



AOSW 33rd Annual Conference

Oncology Social Work: Elevating Compassion, Experience and Vision

May 31 – June 2, 2017

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado USA



EXCELLENCE IN
PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY

aosw.org

2017 Annual Conference Theme

“Oncology Social Work: Elevating Compassion, Experience and Vision”

The theme for our 2017 Annual Conference reminds us of the unique skills and insights that oncology social workers employ to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, their families and communities. It is our knowledge, specialized training, and unwavering encouragement that bring comfort and peace of mind for those who serve.

The AOSW Annual Conference is also unique, in that it provides an opportunity for us to gather information, share knowledge, offer support and guide each other. The presentations and educational sessions offered reflect important issues facing oncology social workers, and reiterate the valuable lessons previously shared. At the Annual Conference, we address the challenges confronting us and spotlight the exceptional and exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

AOSW Mission

The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement of psychosocial services to people with cancer and their families. Created in 1984 by social workers interested in oncology and by existing national cancer organizations, AOSW is an expanding force of psychosocial oncology professionals.

AOSW’s mission is “To advance excellence in the psychosocial care of person’s with cancer, their families & caregivers through networking, education, advocacy, research, & resource development.”

For more about AOSW or information on becoming an AOSW member, visit www.aosw.org.

AOSW 2017 Conference Objectives

Advocacy: Identify practice-based advocacy and policy initiatives that promote health equity and improve psychosocial oncology care.

Ethics: Explore ethical challenges and legal issues that intersect oncology social work and ways to address them while working with patients, families, and interdisciplinary teams.

Mentorship/Leadership: Identify evidence-based practice methods, leadership skills, and practical techniques to educate, mentor and nurture the next generation of oncology social workers.

Promote OSW Profession: Elevate the role of the oncology social worker as vital to the provision of quality cancer care, patient-centered outcomes, reduced care costs and increased revenue.

Research/Skills: Synthesize psychosocial oncology research and evidence-based therapeutic techniques which encourage adjustments to illness and treatment, healthy coping and resilience for patients and their families.

Underserved Populations/Diversity: Identify disparities in the delivery of cancer care and evidence-based strategies for improving psychosocial care for underserved and medically vulnerable oncology patients and survivors, their families and caregivers.

Conference Location & Hotel Information

Conference Location

Denver, Colorado, is the perfect backdrop for the 2017 Annual Conference. One of America's liveliest, cleanest and most pedestrian-friendly cities, the Mile High City is a vibrant metropolis that boasts 300 days of sunny skies annually and a youthful, happy feel. Denver also has the largest park system of any metropolis in the United States, with more than 250 parks in the city and more than 1,700 acres of natural and open space areas in the nearby mountains.

Climate

Denver average high temperature in May/June is characterized by rising daily high temperatures, with daily highs increasing from 76°- 87° Fahrenheit. Daily low temperatures range from 63°- 66° Fahrenheit.

Attire for the conference is business casual. Because meeting room temperatures fluctuate, attendees may wish to bring a sweater or jacket.

Conference Hotel

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

1550 Court Place

Denver, CO 80202

Phone: +1-888-627-8405

AOSW conference rate available until May 5, 2017

The AOSW negotiated rate is \$189 per night. Rooms and rates are based on availability and subject to state and local fees/taxes (currently 14.75%). A credit card guarantee is required to hold your reservation. Hotel check-in is 3 p.m. and check-out is 12:00 p.m.

To reserve a room at the AOSW Conference [click here](#) or call the Sheraton Denver Downtown at +1-888-627-8405 and mention that you are part of the AOSW Annual Conference.

AOSW Conference rooms are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Conference room rates apply only to AOSW attendee reservations received before May 5, 2017, provided rooms are still available in the AOSW room block. Discounted room rates are available three days before and three days after the meeting dates based on availability. Reservation requests made after this date will be confirmed on a space available basis at prevailing hotel rates.

Roommate Service

For assistance in finding a roommate, contact [Amy Metzgar](#), AOSW Conference Administrator. She will send you a list of other registrants looking for a roommate. It is your responsibility to contact someone on the roommate list and make your reservation with the hotel directly. When emailing Amy, be sure to include arrival and departure dates, your gender, city and country you reside in and smoking preference to be included on the roommate list.

Getting To and Around Denver

Area Airports

[Denver International Airport](#) is approximately 50 minutes to the hotel. For your convenience, the following transportation options can provide airport transportation to and from the Sheraton Denver Downtown.

Super Shuttle – 1-800-258-3826

Fox Limo Service – 1-303-882-0525

Denver Yellow Cab – 1-303-777-7777

Metro Taxi – 1-303-333-3333

Freedom Cab – 1-303-444-4444



Denver Airport Rail

At a cost of \$9 each way, travelers can use the rail service, known as the A Line, to get from the airport to Denver Union Station and vice versa courtesy of the Regional Transportation District (RTD), metro Denver's public transit provider.

The A Line, which opened in April 2016 whisks travelers to the heart of downtown, specifically the recently restored Union Station, which is the city's new transportation hub and "living room," thanks to its plush surroundings. From Union Station, travelers can access additional local and regional transportation services, such as light rail, regional and local buses, Amtrak rail service, taxis, and the free 16th Street Mall shuttle (MallRide) and free downtown MetroRide buses that provides access to most downtown hotels. Union Station itself is a beautiful 1914 Beaux-Arts building and the location of hip, locally owned restaurants, bars, shops and a boutique hotel.

The new Denver airport rail has six stops along the way and takes approximately 37 minutes.

Download the Denver Union Station Arrival Guide [here](#).

Car Rental

Avis Rent-a-car System Inc. is the official car rental service for the 2017 AOSW Annual Conference.

[Click here](#) for online reservations or call +1-800-331-1600 and indicate Avis AOSW Worldwide Discount Number **D015425** to receive special pricing. The Avis Worldwide Discount number will be effective from seven days prior to the event until seven days after the event.

Parking at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

Self-Parking: \$34 per day with in/out privileges.

Valet: \$42 per day with in/out privileges.

"I thought this year's conference was just amazing. There was a nice variety of topics and at times it was hard to decide which to attend. Thank you for organizing such a wonderful event."

Activities and Pricing

What is included in the conference fee?

- Unlimited course selection beginning with the Opening Keynote Address on Wednesday, May 31 and continuing through conference adjournment on Friday, June 2
- Access to AOSW Community Event on Tuesday, May 30
- Entrance to Exhibit Hall, with breakfast provided each day
- Lunch provided throughout conference
- Admittance to the ACS Quality of Life Award Lecture
- Annual Business Meeting
- Poster Session Reception on Wednesday, May 31
- Access to password-protected website where handouts will be available for download prior to and following the conference

Handouts

Session handouts will be uploaded to a password-protected page of the AOSW website. Prior to the conference, attendees can print handouts for the sessions they plan to attend. Detailed information will be sent to registered attendees on how to access this page in early May.

**Please print all documents prior to arrival. Handouts will not be distributed onsite.
There will be no printers onsite.**

Continuing Education

There will be an additional fee of \$35 per attendee for those interested in earning up to 19.0 CEU's which includes 6.5 hours of Ethics. Please see Registration Form for details.

Certificates will be issued to those who registered for CEUs after completion of the online post conference evaluations and proper badge scanning into sessions.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

This organization Association for Oncology Social Workers (AOSW), provider #1351, is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) www.aswb.org, through the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. The AOSW maintains responsibility for the program. ASWB Approval Period: 11/11/2016 – 11/11/2019. Social workers should contact their regulatory board to determine course approval.

Florida Dept. Health, Division Social Work, MFT, Counseling

In accordance with the criteria outlined in the Florida Statutes Chapter 491 and by the Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality assurance, the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers (FSOSW) Provider #50-775, exp. 03/31/2017, will be applying for CEUs for clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors for Licensure renewal. There is no fee for FSOSW members; other Florida non-members will need to pay \$5.00 per CEU or join the organization for \$35. Florida registrants may obtain an exact list of approved clinical and non-clinical sessions or more information by contacting Cara Kondaki, LCSW, at (954) 659-5604 or by email at kondakc@ccf.org.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

AOSW will be applying Continuing Education Units, some of which will be for Ethics, from NASW. Final number of credits will be available at the conference.

NY State Education Department's State Board of Social Work

Association of Oncology Social Work, Inc., SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0320.

Ethics Disclaimer: It is the responsibility of the attendee to check with their state board to determine if the ethics hours offered meet the regulations of their Board.

Certificates of attendance and verification of credit will be issued to those who registered for CEUs after completion of the online post-conference evaluations.

Non-Credit Events:

CE credit is not offered for committee meetings, poster sessions, networking sessions, and registration/breaks. Other sessions may not carry credit and will be indicated with an **.

Instruction Methodology:

Didactic, audio-visuals, demonstrations, experiential exercises, case examples, small and large group discussions.

Target Audience:

Oncology social workers and other social workers who work with cancer patients and their families.

Grievance Policy:

Grievances regarding conference sessions, content, abstract selection and presentation can be submitted to any member of the conference planning committee and are escalated appropriately to the conference chair, director of education, board of directors or home office staff. Grievances are responded to in a timely fashion with the goal of mitigation of the issues brought to the leadership. If a registered participant is unable to attend a meeting after registration, refund requests are processed on a case by case basis. If an attendee has a complaint or grievance, it must be submitted in writing by the participant to: AOSW, One Parkview Plaza, Suite 800, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. The letter will be reviewed by organizational members consisting of a social worker consultant, and other members based on geographic distribution, experience, professional specialty, etc. The organization will respond to the attendee's grievance in writing.

“Without a doubt, the AOSW conference is the conference that I look forward to most. There are always great offerings and I never leave without gaining important knowledge for practice and research.”

Educational Levels of Presentations

Introductory level presentations include an introduction to content area in oncology social work practice. These sessions may include providing information about a particular condition, treatment method, or issue related to oncology social work. Beginner level presentations are appropriate for all, but with specific applicability to BSW's, new MSW graduates or those new to the practice of oncology social work.

Intermediate level presentations include sessions which build on knowledge that practitioners with some experience already have. These sessions focus on skill-building or adding knowledge; possibly with a brief overview of basic information. These sessions are appropriate for mid-career level practitioners as well as more advanced practitioners interested in exposure to new skill sets and research.

Advanced level presentations include sessions which address content for advanced level practitioners who have been working in oncology social work for some time and have a clear understanding of a wide range of concepts, practice, research and administrative issues that impact practice. Covers complexities involved in oncology social work and intervention to address them and influence change.

ADA Accommodations:

For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations please contact Chris Viglione at 847-686-2365 or cviglione@aosw.org. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

Silent Auction

We will be holding a silent auction to support AOSW awards and scholarships for future conferences. We welcome any contributions by conference attendees or organizations! Past donations included small, easily packable items such as gift cards, handcrafts, or jewelry. We also appreciate baskets of local goodies.

The auction will be set up and silent bids will be taken during the poster sessions. **If you have items to donate please email Eleanor Bruin at eleanor.bruin@uhealth.org or Morgan Gonzales at morgan.gonzales@mountainstarhealth.com by April 30.** All proceeds support AOSW Scholarship programs.

AOSW Imprinted Products

Looking for a way to show your pride in being a member of the AOSW community? Our imprinted travel mug, umbrella, t-shirt or sweatshirt convey your pride in being an AOSW member or supporter. Plus, all proceeds benefit AOSW programs and services.

Choose from:

- 16 oz. insulated, imprinted travel mug
- Two-toned imprinted umbrella
- T-shirt (light gray, with chest imprint)
- Sweatshirt (white, with chest and sleeve imprint)



Simply indicate which items you'd like to order on your Annual Conference Registration Form, or when registering online. Your items will be waiting for you when you check in at the Annual Conference Registration Desk.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

AOSW is pleased to announce two new CEU offerings for attendees. First, **ten SIG meetings will offer CEUs.** The 90-minute sessions will include 30 minutes of networking and 60 minutes of presentations, for an additional 1.0 CEU. You can attend any SIG meeting of your choosing — you do not have to be a member of the SIG to attend. Find a subject that's interesting to you and learn more about the subspecialties of oncology social work!

Next, AOSW will host its first-ever **Clinical Practice Intensives sessions (CPIs).** Comprised of two 90-minute sessions, the CPIs allow you to get more in-depth, thorough training from content experts. This year's CPI subjects include: Mindfulness; Motivational Interviewing; Family Therapy in Oncology Care; Psychodynamic Approaches to End-of-Life and Bereavement Care; and Improving Sexual Health: Unique Needs and Clinical Practice with Sexual Minorities. Earn 3.0 CEUs from experts in the field while developing skills you can incorporate into your work.

*Please note the CPI's & SIG presentations are included in the 19.0 CEUs available to claim.

CPI Descriptions & Presenters



CPI Speakers Psychodynamic Approaches to End-of-Life and Bereavement Care *Joan Berzoff, PhD, MSW*

Dr. Joan Berzoff is Professor Emerita at the Smith College School for Social Work where she developed and directed the End of Life Certificate Program for 15 years, chaired the Human Behavior Sequence and Co-Chaired the Doctoral Program. The author of six books and over forty articles, she co-edited *Living with Dying: A Handbook for End-of-Life Practitioners*. She has done research on end-of-life care related to dialysis patients and families over the last decade and is currently a co-investigator of a PCORI grant. Dr.

Berzoff has taught nationally and internationally in Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Canada and Sweden.



Mindfulness Practices and Perspectives to Enhance Oncology Social Work: Caring for Patients, Providers and Ourselves *Thomas J. Pier, LCSW, OSW-C, CMF*

Thomas Pier believes that when facing cancer, good medicine is not enough. Everyone ought to have access to psychosocial and spiritual care. Thomas is an oncology social worker with 21 years of post-graduate clinical experience primarily in psychosocial oncology and care for the dying. He has worked at the Simms/Mann – UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology for over 15 years supporting patients and

families currently coping with cancer and its treatments, those mastering survivorship, and many addressing end of life, including implementation of California's 2016 End of Life Option Act within UCLA.

Additionally, Thomas provides supervision and training to a multi-disciplinary cohort of interns and has served as Field Instructor for the American Cancer Society Master's Training Grants in Clinical Oncology Social Work since 2010. Using a Certificate of Mindfulness Facilitation earned in 2012 from UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, Thomas weaves mindfulness, enhanced by his personal practice, into patient care and intern training. He speaks frequently on topics such as mindfulness, end of life communication, culturally-competent cancer care and young adult cancer experiences. Thomas was a founding board member of the National LGBT Cancer Network. He lives in South Los Angeles with his husband of 25 years, Russell, and their two children through foster-adoption, Angelina, 5, and Isaiah, 3.



Can You Please Change this Patient? Motivational Interviewing as a Better Approach

Debra Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, OSW-C

Debra Mattison has enjoyed a meaningful social work career working extensively in the areas of oncology, palliative care and integrated primary care as well as being a clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Her professional interests have focused on oncology and chronic illness, grief and loss, inter-professional education and spirituality in social work practice.

Debra is a long time member of AOSW, co-leads the Spirituality Special Interest Group (SIG) and serves on the Board of Oncology Social Work Certification. She has received awards for her leadership and clinical practice, including Social Worker of the Year from the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Debra is active in providing continuing education and has made multiple presentations at state and national conferences. Her publications cover a variety of areas including professional standards and ethics, maintaining professional resilience, spirituality in social work practice and inter-professional education.

Improving Sexual Health: Clinical Practice with Sexual Minorities

Sage A. Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Heather Honoré Goltz, PhD, LMSW, Med; David Latini, PhD, MSW



Sage A. Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C

Dr. Sage Bolte, is a licensed clinical social worker and is the Executive Director of Life with Cancer, a not for profit support and education program of the Inova Dwight and Martha Schar Cancer Institute in Northern Virginia. Dr. Bolte has written or contributed to several peer-reviewed articles and books, including three chapters in the Oxford textbook *The Handbook for Oncology Social Work*.

Dr. Bolte is known nationally for her work/teaching in sexual health and cancer and has worked to collaborate with nursing and social work groups to teach more health care providers how to assess and address the sexual health needs of our patients and their partners. She is also just as passionate about the young adult cancer community and those individuals living with advanced disease and survivorship issues. Dr. Bolte also continues to maintain her private practice work in sex therapy.

Dr. Bolte lives in Northern Virginia with her husband Jeff and their three very busy children.



Heather Honoré Goltz, PhD, LMSW, MEd

Dr. Heather Honoré Goltz is a social worker and doctoral-level health educator with over a decade of experience developing and implementing clinical interventions to improve quality of life and health outcomes of patients impacted by conditions such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, obesity, and urologic disease. She has spent much of the last decade working specifically on urologic disease at the University of Houston-Downtown, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. She has published more than 20 papers, primarily focusing on aspects of genitourinary cancers and sexual health and been funded by the NIH, DOD, and the VA.



David Latini, PhD, MSW

Dr. David Latini is a clinical psychologist with expertise in couples and family psychology, cancer survivorship and rehabilitation, and forensic work. Since 2000, his work has focused primarily on psychosocial adaptation to genitourinary cancers, HIV, and other chronic diseases experienced by older adults.

In 2006, Dr. Latini joined the faculty of the Scott Department of Urology at Baylor College of Medicine, with a secondary appointment in Psychiatry. In addition to his research, he is the course co-director for two medical student electives: Human

Sexuality and LGBT Health.

Since 2011, Dr. Latini has worked on two large national demonstration projects in primary care education and specialty care education to facilitate inter-professional practice, patient-centered care, and performance improvement in the practice of a range of Veterans Affairs trainees. Beginning in 2014, his work moved into program development and management of clinical training programs for associated health trainees within Veterans Affairs.



Family Therapy in Oncology Care

Carolyn Fulton, LCSW-R

Carolyn Fulton has practiced in the field of social work for the last 15 years, working in clinical oncology since 2003. Her oncology career began at CancerCare, providing individual and support group counseling to patients, caregivers, survivors and the bereaved. She joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2009, working with the in-patient GI Medical Oncology Service and most recently the palliative medicine team. She also serves as Social Work Coordinator for MSKCC's Family Therapy Clinic. Carolyn received her Master of Social Work from New York

University and her Bachelor of Social Work from Southeastern Louisiana University. She is trained as a family therapist, and graduated from the Ackerman Institute for the Family's Externship Program. Ms. Fulton has particular interest in bringing awareness to the unique needs of the young adult patient and family, at end of life. She uses her relational lens to not only assist health care providers with this patient population, but in all her interactions. This has afforded her opportunities to speak at AOSW, Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network, American Family Therapy Academy, Infusion Nurses Society Annual Convention, Early Age Onset Colorectal Cancer Summit, OMG East Cancer Summit, and to departments throughout Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

“It is an honor to connect with so many inspiring social workers who are passionate about working with this population. I look forward to many conferences to come!”

SPECIAL EVENTS AND OFFERINGS

AOSW Pre-Conference Research Institute

Tuesday, May 30

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This year's AOSW Research Institute will be held as a Pre-Conference Institute on Tuesday, May 30. The theme will be "Patient-Centered Research." The Institute will include a series of panel presentations, question and answer sessions, and roundtable discussions in which participants will identify and prioritize compelling and clinically meaningful issues for patient-centered outcomes research. This year's Institute will also serve as a kick-off to AOSW's new Patient-Centered Research Collaborative (PCRC) for Psychosocial Oncology.

Julianne Oktay, PhD, MSW, AOSW Research Director, and Brad Zebrack, PhD, MSW, MPH, Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan, will serve as the Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, for the Institute.

Pre-Conference Research Institute Keynote Speaker

Translating Psychosocial Oncology Research Into Practice: Progress and Challenges

Tuesday, May 30

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.



Paul Jacobsen, PhD

Associate Director, Healthcare Delivery Research Program
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
National Cancer Institute

Dr. Paul Jacobsen is the Associate Director of the NCI Division of Cancer Control and Population Science's Healthcare Delivery Research Program. In this position, he leads a team whose mission is to advance the field of cancer-related healthcare delivery research and enhance data resources, measures, and NCI's grant portfolio in this domain. He also plays a key role in NCI's collaborations with other agencies and organizations in health services and outcomes research. Dr. Jacobsen was previously Associate Center Director for Population Science at Moffitt Cancer Center where he conducted research on patient-centered healthcare and health outcomes.

Summary: Despite abundant research on the benefits of psychosocial care, several reports have concluded that many people affected by cancer do not receive appropriate services. This presentation will review recommendations offered to address this problem, the progress that has been made to date in implementing many of them, and the challenges that remain. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the central role of healthcare delivery research in advancing psychosocial cancer care and the identification of key research priorities in this area.

Presentation Level: Introductory

Pre-Conference Workshop**Tuesday, May 30****Registration: 9:30 a.m.****Program: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.****Navigating Cancer: Work & Insurance**

This training, co-hosted by Triage Cancer & Cancer and Careers, will provide oncology health care professionals with a comprehensive overview of employment, disability insurance, and health insurance issues that may arise for cancer survivors and their caregivers. Issues include the laws and practical strategies for working through treatment, taking time off work for treatment, deciding whether or not to disclose a diagnosis, managing side effects on-the-job, re-entering the job market, and navigating health insurance options and health care reforms. This interactive training will cover relevant research, provide substantive information, and utilize case studies and exercises to demonstrate ways for oncology health care professionals to effectively navigate their patients through these issues. This FREE training also offers FREE CEUs for social workers and nurses. These CEUs are not part of the overall conference CEUs. **Please note:** *Lunch will be on your own.*

Presentation Level: Introductory

AOSW Community Event with Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation**Tuesday, May 30****6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation was established as the Raymond Wentz Foundation in late 2002 by oncologist Dr. David Schrier in memory of his patient, Ray. To date, they have given over \$3 million in financial assistance to over 4,000 cancer patients in every corner of Colorado.

Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation responds to the urgent needs of Coloradans with cancer by providing financial assistance with dignity and humanity. Their vision is that Colorado cancer patients in need will not go without support.

Join us to learn more about this wonderful organization and hear testimonials from patients who have benefited from Ray of Hope!

Continental Breakfast with AOSW Leaders & Exhibitors**Wednesday, May 31****7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

All attendees are invited to attend our Welcome Breakfast with AOSW Leadership on Wednesday morning prior to the Awards Ceremony and Opening Keynote. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with the AOSW Board and learn how to get the most out of the conference and membership.

Welcome & Awards Ceremony**Wednesday, May 31****8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Each year, AOSW presents awards and scholarships to members of the Association who have made distinguished contributions to the field of oncology social work. Please join us as we present our 2017 AOSW Recognition Awards at the Opening Ceremony. Awards and scholarships being presented include: LLS-Hematology-Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award, Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award, Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award, Naomi Stearns Scholarship, and Palliative Care and End-of-Life Scholarship.

Opening Keynote Address**Wednesday, May 31****9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.***Julia H. Rowland, PhD*

National Institutes of Health
 National Cancer Institute
 Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
 Office of Cancer Survivorship

Dr. Julia H. Rowland, Director of the National Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Survivorship, is a long-time clinician, researcher and teacher in the area of psychosocial aspects of cancer. She has worked with and conducted competitively funded research among both pediatric and adult cancer survivors and their families, and published broadly in psycho-oncology. After receiving her PhD in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where she went on to hold joint appointments in Neurology and Pediatrics. Prior to joining NCI in 1999, Dr. Rowland was founding Director of Georgetown University's Psycho-Oncology Program.

Lunch & Medical Marijuana Panel**Wednesday, May 31****12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.****Opening Reception/Exhibits/Silent Auction/Poster Session****Wednesday, May 31****6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.****Cancer Survivors Meeting****Thursday, June 1****7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.****Breakfast with the Exhibitors****Thursday, June 1****7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**“Everyone who presented was knowledgeable
 and I came away with valuable information.
 I look forward to going to next year’s conference.”**

Financial Advocacy Lunch Panel Keynote Speaker**Thursday, June 1****1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.***Reginald Tucker-Seeley, MA, ScM, ScD*

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Dana Farber Cancer Institute
 Center for Community-Based Research

Dr. Reginald Tucker-Seeley is an Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Tucker-Seeley's research has focused primarily on social determinants of health, such as the association between the neighborhood environment and health behavior; and individual-level socioeconomic determinants of health. His current work focuses on the measurement and influence of financial well-being on health across the cancer continuum, from prevention to end-of-life care. Dr. Tucker-Seeley is also committed to community service focused on the elimination of health disparities and serves on the Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity.

ACS Quality of Life Award Ceremony and Lecture**Friday, June 2****8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.***Dr. Yvette Colón, PhD, ACSW, BCD*

Associate Professor and MSW Program Director
 Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work

For 25 years, Dr. Yvette Colón provided bilingual (English/Spanish) social work services in a variety of oncology, pain management, and end-of-life care nonprofit settings.

She has been an AOSW member for 27 years. In that time, she has served on many committees as well as the Board of Directors. She was a Regional Director, leader of several SIGS, and since 1999 the Coordinator of the AOSW Cancer Survivors Network. Currently she serves as editorial board member of the *Journal of Pain & Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy* and the *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care*, appointed member of NASW's National Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity, and Immediate Past-President of the Center for Clinical Social Work. She has taught, lectured, and published extensively on psychosocial oncology, pain management, end-of-life social work practice, diversity, LGBT-affirmative practice, and technology-based social work services.

Dr. Colón holds a Master's degree in clinical social work from Smith College School for Social Work, a PhD in clinical social work from New York University and a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University.

AOSW Annual Business Meeting and Lunch
Friday, June 2
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

The AOSW Board of Directors invites all conference participants to attend the Annual Business Meeting to hear an overview about AOSW’s major initiatives. This is an ideal opportunity for AOSW members to join with friends and colleagues and experience the collective power of our efforts and expertise. Don’t miss it!

Closing Keynote Address
Friday, June 2
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.



Patrice Al-Shatti, MSW, LMSW

Patrice Al-Shatti is a retired oncology social work leader. Over a long career she counseled families facing medical crisis, facilitated support groups, mentored students, managed staff and programs, developed services and educational materials, and led the quality of life efforts of the Arizona Cancer Control Coalition. She is past Communications Director for the Association of Oncology Social Work and is a frequent conference presenter. She is the creator of FindingUp.com, a roadmap to healing for women affected by a partner’s suicide, and serves as the wellness coordinator for a large urban faith community, where she develops educational programming, writes online wellness content, and coordinates support for vulnerable members.

CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE*

*Schedule subject to change

** These sessions are not eligible for CEUs

Tuesday, May 30

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	AOSW Pre-Conference Research Institute Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	AOSW Pre-Conference Research Institute
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop: Navigating Cancer: Work & Insurance
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Conference Registration Open
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	AOSW Community Event**

Wednesday, May 31

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	SIG Leaders/State Rep Morning Meeting
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Conference Registration Open**
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast with AOSW Leaders & Exhibitors**
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	General Session: Welcome and Awards Ceremony
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	General Session: Opening Keynote Address (Julia Rowland, PhD)
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Paper Session I (5 concurrent session)
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch Panel I: Medical Marijuana Panel

CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE*

*Schedule subject to change

** These sessions are not eligible for CEUs

Wednesday, May 31 (cont.)

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Networking & Presentations by AOSW SIGs (5 concurrent sessions)
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Paper Session II (5 concurrent sessions)
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Paper Session III (5 concurrent sessions)
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Opening Reception, Exhibits, Poster Session & Silent Auction**

Thursday, June 1

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration Open**
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Cancer Survivors Meeting**
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast & Exhibits**
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Posters Displayed**
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes I (6 concurrent sessions)
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Paper Session IV (5 concurrent sessions)
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 a.m.	Paper Session V (5 concurrent sessions)
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch Panel II: Financial Advocacy Panel Reginald Tucker-Seeley, MA, ScM, ScD (Keynote)
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Clinical Practice Intensives Part I (5 concurrent sessions)
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Clinical Practice Intensives Part II (5 concurrent sessions)
6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	Networking & Presentations by AOSW SIGs (5 concurrent sessions)

Friday, June 2

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	AOSW Registration Open**
7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	SIG informal networking meetings**
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast & Exhibits**
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Posters Displayed**
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	ACS Quality of Life Award & Lecture
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes II (7 concurrent sessions)
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Paper Session VI (5 concurrent sessions)
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	AOSW Annual Business Meeting & Lunch**
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Closing Keynote Speaker (Patrice Al-Shatti, MSW, LMSW)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 30

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Research Institute Registration Open

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AOSW Pre-Conference Research Institute

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Research Institute Keynote Speaker (Paul Jacobsen, PhD)

Translating Psychosocial Oncology Research Into Practice: Progress and Challenges

Summary: Research over past several decades has greatly increased understanding of the impact of cancer and its treatment on the psychosocial well-being and functioning of patients and their family members. Additionally, a growing body of evidence demonstrates the positive impact of psychosocial interventions on a wide range of health outcomes in people affected by cancer. Despite abundant research, a report published by the Institute of Medicine in 2008 concluded that many people who could benefit from psychosocial cancer care fail to receive it. Beyond identifying a problem, the report included a number of recommendation designed to promote the inclusion of psychosocial care as part of routine cancer care. This presentation will review these recommendations, the progress that has been made to date in implementing many of them, and the challenges that remain. The presentation will be informed by consideration of the multiple phases of translational research and the central role of healthcare delivery research in advancing psychosocial care for people affected by cancer. Several key research priorities will be identified and discussed including: enhancement of the clinically-relevant research base, development and use of quality measures, formulation and enactment of quality improvement plans, and application of resource-stratified approaches to guideline implementation.

Presentation Level: Introductory

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

AOSW Community Event with Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation

Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation was established as the Raymond Wentz Foundation in late 2002 by oncologist Dr. David Schrier in memory of his patient, Ray. To date, they have given over \$3 million in financial assistance to over 4,000 cancer patients in every corner of Colorado.

Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation responds to the urgent needs of Coloradans with cancer by providing financial assistance with dignity and humanity. Their vision is that Colorado cancer patients in need will not go without support.

Join us to learn more about this wonderful organization and hear testimonials from patients who have benefited from Ray of Hope!

Wednesday, May 31

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

SIG Leaders/State Rep Morning Meeting

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast with AOSW Leaders & Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Posters displayed

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

General Session: Welcome and Awards Ceremony

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

General Session: Opening Keynote Address (Julia Rowland, PhD)

Championing Cancer Survivorship: Whose Job Is It?

Summary: The number of cancer survivors is growing in the United States and globally. At the same time, the demographics of this population is shifting rapidly. In contrast to decades past, survivors in the future will be older and more ethno-culturally diverse. Many will be treated with complex and increasingly novel regimens largely delivered in out-patient community settings. Survivors will be taking more oral cancer agents, often for extended periods, living longer and for growing numbers, dealing with cancer or its aftermath as a chronic illness. This changing landscape is putting pressure on our ability to help individuals not simply survive their illness, but thrive after cancer. In particular, planning for and supporting optimal survivorship is becoming a key component in the design and delivery of high quality cancer care. This talk will outline the multiple ways in which oncology social workers are uniquely positioned to help reduce the personal and social burden of cancer; to support the emerging shift in care away from a focus on lifespan to one that promotes attention to survivors' health span and meaningful quality of life after cancer.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break with the Exhibitors

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Paper Session I (5 concurrent sessions)

| P101 |

Expanding Our Contributions in Cancer Care: Transforming the Role of Oncology Social Work Through Practice-Based, Qualitative Research

Kimberly Lawson, MSW, DSW Candidate, LCSW

Summary: Social workers are increasingly found on cancer care teams whether in acute, ambulatory or community settings. Additionally, oncology social workers (OSWs) are pioneering “non-traditional” roles including as care navigators, ethics consultants, transdisciplinary teaching experts and in leadership positions both within and outside their discipline. In so doing, OSWs demonstrate increasingly high versatility and utility in cancer care. It is incumbent upon OSWs to also maximize newly-created potential by seeking

“transformative” (Kayser, 2015, p. 171) psychosocial research opportunities for influencing care and practice improvement. Practice-based research and in particular, qualitative research, presents one such opportunity. Qualitative research investigates the complexities and lived experiences of those impacted by cancer, allowing OSWs keen insights into the impact of cancer experiences. With the necessary continuing education and mentoring, OSWs can learn not only to participate in, but generate ideas for and lead, practice-based research, fostering evolving contributions to practice and care improvements.

Keywords: Research, Education

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P102 |

Compassion is a Phone Call Away: Promoting Access to Psychosocial Support Through Telephone-Administered Services

Jill Randall, MSW, LICSW; Olivia Eusden, MSW, LICSW

Summary: Barriers such as geographical distance and limited mobility can prevent people affected by cancer from accessing vital psychosocial support services from diagnosis through survivorship. Providing psychosocial support via the telephone can remove these barriers and increase access to services in the privacy and comfort of home. The literature supports the feasibility and acceptability of psychosocial support and counseling via the telephone, and while the face-to-face connection is valued by patients/caregivers and social workers alike, it's worth exploring this convenient alternative to extend the reach of support beyond the medical center. This presentation will discuss the benefits and challenges of the telephone modality with individuals and groups, specific skills needed, and how telephone-administered services can increase access, particularly for those coping with emotional, social, and physical late effects. Social workers can provide telephone-administered interventions as an extension of the face-to-face services they provide to alleviate distress and maximize psychosocial functioning.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Survivorship

Presentation Level: Introductory

| P103 |**Dispelling the Magic of Positive Thinking and De-Escalating Death Anxiety: A Discussion About Mortality Awareness***Rachel Warbet, MSW, LCSW*

Summary: Oncology social workers should embrace the opportunity to address patients' concerns about dying and death more directly. It has been suggested that during serious health crises, patients experience less distress when clinicians deal "head-on with the issues" of life-limiting illness and diminishing treatment options (Holland & Lewis, 1999). When illness is advanced, addressing patients' death anxiety and beliefs about always having a positive attitude is imperative for relieving suffering and retaining meaning and purpose (Sussman & Liu, 2014). Furthermore, it is important for clinicians to cultivate mortality awareness in order to become better healing professionals (Liechty, 2000). This presentation will provide participants with knowledge and insight into their own process and the impact that this has on our work. Participants will also gain a revitalized ability to enhance their conversations with patients and family caregivers surrounding death anxiety to provide a framework for a more meaningful engagement in the work.

Keywords: **Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life**

Presentation Level: **Intermediate**

| P104 |**Developing a Palliative Radiation Oncology Specialty: The Role of the Oncology Social Worker***Rebecca Cammy, MSW, LCSW*

Summary: The University of Pennsylvania palliative radiation oncology team attends to a gap of metastatic, advanced-stage cancer patients who have significant symptom issues but are not appropriate for systemic therapies. The clinical outcome for these patients may not always be clear and could incorporate symptom resolution with recovery for some time or a continued decline but with more symptom control through end-of-life. From

a social work lens, clinical practice prompts a safe balance for ongoing conversations about advanced directives, care needs, and end-of-life goals and fears as treatment regimens and outcomes continue to unfold. This model strives to make advance care planning discussions a routine part of the palliative radiation oncology work flow.

Keywords: **Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Special Populations**

Presentation Level: **Intermediate**

| P105 |**Blurred Lines: Boundary Dilemmas in Oncology Care***Christina Bach, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Eucharria Borden, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C*

Summary: Boundaries challenge us professionally almost every day. Boundaries can become blurred in many circumstances, including self disclosure, dual relationships, physical contact, sexual relationships, and competence to perform services. Boundaries make us aware of the limits of our professional relationships as well as if we may be crossing a line. They help us to think critically about our relationships with patients. With boundary fluidity and blurring comes risk. This presentation will challenge participants to think about their own professional boundaries, to explore experiences where they may have crossed a line, as well as to think about why boundaries are necessary but often need to be fluid, flexible, transparent and evolving. We will examine boundary ethics various disciplines. We will address the use of self and supervision to work through boundary challenges and explore more about how to work with interdisciplinary team members who may have different boundary rules than we do.

Keywords: **Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building**

Presentation Level: **Introductory**

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch Panel I: Medical Marijuana Panel

Colorado and Marijuana: Navigating the Complex Terrain Regarding Policy and Patient Advocacy for Oncology Social Workers

Eleanor Bruin, MSW, LCSW

Summary: This presentation seeks to educate oncology social workers on the history of marijuana decriminalization in the state of Colorado, with a comprehensive review of research and literature to understand the aspects of state and federal responses to marijuana legalization in Colorado. This presentation will also introduce the challenges that healthcare institutions and providers are facing in integrating medical marijuana in the evidence-based care they provide to oncology patients. The objective of this lecture is to educate oncology social workers on the organizational and individual impacts of marijuana legalization, so they are better able to advocate, and navigate, this subject matter within their own clinical practice.

Keywords: Education, Specialized Needs

Presentation Level: Introductory

Medical Cannabis: Navigating the Social and Legal Challenges

Leora Lowenthal, MSW, MPA, LCSW-R (NYS), LICSW (MA), OSW-C; Kathleen Dillon, JD, MDR

Summary: Legislation allowing use of medical cannabis has been passed in 25 states and the District of Columbia. Simultaneously, cannabis remains classified as a Schedule 1 drug under federal law, meaning it is considered to have a “high potential for abuse,” “no currently accepted medical use,” and “a lack of accepted safety.” This conflict between federal and state law has resulted in a variety social and legal challenges including those of access, stigma, and the possibility of adverse effects of cannabis use on employment. The authors, a physician, attorney, and oncology social worker, provide an examination of medical cannabis in the context of oncology and recommendations for how patients and providers

may navigate the inherent social and legal challenges. They maintain that no matter an individual provider’s position on use, medical cannabis is a significant, growing part of the healthcare landscape and should be a part of our conversations with patients.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building,

Advocacy

Presentation Level: Intermediate

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Networking & Presentations from AOSW SIGs

(5 concurrent sessions)

| S101 |

Spirituality SIG Presentation

Rituals: Creating Healing Space for Our Patients and Ourselves

Debra Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, OSW-C; Su Murdock, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: The focus of this experiential workshop is to support practical skill building regarding the intention use of therapeutic ritual with individuals, families and groups in our oncology social work practice. Participants will leave the session with an evidence-based rationale for use of rituals as well as a resource kit of rituals to use both with patients as well as in one’s own professional practice to promote meaning and resilience. Rituals related to the experience of a new cancer diagnosis, transformation and transition rituals along the cancer continuum and a personal professional intention-based ritual will be demonstrated. Participants will also be invited to share their use of favorite rituals used in their work.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| S102 |**Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life SIG Presentation****Advance Care Planning: Understanding and Expanding the Social Work Role**

Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Jennifer Bires, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C

Summary: As organizations are embracing calls to provide person-centered, family-focused and culturally-congruent care in a more cost-effective manner there is a growing realization of the importance of Advance Care Planning (ACP). Unfortunately, few organizations have models in place to consistently provide this important service. There is an urgency to the need to develop standardized ACP systems that are culturally nuanced as current systems contribute to growing disparities in care, as underserved patients are less likely to have their wishes identified and honored at end of life.

Social workers are well positioned to lead these efforts, offering an opportunity to expand our leadership and clinical roles, yet many lack strategies to exploit this role. Social work leaders can collaborate with their inter-professional colleagues to create innovative ACP programs that address the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim of healthcare reform (improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care). Successful ACP conversations also increase provider satisfaction as it is associated with lessened moral distress.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S103 |**Integrative Oncology SIG Presentation
Integrative Oncology: Supporting the Whole Person – Mind, Body and Spirit**

Cheryl Hughes, LICSW, OSW-C; Marianne Stenhouse, LCSW, OSW-C; Richard Dickens, MS, LCSW-R

Summary: Please join us for this Integrative Oncology SIG Session and presentation. During this time we will highlight the range of skills and knowledge that

oncology social workers use to improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families. You will be provided with information about various integrative oncology therapies and techniques, and gain knowledge about current research on this topic. In addition, you will have the opportunity to hear from some of your colleagues about the ways integrative oncology is used in two different settings: an oncology clinic system and a non-profit cancer organization. Our panelists will not only discuss their successes and challenges, but will give you a glimpse of some of the benefits of integrative therapies by providing you with useful information and enjoyable experiences during the program. There will be ample time to ask questions, network and begin to feel a connection with your fellow integrative oncology SIG members.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S104 |**Ethics SIG Presentation****One New Friend Request: Social Media and Ethical Issues in 21st Century Oncology**

Alison Petok, MSW, MPH, LCSW

Summary: The internet and associated social media have become omnipresent in our home and work lives. As more young adults come of age in a world inundated with social media, the use of platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have become an integral part of everyday life. Over the past decade, social media has become a powerful presence in the lives of medical professionals as well, no matter their age, including social workers, physicians, nurses and clergy members. Social media presents many positive opportunities for the field of oncology but it is not without conflict. The culture of medicine, which values privacy, confidentiality, and professional conduct, and that of social media, which values disclosure, candidness, transparency, and familiarity, makes integration of the two worlds a challenge. During this presentation ethical issues will be examined and discussed, including professional boundaries, self-disclosure, and accessible but appropriate patient support services.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S105 |**Sexuality SIG Presentation****Overcoming Barriers to Sexual Health Assessments in the Inpatient and Ambulatory Settings**

Sage A. Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Andrea Karoff, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Thanks to the growing research and body of knowledge, it is no longer a question as to whether sexual health is of concern to those diagnosed with cancer both during and after their treatments. Sexuality and intimacy are quality of life issues that oncology social workers have the opportunity to provide assessments and interventions for (Dasappa L, et al., 2013). However, oncology social workers have identified three barriers to assessing their patient's sexual health needs: assessment tools/instruments; time to address these concerns; finding tools that can be utilized in inpatient and ambulatory or clinic settings to normalize and identify patient's sexual health needs (Bolte, 2012).

The Sexuality SIG is focused, amongst other things, on raising awareness of the sexual health needs of all persons diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones, sharing resources, advocating for sexual minorities and exploring research that provides a greater understanding of the impact cancer has on sexual health along with interventions that can improve this quality of life issue.

This interactive discussion will explore institutional and personal barriers to assessing the sexual health needs of patients as well as discuss creative and evidenced based solutions to assessing, intervening and treating sexual health needs of patients throughout the survivorship continuum. An open dialogue amongst participants related to challenges faced, will create opportunities for an increase in knowledge and shared resources.

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break with the Exhibitors

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Paper Session II (5 concurrent Sessions)

| P201 |**“Every Alien Shall be Presumed to Be An Immigrant”: Utilizing the Case of a Young Woman to Learn International Advocacy**

Kristin Scheeler, MSSW, APSW, OSW-C

Summary: This is the story of the power of oncology social workers as international advocates. It outlines the case of a 29-year-old with acute myeloid leukemia living in the United States, who required an extremely time-sensitive allogeneic bone marrow transplant using cells from her only potential donor in the world; a brother living in Algeria. Attendees will become privy to the many creative strategies employed to help the donor, who was denied a one-time-only expedited visa request to travel to the United States. Oncology social workers who attend this session will leave with tools for assisting international travelers and their families with either simple or complicated needs related to medical necessities. Attendees will understand how the U.S. government sees international travelers from certain countries and help prepare potential travelers to successfully obtain a travel or visitor's visa, work with a U.S. Senator and utilize his or her personal professional network.

Keywords: Advocacy, Special Populations

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P202 |**Addressing Psychosocial Needs of Patients in Cancer Clinical Trials**

Xin Wang, MSW, PhD, LMSW

Summary: This presentation will examine the unique psychosocial challenges of clinical trial patients and caregivers as well as social work services provided to address those needs in a large cancer center. These system-theory guided and strength-based interventions aim to support CT patient and caregivers in the courageous journey of cancer treatment as well as to facilitate successful cancer treatment development.

Keywords: Special Populations, Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life

Presentation Level: Introductory

| P203 |**Think Like an Artist, See Like a Child: Creativity and Everyday Leadership***Patrice Al-Shatti, MSW, LMSW*

Summary: Our healthcare system increasingly demands that we prove value so we must be equipped to lead in the innovative care of patients and families. To do that, we need to be flexible thinkers who can not only provide answers, but observe situations in novel ways and ask, "Are these even the right questions?" Oncology social workers who are capable of inventive problem solving will be noticed and rewarded, and the key to tomorrow's leadership opportunities may be building our capacity for everyday creativity today. This presentation will explore the creative process and offer tips and tools to improve your capacity for innovation in the workplace. If you feel bored, stuck, or uninspired, this interactive presentation is for you. Learn to think like an artist and see like a child. Hone your capacity for everyday creativity and become the innovative leader you aspire to be.

Keywords: Leadership/Administration, Self-Care
Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P204 |**Sorting through Piles: Tools, Techniques and Interventions to Support Patients with Hoarding in Outpatient Oncology***Andrea Lehman, MSW, LCSW; Dena Wellington, MSW, CSWA*

Summary: This presentation will focus on the dynamics raised by working with someone impacted by hoarding including features of the diagnosis, barriers to care, appropriate interventions and ethical concerns. It will explore the role of social work in guiding the interdisciplinary team about trauma-informed care for persons experiencing hoarding in the context of a new cancer diagnosis. Discussion will involve the behavioral challenges arising in response to this new trauma and how oncology social workers can assist patients without re-traumatization. Motivational interviewing and harm reduction strategies will be discussed to assist patients with

hoarding in successfully completing cancer treatment. The person with a lived experience of hoarding will be discussed using case examples explored through a trauma-informed approach to educate social work practice and guide conversation. Ethical questions will be explored around social work responsibility to the patient, staff, doctors, and the community when working with an individual impacted by hoarding.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Ethics
Presentation Level: Intermediate

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.**Paper Session III** (5 concurrent Sessions)**| P301 |****Can You Hear Me Now?: Telemedicine as a Solution to Rural-Urban Health Disparities***Melissa Broussard, MSW, LCSW*

Summary: The Institute of Medicine identified rural areas as potentially disparate in healthcare delivery. Patients residing in rural areas can face many barriers in accessing appropriate healthcare services in not only medical care, but in access to ancillary services as well. As the NASW Code of Ethics reminds us, social workers have an ethical responsibility to strive to ensure equitable opportunities for all. Telemedicine offers a possible solution in bridging patients in more remote areas with urban healthcare facilities and their resources. This presentation will explore the disparities apparent in rural vs. urban healthcare and the ethical considerations in addressing these inequities. Additionally, we will explore the ethical considerations in the use of technology to connect patients to services and resources in an effort to fill in the equity gap and show how one center is connecting their urban and rural centers to ensure all patients have access to ancillary services.

Keywords: Ethics, Special Populations
Presentation Level: Introductory

| P302 |**Teams in Oncology Care: Elevating the Art of Teamwork and the Role of Social Work***Iris C. Fineberg, MSW, PhD, ACSW, OSW-C*

Summary: Teams are the model of care provision in most settings of oncology care. Teamwork requires numerous skills, many of which social workers learn in their core professional education. Varied models of team composition and team interaction exist in oncology, and an understanding of these is necessary for working well within teams. Modern day teams may include both health care professionals and non-professionals, demanding an even greater attention to the knowledge of team members' contributions and roles. Disciplinary diversity offers several advantages to teamwork, including promotion of care access and equity. This session will present characteristics and processes that elevate the art of teamwork, contributing to high quality patient and family oncology care. In addition, specific discussion of the roles of social work in the team will highlight the breadth, depth and importance of these roles.

Keywords: **Interdisciplinary Care, Clinical Practice/Skill Building**

Presentation Level: **Intermediate**

| P303 |**Considering Running a Group: Now What? Strategies for Building and Facilitating a Successful Oncology Support Group***Michelle Abraham, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Nancy Bourque, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C*

Summary: Support groups can improve quality-of-life outcomes for oncology patients. While support groups are well-established interventions in cancer care, and commonly offered in outpatient settings, use rates are low. One way that social workers can improve the psychosocial care provided is through obtaining patient feedback on programming through conducting a needs assessment (Snow et al, 2016). This workshop will review strategies for conducting a needs assessment, recruitment, ways to maintain group attendance and cohesion, as well as strategies

for handling challenges frequently associated with groups. This workshop will also focus on the unique needs of oncology patients and caregivers.

Keywords: **Clinical Practice/Skill Building**

Presentation Level: **Introductory**

| P304 |**Therapeutic Presence in Illness and End-of-Life: Sounds Simple So Why Is It So Hard?***Cheryl Hughes, MA, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C; Richard Dickens, MS, LCSW-R*

Summary: One of the many challenges for oncology social workers is that our role requires we attend to patient and family needs throughout the continuum of care, even when there is little to do or say. At these times, the best action is to simply be present. And there are times when doing gets in the way of being, becoming an escape from the reality that we cannot change outcomes. If being present is the foundation of all we do, not the fallback option, maybe we should know a little more about what it is, and ways to enhance this capability. This presentation will involve attendees in structured activities and discussion about presence, while exploring its role in other disciplines. In addition, the presenters will provide a variety of established practices to help oncology social workers find their own presence when action is not possible.

Keywords: **Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Self-Care**

Presentation Level: **Introductory**

| P305 |**Where Do We Go From Here?: Reinvention and Meaning-Making in Survivorship***Lorelei Bonet, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C*

Summary: Cancer patients strive to complete treatment and believe that its conclusion will signal a return to “normal.” What many find upon completion of treatment can be disappointing. The structure and level of attention inherent to the treatment phase of illness fall away. Challenges in survivorship include financial strain and decreased quality of life, fear of recurrence, insomnia, anxiety and depression. Research is increasingly highlighting the link between stress and recurrence. This talk will explore the experience of survivorship as an “in-between space” within the cancer experience. Between past and future, illness and health, known and unknown. Using literature from the fields of nursing, social work, psychology and others, this paper will explore how we as clinicians can create meaning and fill the gaps for patients once they have completed treatment. To foster a sense of possibility and inspiration in working with the survivor population.

Keywords: **Survivorship, Clinical Practice/Skill Building**

Presentation Level: **Introductory**

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Opening Reception, Exhibits, Poster Session & Silent Auction

POSTERS**Poster Session****Wednesday, May 31****| PO1 |****From Compassion to Action: The Development of a Formal Bereavement Program***Frances Becker, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Elizabeth Barnett, MSW, LMSW; Areden Church, MSW, LMSW***| PO2 |****Snap and Chat: A Creative Connection for Young Adult Patients***Kristy Case, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Jean-Marie Rosone, MSW, Cht, OSW-C, Reiki Master, Energy Work Healer***| PO3 |****Feasibility of the Cancer Distress Coach App for Managing Post-Traumatic Stress***Sophia Smith, PhD, MSW***| PO4 |****There’s an App for That: Evaluating the Feasibility of Using a Mobile App to Track Oncology Patient Navigation Activities/Outcomes***Elizabeth Rohan, MSW, PhD, LCSW***| PO5 |****The Process of Providing Stem Cell Transplants to Undocumented Patients***Sarah Stapleton, MSW, LCSW; Deirdre Sekulic, MSW, LCSW***| PO6 |****The Psychosocial Implications of Transplanting a Homeless Patient***Sarah Stapleton, MSW, LCSW; Deirdre Sekulic, MSW, LCSW*

| PO7 |

Coping with Advanced Cancer: A Retreat for Patients and Caregivers

Elaine McDonald, MSW, LICSW

| PO8 |

Lost in Translation: Mitigating Gaps in Service for Spanish-Speaking Patient Populations

Melissa Potter, MSW, LMSW, LCSW-A

| PO9 |

Vision and Experience: Ten Years of Teaching Survivorship to Breast Cancer Patients

Kim Day, MSSA, LISW-S, OSW-C

| PO10 |

Reaching Co-Survivors: Can YSC Do for You?

Nicole Taylor

| PO11 |

Rural Oncology Care in Native America: Existing Knowledge, Services and Barriers

J. Sky Niesen Smith, MSW, DSW Candidate, LICSW

| PO12 |

Feasibility and Acceptability of Three Behavioral Interventions for Breast Cancer Survivors with Clinically Significant Fear of Cancer Recurrence

Jill Dodson, MS, LSW, LMHC, LMFT; Shelley Johns, PsyD, Clinical Psychology, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

| PO13 |

What Do Oncology Social Workers Do for Patients and Families After Distress Screening? An Instrument to Describe Social Work Response

Julianne Oktay, MSW, PhD

| PO14 |

Addressing Disparities in Psychosocial Support for Rural Cancer Survivors

Kari Hilwig, MSW Candidate

| PO15 |

Evaluation of Lung Cancer Support Group Participation: Preliminary Results

Kate Abramson, MSW, LICSW

| PO16 |

Transforming Survivorship Cancer Care: Building the Support for Survivors

Leah Davis, LSW

| PO17 |

Tracking the Data: Proving Worth of Oncology Social Work Services in a Rural Setting

Caroline Collins, MSW, LCSW; Ashley Jorgensen, MSW, LCSW

| PO18 |

¿Te Gusta? Use of Social Media to Improve Access to Cancer-Related Information and Emotional Support among Spanish-Speaking Latinos

Rachel Allende, MSW, LICSW; Angelee Russ-Carbin, MSW, MPH, LICSW

| PO19 |

The Effectiveness of Solution-Focused Brief Therapy for Distress of Chinese Parents of Children with Cancer Diagnoses: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Anao Zhang, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, ACT; Jennifer Currin-McCulloch, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C

| PO20 |

Clinical Applications of Theories of Resilience and Emerging Adulthood for AYA Cancer Survivors

Casey Walsh, MSW, LCSW; Jennifer Currin-McCulloch, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C; Barbara Jones, MSW, PhD

| PO21 |

Firing Up Instead of Burning Out: Tales from the Front-Line of the Cake Committee

Lora Rhodes, MSW, LSW; Gregory Garber, MSW, LCSW, CCM; Alison Petok, MSW, MPH, LCSW

| PO22 |

What Patient and Partners Want in Interventions that Support Sexual Recovery After Prostate Cancer Treatment

Daniela Wittman, MSW, PhD, LSW, CST

| PO23 |

The WISH (Women's Intimacy and Sexual Health) Clinic: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Addressing Sexual Health Concerns with Patients and Survivors

Dana Hasoetes, MSW, MPH, LICSW, CST; Katrina Robison, MD; Elizabeth Ricci, MS, APRN, WHNP-BC, BSNMS, NCCC, Certified Women's Health Nure Practitioner

| PO24 |

Washington State Death with Dignity Act: The Social Work Role as Patient Advocate at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Katie Seitz, MSW, LICSW; Colleen Duran, MSW, LICSW

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Interdisciplinary Care
Presentation Level: Advanced

Thursday, June 1

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Cancer Survivors Meeting

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast & Exhibits

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Posters Displayed

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes I

(6 concurrent sessions)

| PS101 |

Distress Screening Paper Symposium
Psychosocial Distress Screening and Medical Service Utilization: A Report from AOSW's Project to Assure Quality Cancer Care (APAQCC)

Brad Zebrack, PhD, MSW, MPH; Karen Kayser, MSW, PhD

Summary: Under the auspices of AOSW's Project to Assure Quality Cancer Care (APAQCC), this study examined the extent to which cancer programs demonstrated adherence to their own prescribed screening protocol, and whether adherence to that protocol was associated with medical service utilization. The hypothesis was that higher rates of missed appointments, emergency department (ED) use, and hospitalizations would be associated with lower rates of adherence to screening protocols. Review of 8,409 EHRs across 55 cancer centers indicated that the overall adherence rate to screening protocols was 62.7%. Risk ratios for missing a scheduled appointment (0.81), ED use (0.82), and hospitalization (0.81) suggest that when overall protocol adherence was documented, 18%-19% of patients avoided what may have been unnecessary use of medical services. The observed associations between a mandated psychosocial care protocol and medical service utilization are notable as they potentiate opportunities for operational efficiencies and costs savings.

Keywords: Research, Distress/CoC
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Are We Really Making Any Progress In Distress Screening?

James Zabora, ScD, MSW, APOS Fellow; Nina Miller, MSSW, OSW-C

Summary: This presentation and discussion will help participants understand the important role that distress screening has in the provision of psychosocial care for oncology patients. The role of the social worker in the process will be discussed in detail. Screening tools, methodology and other details will also be discussed. Compliance with Commission on Cancer standards will also be included.

Keywords: Distress/CoC, Leadership/ Administration

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Screening for Psychosocial Distress in Cancer Patients: Does Resource Utilization Lead to Lower Distress?

Kareen Tonsing, PhD, LSW; Martha Vunkehanching, PhD, LSW

Summary: Due to elevated levels of psychosocial distress consistently observed in cancer patients and its association with poor quality of life, poor adherence to treatment, and stronger assistance needs, screening and continuous monitoring of psychological distress in cancer patients throughout the disease trajectory has been recommended. The purpose of this study was to examine the presence of distress in cancer patients and factors contributing to that distress. We also explored whether there was any difference in distress levels among patients who utilize resources or not. Data was collected twice, once at baseline (Time 1), and again at four weeks after patients received treatment (Time 2). Based on survey data from 28 patients, results showed that self-reported distress was high at both Time 1 and 2. However, the levels of distress was lower at Time 2 among patients who utilized resources. Implications for healthcare professionals will be discussed.

Keywords: Distress/CoC, Patient Navigation

Presentation Level: Introductory

Implementing and Sustaining a Screening for Distress Program: Going Beyond Distress Scores

Carole Mayer, PhD

Summary: This presentation will describe how screening for distress was implemented in rural and remote community oncology clinics from 2009 to 2011 on the principle of equity to align with the delivery of oncology care offered at a tertiary cancer centre. Data will be presented demonstrating how the initiative continues to be sustained with some of the successes and ongoing challenges. Attendees will learn about the Knowledge Translation (KT) plan and Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) strategy that was applied to engage 14 community hospitals in screening for distress. The evidence based guidelines that support clinical intervention in response to distress scores will be highlighted with the accompanied patient guides.

Keywords: Distress/CoC, Research

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| PS102 |**Support Group Paper Symposium****A Hybrid Online and In-Person ACT-Based Group Intervention for People Living with Metastatic Cancer**

Jill Mitchell, PhD, MSW, MA, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Patients with metastatic cancer are often challenged by significant distress, anxiety, and a need for psychosocial support. However, even when cancer centers are able offer resources, people with advanced cancer may have a difficult time accessing multiple in-person group sessions. Combining in-person and internet-based interventions may offer a strategy to increase accessibility, impact, and efficiency of support for our patients. This presentation will discuss the development of a mixed-modality (online and in-person) group intervention for advanced cancer patients. The intervention is based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, which has been shown to have a positive impact on anxious cancer survivors, and which may be useful in facilitating advanced care planning. The ACT

approach will be discussed in the context of working with people with cancer. The presentation will also highlight some of the considerations, challenges and potential benefits of incorporating online interventions in oncology social work.

Keywords: Research, Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Ten Years and Running - A BRCA+ Support Group for Young Women

Lisa Sevanick, MSW, LCSW

Summary: Women with a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutation face a significant increase in lifetime breast and ovarian cancer risk. Young BRCA+ women are uniquely impacted by recommendations for surveillance and risk reducing bilateral mastectomy and oophorectomy (often before age 40). Carriers may feel isolated from their peers at a young age with pressure to form committed relationships and expedite family planning. Fear of cancer or mortality may also be present. Learning about one's own risk has implications for family members and future generations. In 2006 the Clinical Director of the Cancer Screening Program at our center launched an ongoing social work facilitated support group for this underserved population focused on emotional, psychological and informational sharing. It has been running for 10 years and is a potential model for the development of similar groups.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Developing and Implementing a Video Conference Support Group Across a Large Network of Cancer Centers: Lessons Learned

Joseph McConico, MSW, LCSW; Bryan Kluttz, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Patrick Meadors, MS, PhD, LMFT

Summary: Oncology social workers (OSWs) are challenged on a daily basis to efficiently and innovatively expand psychosocial services to underserved communities. Carolinas HealthCare

System: Levine Cancer Institute (LCI) has developed its own Video Conference Support Group (VCSG) model, which delivers high quality psychosocial care in a blended psychoeducational and supportive expressive approach to capture a wider, more rural audience and also serve cancer types with fewer incidence rates. This presentation presents the best practices and implementation challenges from the OSW and administrative perspective when implementing a VCSG model. These implementation and facilitation strategies are pertinent to OSWs who may be exploring innovative ways to improve access to care and/or replicate their own VCSG model.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Education

Presentation Level: Introductory

The Unsung Heroes: Cultivating Work Life Balance of Unlicensed Staff Through a Staff Support Group at An Oncology Center

Marsha Clarke, MSW, LCSW-R, OSW-C

Summary: Research has shown that staff support in health care, especially in oncology, is vital to having happy staff which translates into happy patients. Too often this necessary staff support to help staff balance the daily pressures and demands of their jobs sometimes gets relegated to a low priority (Hartkey & Kennard 2009). Often ancillary staff's relationships with and the support they provide patients and families goes unrecognized, as does their grief and accumulated losses. Ancillary or unlicensed support staff includes security, environmental, foodservice and bus drivers to name a few. While most of the available research literatures focus on the effects of professionals such as nurses, physicians and social workers and the impact of working in an oncology setting, unfortunately, there is a dearth of information available on ancillary staff and their exposure to working in an oncology setting. (Cashavelly, et al, 2008).

Keywords: Advocacy, Self-Care

Presentation Level: Introductory

| LI101 |**LGBTQ Learning Institute****LGBTQ Cancer Support: Recommendations for Psychosocial Care**

Bill McDermott, MSW, LCSW; Penny Damaskos, PhD, MSW, LCSW-R, OSW-C; Bill Goeren, MSW, LCSW-R, ACSW, OSW-C

Summary: Many in the LGBTQ cancer communities have limited psychosocial and community resources and are challenged by a medical system that ranges from insensitive and uneducated to hostile and discriminatory toward LGBTQ persons with cancer. The LGBTQ communities have been identified by the federal government as one of six minorities experiencing health disparities, meaning that the burden falls more heavily on these groups. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that LGBTQ people have a greater risk of developing cancer than the general population.

The goal of this panel presentation is to review each subcategory of the LGBTQ communities affected by cancer, including issues related to health care disparities, identifying and addressing the specific clinical and service needs of these distinct groups, as well as highlighting the efficacy and impact of collaborative organizational relationships upon the quality of clinical individual and group services and programs to LGBTQ clients with cancer.

Keywords: Special Populations, Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Be the Change You Want to See: How You Can Be a Champion for LGBTQ Cancer Patients

Taylor Patton, MSW; Jennifer Bires, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C

Summary: This presentation will provide social workers with information on how to interface with the LGBTQ community and supply several methods to accurately address their needs and create an affirming environment in which to receive excellent care.

Keywords: Special Populations, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Introductory

| LI102 |**Writing a Life: Creativity and Generativity**

Sandra Blackburn, MSW; Laura Kotler-Klein, DSW, LCSW; Matthew Stevenson, MSW, LCSW

Summary: This learning institute will instruct and inspire oncology social workers to create a dynamic, diverse and inclusive writing workshop for oncology patients, and also will include an immersive writing experience for attendees. We will begin with selected foundational principles of community writing, expressive writing, dignity therapy and legacy activities. We will then provide details on the comprehensive process of starting and sustaining a successful patient writing workshop, from conception to execution. We will present optimal techniques for recruitment of facilitators, determination of participant parameters, selection of location, marketing, and legal and liability concerns, such as ADA compliance and HIPAA protections. Participants will learn from our missteps and benefit from our success. Generativity, the penultimate stage of development in the human life span (Erikson), is born of introspection and tied to meaning-making. Expressive writing contributes to the dignity of the individual and is a portal to the authentic self.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI103 |**Sticking with the Pain: Finding a Balance of Hope and Acceptance for Our Patients and Ourselves**

Audrey Reich Loy, MSW, LCSW, LAC

Summary: How do we sit with our patients as they contemplate their life and the potential for death, holding space for pain rather than trying to eliminate it? We may find that, like our patients, we vacillate on a continuum between “hope” and “numbing” while struggling to be present with our patients as they contemplate the existential experience of their cancer journey. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is an evidence based therapeutic modality that oncology social workers can utilize with patients, as well as ourselves, to identify personal values and beliefs about life and death, and to build a tolerance

for the challenging emotions we experience as we hold space for the experiences of our patients. Through the use of didactic presentation, discussion of case examples, and experiential activities, participants will gain evidence-based, therapeutic techniques that can be utilized with patients and with ourselves.

Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Self-Care

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI104 |

Using Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Informed Practice for Disease-Related Anxiety

Lauren Kriegel, MSW, LSW

Summary: Certain elements of a cancer diagnosis are universal, including fear, anxiety, and depression. Patients often feel lost and lacking the coping skills needed to better navigate the emotions they experience during cancer treatment. Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) can offer an exciting method of treatment with cancer patients. One of the most encouraging things about utilizing DBT informed practice is empowering patients with a set of practical, easy to learn skills that can be used almost anywhere and at any time. DBT informed skills reduce feelings of helplessness and put the patient in the driver's seat of how they cope with their illness. Participants in this learning institute will receive an overview of the history and principles of DBT, have an opportunity to practice and apply them, and leave with a set of practical skills that can be introduced into their daily practice immediately.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Intermediate

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break with the Exhibitors

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Paper Session IV (5 concurrent sessions)

| P401 |

Dire Decisions: Managing Family Conflict at the End of Life – Social Work's Vital Role

Susan Hedlund, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: End-of-life care challenges families to make complex decisions. This is difficult even when the patient's choices are clear and family communication is good. It is more difficult in families with histories of conflict, and in which patient preferences are not clear. It is even more difficult when making decisions under duress. The oncology social worker is ideally positioned to help negotiate conflicts at the end-of-life. Oncology social workers are trained to assess family dynamics, help to clarify goals of care, interpret medical information, and support patients and families in medical health systems. Oncology social workers can assist the medical team in understanding the patient and family perspective through the lens of family systems and cultural humility and curiosity. This presentation will consider sources of conflict at the end-of-life, and consider a number of approaches used by social workers to mediate these issues.

Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Advanced

| P402 |

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to Reduce Distress in Oncology Patients

Beth Perlmutter, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: With distress screening now prevalent, social workers are now turning to find ways to decrease psychosocial distress in patients. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, often referred to as ACT, is an empirically based, behavioral approach to psychotherapy which seeks to increase psychological flexibility in individuals as a way to decrease psychological problems. ACT incorporates mindfulness meditation practices and behavior change strategies to help people live a value-directed life while working towards an acceptance of circumstances beyond personal control. Attendees will learn the background, theoretical underpinnings, and essential components of ACT such as defusion,

establishment of a transcendent sense of self, and contact with the present moment. Through case examples, attendees will learn how to apply this dynamic intervention to help people with cancer develop the skills to decrease their psychosocial distress. Tools and handouts for use in psychotherapy with patients will be presented.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Distress/CoC

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P403 |

Addressing the Needs of the Worried Well: Oncology Social Work in Cancer Genetics

Lora Rhodes, MSW, LSW; Colette Hyatt, MS, LGC

Summary: Knowledge of genetic mutations associated with cancer risk is growing at an exponential rate. Currently more than 50 hereditary cancer syndromes have been identified. While historically the social work role in genetics has been in the area of maternal and pediatric medicine, the burgeoning importance of cancer genetics presents a critically important role for oncology social workers. During this presentation, a genetic counselor and an oncology social worker will explain how advances in genetic testing are impacting cancer risk-reduction, diagnosis and treatment, and how these advances can manifest in psychosocial challenges for patients. Case studies will be presented to illustrate psychosocial issues facing individuals with hereditary cancer risk, and social work interventions used to address these issues. Strategies for incorporating oncology social work services into a cancer genetics clinic will be described. Finally, participants will be provided strategies for developing a similar program at their own institutions.

Keywords: Special Populations, Ethics

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P404 |

The Oncology Social Worker's Role in Mitigating the Effect of Unconscious Racial Bias

Genny Finkel, MSW, LCSW

Summary: In an increasing consciousness around racial inequality in America, oncology social workers, have an opportunity to confront unconscious racial bias and its impact on cancer care. This presentation will provide examples of experiences during which some aspect of bias or prejudice played a role with the interdisciplinary team, patients and/or families during a cancer diagnosis and treatment. The oncology social worker's clinical interventions to combat unconscious bias will be discussed. Communication strategies that can be used effectively with interdisciplinary colleagues, patients and families will be explored.

Keywords: Special Populations, Advocacy

Presentation Level: Introductory

| P405 |

Preparing for Duty: Caring for Veterans in a Community Oncology Setting

Catherine Credeur, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C; Chelsea Kroll, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C; Rachel Jennings, MSW, LCSW, CISM

Summary: This presentation targets oncology social workers (OSW) working in non-VA settings with U.S. veterans. The Institute of Medicine cited difficulty in estimating the VA's patient capacity and the VA's capacity to estimate community resources equipped to care for the unique needs of veterans. (IOM, 2014). A 2014 estimate anticipated 15 million veterans would receive health care from a civilian provider (Congressional Research Services). A RAND survey (2014) found that fewer than 20% of civilian providers self-reported a comfort level with veteran culture that would support effective mental health treatment. This symposium will arm a civilian OSW with the skills to assess for veteran status, integrate veteran's benefits into the patient's oncology care, consider the impact of a veteran's military experiences on coping with current oncology care, and function as a base of support and advocacy for the veteran/patient.

Keywords: Veterans, Special Populations

Presentation Level: Introductory

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Paper Session V (5 concurrent sessions)

| P501 |

Social Worker as Alchemist: Crafting, Holding, and Naming Hope Along the Trajectory of the Cancer Experience

Lorelei Bonet, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Hope is an elusive shape-shifter along the trajectory of the cancer experience and is deeply personal in how it is conceptualized. It is deemed important if not essential to the cancer patient to have, hold, maintain, and protect. Hope has been linked to increased patient compliance (Gordon & Daugherty, 2003), improved quality of life (Duggleby, et al., 2007), and in some cases is equated to the experience of being human (Elliott & Oliver, 2009). It is as vital as air, as undefinable as faith, and it is part of a mosaic crafted and held by family, friends, and the medical team that contributes to emotional health and a sense of well-being. This paper proposes that the oncology social worker is an alchemist of sorts, with a unique perspective and skill set to help foster, hold, protect, name and adapt to the shifting experience of hope.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building,
Presentation Level: Introductory

| P502 |

The Diversity Dilemma: Shifting from Cultural Competence to Cultural Humility

Eucharía Borden, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Within healthcare settings, most social workers are taught that delivering “culturally competent” care is the best approach when working with diverse patient populations. This approach implies that once someone has learned about a specific culture, they’ve become an expert on the members of that culture; however, cultural competency doesn’t adequately address negative stereotypes that may impact service delivery. Cultural humility is an approach which emphasizes ongoing learning, focusing on “self” rather than “other”, and it allows the patient to be more interactive in his or her experiences within the healthcare setting.

Oncology social workers have a charge to “meet patients where they are” and are thus perfectly positioned to introduce cultural humility into their workplace. Through interactive case examples and video, participants will be encouraged to explore their own beliefs and attitudes about culture and how this shapes interactions with patients, caregivers and co-workers.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P503 |

Muddling Through the Middle: Identifying Oncology Social Work Skills for Sustaining Hope and Living with Uncertainty While Coping with Cancer

Lauren Schairer, MSW, LICSW; Jane Bausch, MSW, LICSW

Summary: Few studies have addressed social work intervention during the phase of treatment for advanced cancer we call “the middle,” characterized by relative disease stability, lower symptom burden, and higher physical functionality when the uncertainties of an incurable diagnosis become more apparent in patients’ thoughts, consciously and subconsciously. In our collaborative practice working together in the same oncology clinic, we have identified interventions grounded in theory acknowledging the significance of maintaining hope in the face of uncertainty which facilitate meaning-making and enhance patients’ definitions of quality of life, including mindfulness, narrative therapy, bibliotherapy, legacy work, and cognitive-behavioral approaches, helping patients to more thoughtfully utilize time in “the middle.” Reviewing existing literature, case examples, and through the lens of differing levels of experience (5 and 30+ years) we ask: As people live longer with life-limiting illness, how can we enhance our skills as oncology social workers to address life in “the middle?”

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building,
Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Intermediate

| P504 |**Strategies for Improving Chemobrain:
A Four-Session Series Designed to Increase
Client Functioning**

Michelle Ferretti, MSW, LGSW; Molly Boehm, JD, MSW, LSW; Saundra Weller, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Drucilla Brethwaite, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Sam Lolak, MD

Summary: Cancer-related cognitive impairment (CRCI) is the most commonly reported negative side effect by patients with cancer (O'Farrell et al., 2013) with prevalence rates from 14-85% (Hodgson et al., 2013). Challenges for patients include preparing meals, problem solving, communicating and driving. Post treatment memory dysfunction also has the potential to impact work performance and negatively impact relationships as patients isolate out of embarrassment (Hodgson et al., 2013; Kesler, 2013). Although debate continues about the multifactorial risk factors, emerging research is beginning to clarify this phenomenon and illuminate the underlying mechanisms in the brain where change occurs. Strategies for Improving Chemobrain: A Four-Session Series offers education about CRCI and an opportunity for participants to experience strategies which can influence the biological, behavioral, and psychosocial factors contributing to CRCI. Oncology social workers can utilize the concepts and interventions in this program to provide patients with the tools to function at a higher level.

Keywords: **Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Education**

Presentation Level: **Intermediate**

| P505 |**Advocacy and Oncology: A Perfect Match for
Social Workers**

Elizabeth Franklin Hoffer, MSW, ACSW; Sarah Conning, MSW, LCSW

Summary: Advocacy and systems-change can seem challenging, slow-moving, or even overwhelming. However, it is necessary to help people in need and to improve the systems in which we work and live. The field of oncology is heavily dependent upon advocacy

in order to best support patients and caregivers and ensure they have access to the resources and services that they need. It is also vital to ensure that the social work role in the healthcare team is protected and promoted. Advocates can have an impact on everything from the day-to-day assistance we can offer to patients to increased federal funding for biomedical research. This paper presentation will provide a brief history of social work and oncology advocacy, an overview of relevant theoretical concepts, and tips to help incorporate advocacy into the daily work of oncology social workers at micro, mezzo and macro levels.

Keywords: **Advocacy**

Presentation Level: **Introductory**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch Panel II

Financial Advocacy Lunch Panel: Financial Well-Being and Health - Results from the Money-Health Connection Study

Reginald Tucker-Seeley, MA, ScM, ScD (Keynote)

There have been calls in the cancer disparities literature for greater clarity on the pathways and mechanisms causing differential cancer outcomes across racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups. However, relatively little attention has been paid to the conceptualization *and* operationalization of socioeconomic circumstances. Even though we know that different demands on economic resources and disparate rates in the accumulation of assets across the life course can result in variations in household material conditions within and between socioeconomic status groups. Expanding our conceptualization and measurement of socioeconomic status to include material, psychosocial, and behavioral aspects of individual/household socioeconomic circumstances may help to elucidate the pathway between socioeconomic circumstances and cancer-related outcomes. More specifically, an expanded view of the socioeconomic context across the cancer continuum might uncover socioeconomic factors influencing disparities

in outcomes over and above the traditional SES measures. Insights from this expanded view can inform the development of innovative interventions that help individuals better manage and leverage their socioeconomic and psychosocial resources for improved outcomes across the cancer continuum from prevention to end-of-life care. The Money-Health Connection Study was an NCI funded study to develop a trans-disciplinary definition of financial well-being and to develop an assessment tool to measure this construct. Results describing financial well-being conceptual model and measurement development will be presented. Additionally, results from psychometric investigations of the measure of financial well-being and investigations of the associations between financial well-being and health outcomes will be discussed.

Presentation Level: Introductory

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Clinical Practice Intensives I (5 concurrent sessions)

Comprised of two 90-minute sessions, the OPI's allow you to get more in-depth through training from content experts.

| CPI101 |

Mindfulness Practices and Perspectives to Enhance Oncology Social Work: Caring for Patients, Providers and Ourselves, Part I

Tom Pier, LCSW, CMF, OSW-C

Summary: Mindfulness is garnering broad attention and burgeoning in a variety of fields such as education, business, law, prisons, law enforcement, US military and veterans' services, health care and mental health. By its very nature, oncology social work is rooted in mindfulness - in present moment awareness, in being curious about patient and family experiences, in seeing clearly the true nature of emotions, experiences and events, in remaining calm during a crisis or other tumultuous periods, in abiding and staying present with difficult emotions, in cultivating compassion, kindness and well-being, and in acknowledging our shared humanity, including suffering and death.

This dynamic workshop will focus on three applications of mindfulness within oncology social work. The first section will establish the basics by defining mindfulness practice, or how to cultivate an intentional state, and the principles and practices of everyday mindful awareness, focused on maintaining mindful awareness as a dispositional trait. In the second section, we will explore the clinical application of mindfulness in oncology settings with patients and families, in groups, and in a variety of practice approaches. Finally, the third section will focus on mindfulness-based approaches with medical providers and other colleagues, and with fellow psychosocial clinicians and trainees, maximizing opportunities for self-awareness, creating ways to care for ourselves, and finding ways to implement mindfulness into unique work settings.

Participants will experience guided mindfulness meditations, participate in a relational mindfulness exercise, and leave with tools and resources empowering both those experienced with and those new to mindfulness to explore the application of mindfulness in their own lives, their clinical interventions and their work settings.

The goal is to establish concrete means to cultivate calmness, clarity, stability and peace of mind in our own lives and for our patients and their families even amongst the difficulties of cancer care and for medical professionals and clinicians facing the challenges of working in today's medical settings.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI102 |

Can You Please Change this Patient? Motivational Interviewing as a Better Approach, Part I

Debra Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, OSW-C

Summary: Oncology Social Workers often receive referrals which frequently come with the heavy expectation that the change others desire in a patient will somehow be brought about by our interventions. Social Workers are uniquely positioned to lead a cutting edge philosophical shift from an outdated, ineffective approach of determining "change goals" for

the patient to an approach focusing on patients' self-determination of the change they desire. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is just such an innovative, evidence-based approach.

Motivational Interviewing has proven effectiveness across a variety of behavioral, mental and physical health concerns. This highly practical workshop will focus on a review of the key tenets of Motivational Interviewing teaching specific clinical interventions using video case illustration and skill-building exercises. Participants will leave with practical intervention strategies, illustrative handouts and references to further explore MI training with encouragement to feel freed from the responsibility to change others and empowered to support our patients' own intrinsic change potential.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 103 |

Improving Sexual Health: Unique Needs and Clinical Practice with Sexual Minorities, Part I

Sage Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, CST; David Latini, PhD, LMSW; Heather Honoré Goltz, PhD, LMSW, Med

Summary: Cancer does not care about authenticity, but as oncology social workers, we must. This is especially true when working with sexual minorities and helping them to continue to live as authentic a life as possible when faced with cancer. Progress has been made and sexual minorities are now being recognized as a health disparity population with the recent report by the National Institutes of Health. Given the lack of evidenced based interventions and research related to caring for the needs of the LGBTQIA population, this workshop will be guided by four essential topics: defining who is a "sexual minority"; exploring and understanding our own biases; identifying and understanding the needs of the sexual minority populations; assessment and interventions for assessing and addressing sexual health concerns and needs.

This interactive clinical intensive will allow participants a safe space to examine and explore personal and institutional biases that may interfere with providing the best care to sexual minority

patients/survivors and/or loved ones through brief sexual attitude reassessments and discussion. Knowledge will be increased through identifying and discussing the research related to the impact cancer and its treatments can have on this population along with evidenced based interventions, including assessment tools, to improve one's clinical practice. The use of self-reflection and role playing will be main components of this intensive to help oncology social workers improve their comfort and knowledge in working with sexual minorities.

With research limited, this workshop will open a dialogue to help practitioners feel more skilled in their ability to address the needs of sexual minorities while providing concrete tools to implement into practice to be the change agent in personal practice or at their institutions.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 104 |

Family Therapy in Oncology Care, Part I

Carolyn Fulton, LCSW-R

Summary: While health care continues to focus emphasis of care on the individual patient, more hospitals are coming to realize the value of family based treatment planning, particularly when someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis. Regardless of the setting an oncology social worker is placed, many of us are given referrals to assess caregiver support, conflicts between family members and the cancer patient, explore whether or not patients have appointed health care proxies, and assess overall social supports of the cancer patient.

The first section of this workshop will provide a general overview of the history of family therapy, introduce some of the types of relational assessments used to study couple and family dynamics in more depth, and provide ways to utilize these relational assessments in both in-patient and outpatient oncology settings. Case examples will be utilized to show how these assessments and interventions can aid in better patient/family communication, family/provider communication, and overall improvements

in the quality of decision making and connection of patient and family throughout the cancer experience.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 105 |

Psychodynamic Approaches to End-of-Life and Bereavement Care, Part I

Joan Berzoff, MSW, PhD

Summary: This intensive will cover two topics. The first will look at theories of death, dying and bereavement and the second will look at relational practice with the dying. Using a predominately psychodynamic lens, the presenter will examine the historical understanding of grief and bereavement from Freud to the present more constructivist views. In the second part, she will think with the audience about what relational practice is, the kinds of countertransference experiences that are evoked in work with the dying, the uses of self, the meaning of presence and the work of sitting with suffering without having to change, transcend or change it. The concept of intrinsic suffering will be introduced and clinical examples of sitting with suffering provided.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Coffee Break with the Exhibitors

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Clinical Practice Intensives II (5 concurrent sessions)

| CPI201 |

Mindfulness Practices and Perspectives to Enhance Oncology Social Work: Caring for Patients, Providers and Ourselves, Part II

Tom Pier, LCSW, CMF, OSW-C

Summary: Mindfulness is garnering broad attention and burgeoning in a variety of fields such as education, business, law, prisons, law enforcement, US military and veterans' services, health care and mental health. By its very nature, oncology social work is rooted in mindfulness - in present moment

awareness, in being curious about patient and family experiences, in seeing clearly the true nature of emotions, experiences and events, in remaining calm during a crisis or other tumultuous periods, in abiding and staying present with difficult emotions, in cultivating compassion, kindness and well-being, and in acknowledging our shared humanity, including suffering and death.

This dynamic workshop will focus on three applications of mindfulness within oncology social work. The first section will establish the basics by defining mindfulness practice, or how to cultivate an intentional state, and the principles and practices of everyday mindful awareness, focused on maintaining mindful awareness as a dispositional trait. In the second section, we will explore the clinical application of mindfulness in oncology settings with patients and families, in groups, and in a variety of practice approaches. Finally, the third section will focus on mindfulness-based approaches with medical providers and other colleagues, and with fellow psychosocial clinicians and trainees, maximizing opportunities for self-awareness, creating ways to care for ourselves, and finding ways to implement mindfulness into unique work settings.

Participants will experience guided mindfulness meditations, participate in a relational mindfulness exercise, and leave with tools and resources empowering both those experienced with and those new to mindfulness to explore the application of mindfulness in their own lives, their clinical interventions and their work settings.

The goal is to establish concrete means to cultivate calmness, clarity, stability and peace of mind in our own lives and for our patients and their families even amongst the difficulties of cancer care and for medical professionals and clinicians facing the challenges of working in today's medical settings.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI202 |**Can You Please Change this Patient? Motivational Interviewing as a Better Approach, Part II***Debra Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, OSW-C*

Oncology Social Workers often receive referrals which frequently come with the heavy expectation that the change others desire in a patient will somehow be brought about by our interventions. Social Workers are uniquely positioned to lead a cutting edge philosophical shift from an outdated, ineffective approach of determining “change goals” for the patient to an approach focusing on patients’ self-determination of the change they desire. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is just such an innovative, evidence-based approach.

Motivational Interviewing has proven effectiveness across a variety of behavioral, mental and physical health concerns. This highly practical workshop will focus on a review of the key tenets of Motivational Interviewing teaching specific clinical interventions using video case illustration and skill-building exercises. Participants will leave with practical intervention strategies, illustrative handouts and references to further explore MI training with encouragement to feel freed from the responsibility to change others and empowered to support our patients’ own intrinsic change potential.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 203 |**Improving Sexual Health: Unique Needs and Clinical Practice with Sexual Minorities, Part II***Sage Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, CST; David Latini, PhD, LMSW; Heather Honoré Goltz, PhD, LMSW, MEd*

Cancer does not care about authenticity, but as oncology social workers, we must. This is especially true when working with sexual minorities and helping them to continue to live as authentic a life as possible when faced with cancer. Progress has been made and sexual minorities are now being recognized as a health disparity population with the recent report by the National Institutes of Health. Given the lack of evidenced based interventions

and research related to caring for the needs of the LGBTQIA population, this workshop will be guided by four essential topics: defining who is a “sexual minority;” exploring and understanding our own biases; identifying and understanding the needs of the sexual minority populations; assessment and interventions for assessing and addressing sexual health concerns and needs.

This interactive clinical intensive will allow participants a safe space to examine and explore personal and institutional biases that may interfere with providing the best care to sexual minority patients/survivors and/or loved ones through brief sexual attitude reassessments and discussion. Knowledge will be increased through identifying and discussing the research related to the impact cancer and its treatments can have on this population along with evidenced based interventions, including assessment tools, to improve one’s clinical practice. The use of self-reflection and role playing will be main components of this intensive to help oncology social workers improve their comfort and knowledge in working with sexual minorities.

With research limited, this workshop will open a dialogue to help practitioners feel more skilled in their ability to address the needs of sexual minorities while providing concrete tools to implement into practice to be the change agent in personal practice or at their institutions.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 204 |**Family Therapy in Oncology Care, Part II***Carolyn Fulton, LCSW-R*

While health care continues to focus emphasis of care on the individual patient, more hospitals are coming to realize the value of family based treatment planning, particularly when someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis. Regardless of the setting an oncology social worker is placed, many of us are given referrals to assess caregiver support, conflicts between family members and the cancer patient, explore whether or not patients have appointed health care proxies, and

assess overall social supports of the cancer patient. Through break outs in small groups, the second section of this workshop will be an opportunity to spend more time thinking through how this could be incorporated in your respective settings, and role play will be utilized to practice these skills together as a group. The wrap up will include time for debriefing with each other on any insights learned during this intensive as well.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| CPI 205 |

Psychodynamic Approaches to End-of-Life and Bereavement Care, Part II

Joan Berzoff, MSW, PhD

Summary: This intensive will cover two topics. The first will look at theories of death, dying and bereavement and the second will look at relational practice with the dying. Using a predominately psychodynamic lens, the presenter will examine the historical understanding of grief and bereavement from Freud to the present more constructivist views. In the second part, she will think with the audience about what relational practice is, the kinds of countertransference experiences that are evoked in work with the dying, the uses of self, the meaning of presence and the work of sitting with suffering without having to change, transcend or change it. The concept of intrinsic suffering will be introduced and clinical examples of sitting with suffering provided.

Presentation Level: Intermediate

6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Networking & Presentations from AOSW SIGs

(5 concurrent sessions)

| S201 |

Research SIG Presentation

Developing Research in a Clinical Oncology Setting: Challenges and Opportunities

Daniela Wittman, PhD, MSW

Summary: Supporting interventions with evidence is increasingly expected in clinical oncology social work. The challenges in introducing research into a clinical environment include lack of time, research training, and research funding. Oncology social work clinicians engage in a variety of creative methods through which to evaluate and disseminate their practice, including partnering with social work and medical academics, using philanthropy for funding and pursuing advanced degrees. In this presentation, some of the methods for embedding research in clinical practice will be discussed. The goal of the presentation is to engage oncology social workers in a discussion of their interest and experience in research, opportunities for training, pursuit of resources and other aspects of developing the concept of clinician-scientist in oncology social work.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S202 |

Blood Cancer/BMT SIG Presentation

BMT Psychoeducation Increases Patient and Caregiver Knowledge and Confidence

Jane Dabney, MSW, LISW-S, OSW-C; Paula Brumback, LCSW

Summary: An overwhelming amount of information is given to patients and their caregivers undergoing (BMT) at all phases of treatment. Often patients and caregivers are feeling overwhelmed when meeting with the different team members that it can be difficult to hear, integrate and retain such information. BMT social workers have been leaders in implementing psychoeducation processes and programs throughout the continuum of care. A panel of BMT social workers will describe individual and group, pre and post-transplant psychoeducational methods, programs, and resource materials used with BMT patient and caregivers. We plan to encourage discussion and information sharing of participants.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S203 |**Patient Navigation SIG Presentation****The Patient Navigator and The Oncology Social Worker: Strange Bedfellows, One and the Same, or Somewhere in Between***Elizabeth Saylor, MSW*

Summary: Have you ever wondered what Patient Navigation actually is? Heard the term but thought is that “real” social work? Maybe you are a patient navigator and have difficulty explaining how your role differs from that of the nurse navigators and medical social workers in the cancer center where you work. Are you all alone on your navigator island? Perhaps you are a social worker in a hospital setting and wonder if the patient navigator may one day replace you!

This talk will provide participants with a basic overview of the history of Patient Navigation in health care, specifically oncology, and use case studies of a variety of Patient Navigation programs around the country to demonstrate the value of this work to all oncology patients and their families.

Attendees will learn about the importance of defining a patient navigator’s role, as well as area of practice and metrics that indicate success of the program. Participants will leave with a “mini toolbox” of resources that will allow them to better collaborate with their Patient Navigation colleagues, start a Patient Navigation program, or advocate for their value as a patient navigator. All AOSW Conference attendees welcome!

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| S204 |**Children and Cancer SIG Presentation****When a Parent Has Cancer: The Role of Oncology Social Work***Mary Turney, LCSW*

Summary: Cancer poses many challenges for patients and families but perhaps none is more frightening or requires more courage than telling young children about a parent’s cancer diagnosis. The most natural instinct of a parent is to protect children from any possible harm or distress. However, when children are prepared and informed about a parent’s cancer at

an age appropriate level, they can adapt and develop strengths over time to serve them throughout life.

As oncology social workers, we encourage parents to meet with us to discuss these understandable concerns and explore ways to begin and continue conversations with youngsters and teens. It is incumbent on social work clinicians to discern how poised parents are to communicate about their illness with children and teens as well as how secure they are in their parenting skills while undergoing cancer treatment. One recent study’s findings suggest “that patients with greater cancer-related personal distress and poorer functioning...felt more concerned that their symptoms had a negative impact on children, and experienced bigger declines in beliefs in their parenting efficacy, or ability to meet children’s needs.”*

This workshop will utilize both didactic presentation and interactive discussion to address several issues for social workers counseling cancer patients who are parents of minor-aged children.

Presentation Level: Introductory

| S205 |**Ambulatory Care/Fee-for-Service SIG Presentation
Ambulatory Care/Fee-for-Service 101: Social Work Basics for Outpatient Settings***Paige Campbell, EdD, LCSW, OSW-C; Christine Henrickson, LMSW, BCD; Brittany Moore, MSSW-PSO, LSW*

Summary: Perhaps you are wondering what is the definition of the special interest group Ambulatory Care/Fee-for-Service? Ambulatory Care refers to health care services provided in an outpatient setting, such as a free-standing center, private physician’s office or outpatient clinic. Procedures and treatments that were once done only on an inpatient basis have drastically increased to the use of oncology ambulatory care. This has caused for an increase need of psychosocial services to be offered to patients in these settings as well. The presence of oncology social workers in outpatient settings provides several therapeutic benefits to patients and physicians. With the primary goal of improving a patient’s quality of life, psychosocial support and information regarding patients’ social concerns allows the physician to provide more comprehensive care.

During our annual meeting, members of this Special Interest Group will provide an overview of topics most commonly discussed in an outpatient setting. Topics include an overview of oncology social work in outpatient settings, the similarities and differences in ambulatory care, effective methods for screening and assessment and implementation of billing for counseling.

Presentation Level: Introductory

Friday, June 2

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Informal SIG meetings (no CEUs)

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Posters Displayed in Exhibit Hall

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

ACS Quality of Life Award Ceremony and Lecture **"I Haven't Got Room For the Pain:" Time, Space, and Suffering in the Cancer Pain**

Yvette Colón, PhD, ACSW, BCD

Summary: More than half of all cancer patients experience severe pain and up to 33 percent of all cancer patients continue to have pain after curative therapies. There is little information about addressing alterations in patients' psychic time and space and the effects of pain that can be so debilitating that an individual's very personhood can be extinguished. Cancer pain can be dark, stigmatizing, isolating, and distancing. This presentation will explore the damaging psychic effects of cancer pain and suffering. It will challenge myths and misconceptions about pain, especially with regard to addiction. Finally, it will provide interventions to help oncology social workers support patients in regaining control over their lives.

Keywords: Cancer pain, psychic pain, stigma, isolation, suffering, myths, misconceptions, addiction, control

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes II

(7 concurrent sessions)

| PS501 |

Palliative Care Paper Symposium

"We Take Care of Our Own" and Other Cultural Barriers to Saying "Yes" to Palliative Care

Catherine Cassingham, MSW, LSW; Nicole Marcouiller, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Oncology patients and their families often decline palliative care when it is offered due to a multitude of cultural barriers and misunderstandings about palliative care. A chart review was done of 20 patients who had been eligible for palliative care but were not enrolled. From the ongoing analysis, several themes have emerged, such as stigma, the belief that "we take care of our own," and a lack of understanding of what palliative care entails. The presentation will include patient identified barriers to palliative care, ways to effectively overcome those barriers, and how to educate patients about palliative in ways that will decrease stigma.

Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Special Populations

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Who's At the Door: How We Can Better Provide Palliative Care in Low-Income, Violence Prone Neighborhoods

Catherine Cassingham, MSW, LSW; Nicole Marcouiller, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Oncology patients from low-income, violence prone areas are among the most in need of palliative care. Unfortunately, patients from low-income neighborhoods are often underserved due to the dangers, both real and perceived, employees of palliative programs face during home visits. A community hospital identified many patients from the cancer center were unable to access palliative care and interviewed palliative agencies about the areas they served and areas they avoided. Presented will be the solutions to the barriers identified by the interviews and palliative care team, including the oncology social worker.

Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Special Populations

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Can I Have Some More Sir?: Implementing a Palliative Program in an Under-Resourced Community Hospital

Catherine Cassingham, MSW, LSW; Kishore Bobba, MD, MPH, MHA; Nicole Marcouiller, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Palliative care is an essential part of cancer care and many community hospitals have been implementing palliative programs with very limited resources. To gain a better understanding of how to effectively implement an in-patient and out patient palliative care program, an urban community hospital created an exploratory committee to identify what was truly necessary to successfully implementing a palliative program. In addition to presenting the main themes from the initial findings, we will also discuss results from on going assessments of the challenges to growth and the strengths of the palliative program as it continues to evolve.

Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End-of-Life, Special Populations

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI 501 |

More Than 50 Shades of Gray: A Bioethics Primer for Oncology Social Workers

Christina Bach, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Oncology social workers play an integral and unique role in bioethics: primarily as patient advocates, but also as guardians of autonomy and dignity. This can come into direct conflict with decisions patients, families and healthcare teams are asked to make on a daily basis. As medical technology develops and evolves, ethical dilemmas are occurring more frequently in many diverse oncology care settings. In a parallel to technological developments, medicine is also transitioning from a paternalistic, “doctor knows best” model of medical treatment and decision making to a patient centered care model. This learning institute will explore the personal, the

professional and the philosophical as they interact and often conflict when we work clinically with patients, families and healthcare teams.

Keywords: Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI502 |

Using Research to Inform Practice : A Skill-Building Workshop

Julianne Oktay, MSW, PhD; Brad Zebrack, MSW, PhD; Karen Kayser, MSW, PhD; Sophia Smith, MSW, PhD; Elizabeth Rohan, MSW, PhD, LCSW; Hee Lee, MSG, MSW, PhD

Summary: The AOSW Research Committee presents this Learning Institute to enhance the research skills of oncology social workers. The Institute will provide a broad overview of research in oncology social work, a brief review of the primary research methods used in the field, and a discussion of why research is essential to the achievement of the goals of the profession. We will illustrate how the previous AOSW research (APAQCC project) has provided opportunities for AOSW members to use research to enhance their practices. Examples will include comparing staffing levels from your institution to those in other similar institutions, and how distress screening data can be used to report to the Cancer Committee on Distress Screening activity. Finally, the learning institute will present an introduction to focus group methodology and show how this method can be used to shed light on a practice problem.

Keywords: Research, Clinical Practice/Skill Building

Presentation Level: Introductory

| LI503 |

Navigating Health & Disability Insurance

Monica Bryant, JD, Esq.; Joanna Morales, JD, Esq.

Summary: A majority of Americans do not understand their health insurance options or how to use their coverage once they have it. When diagnosed with a serious medical condition, such as cancer, many patients question whether or not they will be

able to work through their treatment or how long it will take before they can return to work. Patients often turn to members of their health care team, including social workers, for information about their health and disability insurance options and coverage. This learning institute will provide attendees with information and practical tools that they can utilize in their clinical practice around: 1) consumer protections, health insurance options, and how the 2016 election may impact the cancer community; 2) disability insurance options; 3) the interaction between the FMLA and disability insurance; and 4) the process to appeal denials of benefits.

Keywords: Financial Toxicity, Patient Navigation
Presentation Level: Introductory

| LI504 |
6-Week Mindfulness Based Cancer Recovery [MBCR] Intervention: Implementing a Mind-Body Approach to Healing

Rebecca McIntyre, MA, MEd, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C;
Micheline Toussaint, LCSW, OSW-C, RYT

Summary: Clinical distress related to anxiety, depression and mood disturbance is often noted in individuals dealing with cancer. Therefore, psychosocial interventions are essential. One intervention that has grown exponentially across health care is the practice of mindfulness (Kvillemo & Bränström, 2011). Of particular relevance is the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction [MBSR] intervention developed by Jon Kabot-Zinn. In the late 1990s Linda Carlson, PhD, at the University of Calgary adapted the MBSR intervention specifically for cancer patients called the Mindfulness-Based Cancer Recovery approach or, MBCR. Studies reveal promising results related to reduction in anxiety, depression and effects on a range of cancer biomarkers (Carlson 2013; Carlson & Specca, 2010). Oncology therapists will present a model of a 6-Week Mindfulness-Based Cancer Recovery Program based on the book, Mindfulness-Based Cancer Recovery: A Step-by-Step MBSR Approach to Help You Cope with Treatment & Reclaim Your Life by Linda Carlson, PhD, and Michael Specca, PhD.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building,
Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI505 |
Unexpected Leadership Opportunities: Oncology Social Work Contributions in an Enhanced Patient Access Project

Linda Mathew, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Penny Damaskos, MSW, PhD, LCSW-R, OSW-C

Summary: The role of an oncology social worker can vary according the treatment setting. OSWs provide counseling to individuals and families during the crisis of a cancer diagnosis and in survivorship, connect patients to resources in the treatment setting and they educate and support staffs to help them better understand the emotional impact of work on themselves. OSWs can cultivate leadership opportunities beyond the clinical arena on the business side of oncology care by utilizing skills as educators and psychosocial acumen. This presentation will focus on the development of a patient access project, designed to facilitate seamless and rapid entry into the treatment setting. This presentation will illustrate opportunities for OSWs to expand the clinical role beyond that of direct patient care. This presentation will review the role of OSWs within this enhanced patient access project. It will identify the opportunities for leadership by the OSW through illustrating agility in program development.

Keywords: Leadership/Administration, Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate

| LI506 |
I'm Not Me Anymore: Loss of Self-Esteem in the Cancer Experience

Debra Mattison, LMSW, ACSW, OSW-C

Summary: Self-esteem, though often overlooked or deemed as a "less important" concern in overall distress screening, is closely connected to psychological well-being, quality of life and one's ability to cope with life's challenges. Self-esteem is regularly confronted with the reality of never returning to the "old normal" leaving many feeling "I am not me anymore" and have no real sense of worth or competence. Patients often report feeling like a burden and someone's "project" to fix, take care of or make less depressed. Oncology social workers also experience parallel feelings of self-esteem

challenges. We may feel tired, ineffective and lacking in value, as who we are and what we do becomes overshadowed by what we perceive we are not. This creative workshop will focus on increasing clinical skills to effectively assess and intervene with patient distress related to self-esteem concerns as well our own professional self-esteem through didactic and experiential activities.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Self-Care
Presentation Level: Intermediate

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Paper Session VI (6 concurrent sessions)

| P601 |

Stages of Blood and Marrow Transplant: Psychosocial Challenges and Clinical Social Work Interventions

Jane Dabney, MSW, LISW-S, OSW-C; Nancy Boyle, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Erica Bryan-Wegner, MSW, LICSW

Summary: Hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) also referred to as blood and marrow transplant (BMT) is a complex treatment that often results in high levels of psychological distress and social/financial strain for patients and their families. Patients undergoing BMT and their support teams require information that includes physical and emotional resources in order to maximize the benefit of the treatment. The National Marrow Donor Program, in collaboration with thought leaders and stakeholders, initiated the System Capacity Initiative. The social work workforce working group represents BMT clinical social workers. This group is developing an online continuing education (CE) program. The program aims to address the specialty training needs of oncology social workers and other psychosocial health professionals new to serving BMT patients, caregivers and families. This session will be especially helpful to clinicians who are new to working with BMT.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Disease Type (ovarian, lung, GYN, etc.)
Presentation Level: Introductory

| P602 |

Examining and Addressing the Impact of Trauma on Cancer Patients' Experience of Treatment

Eileen Joyce, MSW

Summary: A trauma history can both impact a patient's experience of cancer treatment, and be exacerbated by the practices within the health care setting. While providers in behavioral health have done much research on trauma, and how to address its impacts in their patients, oncology social workers may be less comfortable in assessing for trauma and knowing how to best address that history within the care of their patients. With approximately 20% of adult women reporting a history of sexual trauma in their lives, oncology social workers need to understand how trauma and cancer care intersect, how to elicit a trauma history and how to best advocate for that patient when a trauma history is disclosed. This presentation will explore these issues and how the basics of trauma informed care can be applied within the cancer setting.

Keywords: Specialized Needs, Clinical Practice/
Skill Building
Presentation Level: Introductory

| P603 |

Strategies and Techniques to Assist the Chronically Mentally Ill Patient Through Their Cancer Journey From a Strength Based Perspective

Leena Nehru, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C;

Summary: This presentation will provide a framework for new and seasoned oncology social workers to develop an effective treatment plan from the strength based perspective. As oncology social workers we often face the challenges of working with patients who are struggling emotionally and physically because of their cancer, but when a patient has both cancer and a chronic mental illness it can be doubly hard. By learning how to provide and teach strength based perspective strategies and techniques to the patient we can assist them in receiving the best care possible from our cancer programs. At the end of the presentation we will have an interactive discussion about this topic and the future implications that it may have.

Keywords: Special Populations, Clinical Practice/
Skill Building

Presentation Level: Introductory

| P604 |

Suicide and Cancer: Places We Got Stuck

Nan Fitzgerald, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Clinical oncology social workers navigate patients and their families through the highs and lows of treatment, remission, survivorship and end-of-life. However at times, this trajectory can be interrupted by suicide, and many clinicians feel ill-prepared to address this issue creating “stuck places”. This presentation will explore the complex navigation of suicide in cancer patients, and how as clinicians we assess, treat and respond. A case study will be reviewed of a completed suicide. Lessons learned and changes in processes within the cancer center, hospitals and oncology social work profession.

Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building,
Specialized Needs

Presentation Level: Introductory

| P605 |

Cultural Competency in Social Work Practice for African American Cancer Patients

Lisa Petgrave-Jones, MSW, LMSW; Kimberlee Jones, MSW, LCSWA

Summary: While African American cancer patients face the same emotional challenges as other ethnicities, many African American cancer patients grieve and cope with their diagnoses differently than their white counterparts. “There is an oral tradition among African American patients about when and when not to share information with outsiders, and this cultural norm may cause individuals and families not to disclose their symptoms of cancer” (Bullock and Allison, p.295). Understanding the cultural factors which influence health care behavior as well as patient barriers can facilitate effective evidence-based practices (Freeman & Chu, 2005). Social workers can practice cultural competency by being mindful of

these differences when completing a comprehensive psychosocial assessment that can allow them to better understand the patient’s view of cancer. Together we will explore maladaptive behaviors that can surface with African American patients and explore labels of “non-compliance” or “difficult patient” in the oncology setting.

Keywords: Specialized Needs

Presentation Level: Introductory

1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting and Lunch

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

General Session: Closing Keynote Address

Breath by Breath: Hurting, Healing and Building the Transcendent Life

Patrice Al-Shatti, MSW, LMSW

What do the tears teach us? Our patients have lessons to share when we pause to listen but do we hear them? Our exposure to their pain leaves us marked by trauma, but the flip side of this burden is that we also know the precious wisdom of the dying, and have the opportunity to learn from it. But do we really live like we know we’re going to die? This presentation will call us all to take a moment and reflect. Are we living our best lives? And where does the vicarious pain, that’s a cost of our work, send us? Does it lead us toward caution or boldness? Frenetic activity or loving attention to the present? Together we will explore the behavioral habits that transform the hurt into healing and help us build lives that restore our spirits, give hope to our hearts, and wings to our dreams.



AOSW 2017 Conference Registration Form

For Office Use:

Each registrant should fill out a separate form.

First Name (As you would like it to appear on your badge) _____ Last Name _____

Institution _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Emergency Contact Phone Number _____

First time attendee Do not post my name to the pre-registration list Update profile

Registration Categories

	On or before April 14	After April 14 and until May 15	Onsite
AOSW Member Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$440 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$490 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$540 USD
AOSW Registration + Regular Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$630 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$680 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$730 USD
Student Member Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$335 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$385 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$435 USD
AOSW Student Registration + Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$475 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$525 USD
Introductory Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$440 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$490 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$540 USD
Introductory Registration + Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$540 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$590 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$640 USD
Retired Member Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$395 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$445 USD
Retired Registration + Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$435 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$535 USD
Nonmember Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$640 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$690 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$740 USD

NEW: No need to select individual sessions, you can attend any session you wish.

Cancellation Policy

To cancel your registration, you must submit notice in writing to AOSW headquarters by April 14, 2017. AOSW will charge a \$75 USD cancellation fee for written cancellations that arrive at by April 14, 2017. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after April 14, 2017. Delegates may make substitutions at any time. Substitutions must be in writing and must be of the same membership status.

One Day Conference Registration:

One Day AOSW Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$290 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$340 USD
One Day Nonmember	<input type="checkbox"/> \$295 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$395 USD
Check Day: <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday			

Continuing Education Units:

	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 USD
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Optional Events – Tuesday, May 30

AOSW Pre-Conference Research Institute	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD
Pre-Conference Workshop: Navigating Cancer: Work and Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 USD

AOSW Merchandise

AOSW Travel Mug	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 USD
AOSW Umbrella	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD
AOSW T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 USD
Please circle your size: S M L XL 2XL (\$20 USD)			
AOSW Hooded Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 USD
Please circle your size: S M L XL 2XL (\$30 USD)			

Special Needs:



Photography Acknowledgment

By registering for this meeting, you acknowledge that your photograph may be taken at the event for purposes of documenting the meeting and that it may be used in informational articles or future promotions for this organization's activities.

Payment

- Check Payable to: **Association of Oncology Social Work**
 Visa MasterCard American Express



Mail your registration form plus payment to:
AOSW Conference

Association of Oncology Social Work
One Parkview Plaza, Suite 800
17W110 22nd Street
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 USA

Name of Cardholder _____ Signature _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

SPONSORS

Cancer and Careers
Cancer Support Community
Takeda Oncology
Triage Cancer

EXHIBITORS

BMT InfoNet
Board of Oncology Social Work
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare

PAN Foundation
Takeda Oncology
Triage Cancer

(list current at time of publishing)

2017 AOSW 33rd Annual Conference Planning Committee

Meredith Cammarata, LCSW-R, *Conference Chair*

Christina Bach, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, *Co-Chair*

Chelsea Kroll, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C, *Board Liaison*

Joyce Hendershott, MSW, LISW-S, ACSW

Morgan Gonzales, MSW, LCSW

Kate McFadien, MSW, LSW, OSW-C

Jill Randall, MSW, LICSW

For More Information

If you have questions or need further information, contact AOSW Headquarters
at +1-847-686-2233 or email info@aosw.org.