over 30 years of experience in oncology working in a variety of roles and most recently as a clinical director overseeing a multitude of departments, including chemotherapy infusion, rehabilitation program, multidisciplinary disease site centers, thoracic surgery, palliative care, oncology medical home program, wellness programs and bone marrow coordinators and accreditation program.

Tricia has served on multiple advisory boards and implemented 15 multidisciplinary cancer centers. She also consults on the strategic development and implementation of nurse navigation programs within private practices, hospitals, and health systems across the country. Tricia is an accomplished speaker and writer. She has presented at national nursing conferences (AONN, ACCC) as well as published articles on navigation and multidisciplinary centers in peer-reviewed journals.

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Kristen L. Williamson, MSN, RN, ANP, AOCN



Kristen received a BA in English from UCLA in 1990, before receiving her MSN as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Chronic/Acute Care at Vanderbilt University in 1994. She has worked in oncology for 20 years in various roles. She obtained a Post-Master's Certificate as an Adult Nurse Practitioner in 2000 at the Medical University of South Carolina. After graduating from MUSC, she worked as a Nurse Practitioner at Charleston Hematology/Oncology, PA, before accepting a position as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she worked as a Nurse Practitioner in the Breast Cancer Program from 2002-2007. In 2008, she accepted a position as a Nurse Practitioner in Hematology/Oncology at the Durham VA Medical Center, in Durham, North Carolina, and in 2014, became the first Cancer Care Coordinator at the Durham VA.

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Denise Wiley, RN, BSN, OCN



Denise began her nursing career working in medical telemetry and in-patient oncology. She later transferred to radiation oncology and it was there that she discovered her passion for oncology nursing. She moved to Northern Nevada in 2001 and initially took a role in medical/surgical and gastroenterology office nursing but returned to radiation oncology a year later. In 2009, she began working in the capacity as a Nurse Navigator. Initially, Denise was helping patients of every cancer except Breast cancer. As Renown's Nurse Navigator program has grown, she has been able to focus more on the GI and Head & Neck cancers. Denise is currently serving as a board member of the Nevada Colon Cancer Partnership, the Reno Cancer Foundation, and the GI & Liver Center of Excellence Committee at Renown. She also serves as the Vice-President of the ONS Sierra Nevada Chapter where she has been a member since 2003.

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