

## 2018 AOSW Inaugural Fellows Cohort

### History

At the 2017 AOSW Annual Conference, the AOSW Board of Directors decided to explore establishing a Fellow status for the Association. The Awards Committee developed and agreed on a proposal, which was presented to the Board in October 2017, recommending creation of this honorary status, and suggesting eligibility criteria and selection procedures.

### Purpose

The purpose of AOSW Fellowship is to recognize and honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of psychosocial oncology. Membership in the Fellowship is not purely honorific, however: it carries an expectation of ongoing contributions to and leadership within the AOSW.

The inaugural cohort of 2018 AOSW Fellows will be past presidents of AOSW:

Name	Bio	
Catherine Credeur, LMSW, OSW-C	<p>Catherine Credeur, LMSW, OSW-C is the Past-President of AOSW. Catherine encourages AOSW members to volunteer as a fluid progression of engagement in our organization. Serving as SWON moderator was a good training ground. The Communication Director role included significant volunteer recruitment and training in building a SWON moderating team, streamlining the production of the newsletter, and developing a social media network. During the year of a major move and a new job, Catherine remained involved with AOSW by taking the less-time intensive role of LinkedIn manager. When personal life settled, the Seattle conference committee immersed Catherine in the educational components of AOSW's mission. The presidential continuum of President-Elect, President, and Past President is an honor in serving our members and representing the profession. Catherine is considering the model of our previous presidents in continued service. Her SWON signature has changed through the years from "Ouiser" as the SWON moderator, "CC as CD" in the Communication Director role, "CC as PE", "Catherine as President" and now "CC as PP". The next role is still "TBD", but it will always include "AOSW". Catherine is a social worker in direct practice at UT Southwestern/Simmons Cancer Center in Dallas.</p>	

<p>Alison Mayer Sachs, MSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>As the Director of Community Outreach and Patient Support Services, primary responsibilities include supervision and oversight of the Cancer Support Services Staff at Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center. Alison and her team are responsible for the development, design, implementation, budget, and monitoring of community outreach, community education, disease prevention and health promotion programs, providing services to approximately 5000 patients, family and community members annually. The Oncology Social Work staff provides services to approximately 1700 patients per year. In matters specific to Oncology, Alison works with the Eisenhower Medical Center Foundation Office fund raising team and the Marketing/Public Relations Department.</p>	
<p>Penny Damaskos, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Penny Damaskos, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, is the Director of Social Work at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Penny started her career at MSK and has served as an oncology social worker there and at other area hospitals for more than 20 years. She graduated with her Master's from New York University's Silver School of Social Work and received her PhD degree from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. She was the recipient of a two-year American Cancer Society Doctoral Training Grant to support her studies her dissertation focused on the presence of resilience in oncology social work. In 2013, Penny received the Association of Oncology Social Work's Leadership in Oncology Social Work award and in 2015 she received the Project of Death in America, (PDIA) Career Achievement Award. She co-authored 100 Question and Answers about Life after Cancer: A Survivor's Guide about coping in survivorship and has co-authored several chapters in the recently published Oxford Handbook of Oncology Social Work. She co-edited the special issue in Social Work in Health Care "Coping with Chronic Cancer: Clinical Approaches for Oncology Social Work Practice." Penny is a past-president of the Association of Oncology Social Work.</p>	

<p>Iris Cohen Fineberg, PhD, MSW, ACSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Iris Cohen Fineberg, PhD, MSW, OSW-C, is Interim Director for the PhD Program and Associate Professor at Stony Brook University's School of Social Welfare. She began her oncology social work career as a clinician, working with patients and families facing bone marrow and stem cell transplantation, and palliative care. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Work and Sociology from Boston University, receiving a grant from the Project on Death in America, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Cancer Prevention and Control Research at UCLA. She spent 5-years on faculty at the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University, England. Dr. Fineberg has been the PI on several grants and has taught sociology, social work and medical students, as well as health professionals. Her research interests focus on palliative and end of life care, interdisciplinary education and practice, ACP, and family conferencing. She is a past-president of AOSW.</p>	
<p>Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Krista Nelson is an oncology social worker who received a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington, and her Master of Social Work from Portland State University. She has been a part of the Providence Health &amp; Services oncology since 1997 providing psychosocial care to those with cancer and their families. She has specialized in many cancers over the years and is interested in the effect of cancer on the family. Krista is a past President of the AOSW Board of Directors and past invited Director of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS). She has been a speaker at local and national conferences on issues of survivorship, palliative care, breast and lung cancer, distress screening and children who have a parent with cancer. In 2015, Krista was named as a finalist in the Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver of the year award and received and Innovation Award from the Association of Community Cancer Centers and was elected to their Board of Trustees in 2016.</p>	

<p>Ann Fairchild, LCSW</p>	<p>Ann Meyer Fairchild received her BSW at Colorado State University and Masters of Social Work at Washington University, St. Louis. Her passion for Oncology Social Work began in 1989 when she accepted a job in an inpatient oncology hospital unit and was followed with 21 years at a Medical Oncology Physician Practice as the sole Oncology Social Worker, providing individual and group counseling to cancer patients and family members. Her leadership experience includes serving on the board of Patient Services Committee of the Texas and the High Plains Division of American Cancer Society, and several nonprofit cancer service organization boards in central Texas. Her AOSW involvement beyond the richness of membership includes serving as a committee member on the conference planning committee, chairing a conference planning committee, serving as Education Director, and finally, as President. Ann, with her experience as one of the earliest “lone ranger” oncology social workers in in a private physician practice is infinitely grateful for AOSW and the profound level of support and mentorship the organization offers its members.</p>	
<p>Lisa Marquette Porat, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Lisa Marquette Porat, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C has over 28 years of experience in the health care industry as an oncology social worker, health communication/marketing executive, clinical director, graduate school professor, organizational leadership consultant, health educator and strategic planning consultant in both private and public settings. With a primary expertise in the field of oncology, Lisa’s practice focus is oncology patient education, advocacy relations, clinical trial recruitment, health education and organizational leadership.</p> <p>Lisa is President of ILP Solutions Consulting Group and is a consultant with various industry and non-profit groups. She was previously the Senior Vice President and Head of Oncology for a Washington, D.C. health communications firm and in oncology marketing for Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals as well as the founding clinical program director of the Cancer Support Community-Central Indiana.</p> <p>Lisa’s passion for education and community engagement extends to her serving as associate faculty professor at Indiana University School of Social Work, as well as serving on numerous local and national Boards. Lisa is a past-president of the Association of Oncology Work, and also was the 2016 recipient of the AOSW Leadership in Oncology in Social Work Award.</p>	

<p>Carolyn Messner, PhD, DSW, BCD, ACSW, LCSW</p>	<p>Dr. Carolyn Messner, DSW, OSW-C, FAPOS, LCSW-R, is Director of Education and Training at CancerCare. She speaks and publishes nationally and internationally on the psychosocial impact of cancer on patients, caregivers and families; methods to design virtual patient education interventions; and cancer in the workplace. At CancerCare, Dr. Messner pioneered the use of teleconference/webcast technology to bring information and support to cancer patients. Dr. Messner is coeditor of the Handbook of Oncology Social Work: Psychosocial Care for People with Cancer (Ed. Christ, Messner &amp; Behar, Oxford University Press, 2015). She is a former President of the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) and serves on many nonprofit boards. She is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cancer Education, Journal of Psychosocial Oncology, The Oncology Nurse, and Conquer Magazine.</p> <p>Dr. Messner's many awards include: CancerCare Hope and Help Award; Fellow, American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS); Fellow, New York Academy of Medicine; APOS Outstanding Education and Training Award; AOSW's Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award; American Cancer Society's Oncology Social Work Leadership Award; Hyman J. Weiner Award from the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care; and Individual Award for Creativity in Health Care Practice and Scholarship from the National Academies of Practice (NAP). Dr. Messner received her Doctorate in Social Welfare from the City University of New York with a Doctoral Fellowship Award in Social Welfare and The Ohio State School of Social Work National Doctoral Award. She earned her Masters Degree in Social Work from New York University School of Social Work with a National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship and her Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Clark University, graduating cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa.</p>	
<p>Kimberly Lawson, MSW, LCSW, DSW(C)</p>	<p>Kimberly Lawson ("Kim") received an MSW from Florida State University, is a licensed clinical social worker in Florida and Missouri and currently an American Cancer Society Doctoral Fellow in Oncology Social Work and DSW Candidate at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy &amp; Practice. Kim has over 30 years of clinical, leadership and program development experience in oncology social work. Her practice has also focused on organizational and individual compassion fatigue prevention, education and treatment, research and grant writing, organizational and staff resource building in psychosocial oncology, and with sub-</p>	

	<p>specialty populations including parents with cancer and their children. Kim has been honored by her peers with multiple awards for excellence in clinical and leadership practice in oncology social work by the Association of Oncology Social Work, the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers and the American Cancer Society.</p>	
<p>Katherine Walsh, PhD, MSW, LICSW</p>	<p>Dr. Walsh serves on the faculty of the Westfield State University MSW program. Prior to WSU, Dr. Walsh spent 18 years as a Professor at the Springfield College School of Social Work. She has practiced as a clinical social worker in a variety of health care settings, including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. She continues to practice clinical social work in private practice, which she has maintained since 1990, with individuals families, couples and groups. She appreciates everything she learns from both her clients and her students, and finds her practice informs her teaching and teaching informs her practice.</p> <p>In addition to direct practice and teaching, her social work experience includes serving as the Director of Psychosocial Services for Hospice of Hampshire County, serving as the President of the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), testifying for the President's Cancer Panel, and serving on advisory boards for the Social Work in Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWPN), the American Cancer Society (ACS), and Cancer Connection (a service organization in Northampton) and leading self-care retreats for various hospice and service organizations.</p>	
<p>Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, MSW</p>	<p>Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, MSW is an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati, College of Allied Health, School of Social Work. She is a researcher in the university's Precision Cancer Initiative. Dr. BrintzenhofeSzoc's clinical experience is as a medical social worker working with people diagnosed with cancer and AIDS and their family and friends. Her research interests are in the psychosocial impact of chronic or life-limiting diseases on individuals and their families, psychosocial factors that influence cancer treatment, and palliative care from the perspective of the patient, family members, and healthcare providers. She has over 20 peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters, and is a regular presenter at local, regional, national, and international conferences.</p>	
<p>Virginia Vaitones, MSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Virginia "Ginny" Vaitones recently retired after a long career in oncology social work. She holds a B.S. from Springfield College and a MSW from Simmons College School of Social Work. Her career has primarily been in Maine, where she has worked in small, rural community hospitals as the</p>	

lone oncology social worker and has had the opportunity to develop two oncology social work programs. AOSW served as her lifeline and members as mentors. She received the Oncology Social Worker of the Year and the AOSW Leadership Award. Ginny is past President and a founding member of AOSW. It was during her tenure as AOSW President the Oncology Social Work Certification program was initiated. She represented AOSW at the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer for 11 years and was instrumental in the development of the patient centered standards. Her interest in policy, education and advocacy lead her to become active with the Association of Community Cancer Centers where she became their first oncology social worker to serve as their President. A new and different role for her was her appointment to the Oncology Nursing Certification Board. She has authored and co-authored articles, book chapters, served on national panels and presented at the local, state and national level. Her love of cooking and trying new recipes has been her stress reliever over the years so for her retirement present her husband Scott sent her to a week-long camp at the Culinary Institute of America.



Carol P. Marcusen,  
MSW, LCSW, BCD

Carol Marcusen is the Director of Clinical Social Work, Patient Education and Spiritual Care Services at the Keck Medical Center of USC in Los Angeles, California. Ms. Marcusen has practiced for 30+ years as a clinical social worker specializing in cancer care. She received a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Fresno with a double major in Social Work and Abnormal Psychology. She received her MSW from the University of Utah in 1979.

Carol Marcusen has served as President of the Association for Oncology Social Work (AOSW), a non-profit, international organization dedicated to the enhancement of psychosocial services to people with cancer and their families. She has also served on the Board of the California Division of the American Cancer Society and on the board for the American Board of Examiners. She has served on many national committees for organizations such as the National Association of Social Work, the American Cancer Society, and the National Coalition of Cancer Survivors. She currently serves on the board of the California Coalition for Prostate Cancer and is a member of the California Dialogue on Cancer. She has served the community in many ways as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, a member of the PTA, and as President of the Los Altos High School Choirs Booster Club.

	<p>Ms. Marcusen has delivered numerous local and national presentations. She has been active on a national level since the 1980s, providing workshops and presentations at many national conferences. She was/is a core writer in the development of the "Cancer Survivor's Toolbox" program for cancer patients. Her publications include a chapter in the Handbook of Oncology Social Work entitled Transitions during Cancer Care, various articles in cancer-related magazines such as "Coping", a chapter in a book for physicians treating breast cancer and an article in the Journal of Oncology Nursing.</p> <p>Ms. Marcusen is married and has lived in the Los Angeles area for the past 26 years. She and her husband have two children, a wonderful son in law, and two grandchildren.</p>	
<p>Joyce Herschl, MSW</p>	<p>Joyce Herschl, MSW graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a master's degree in social work. Joyce retired from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center where she worked as a clinical social worker, primarily with the BMT Program, and subsequently as the program coordinator for oncology social work services. Joyce served as a field instructor for the University of Pittsburgh School of Social work along with many years as a volunteer and support group leader for various oncology organizations in the community. She received many awards and grants along with being honored as the Health Care Social Worker of the Year in 2001 by the Society of Social Work Leaders in Healthcare. Joyce has given numerous educational presentations and workshops in addition to authoring and co-authoring various articles including a book chapter focused on psychosocial considerations in hematopoietic stem cell therapy.</p> <p>Joyce was actively involved with AOSW for many years while serving on various committees, including conference planning, coordinator of the BMT SIG, and several positions on the Board of Directors. She was elected as president of AOSW from 2000-2001. She remains active as a volunteer for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.</p>	

Marie M. Lauria,  
MSW, LCSW

Marie Lauria, a retired clinical social worker and clinical associate professor, practiced in pediatric oncology and child psychiatry for 24 years at the University of North Carolina Medical Center. A New York City native, she has a BA from the College of Mount St. Vincent in New York, and an MSW from UNC at Chapel Hill. Marie is a past president and founding member both of AOSW and APOSW. She served on both national and state boards of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and chaired its national Patient Services Committee. As a C-Change member, she directed their educational project on Cancer Patient Navigation, and was involved in their psychosocial quality of life initiatives. A long term American Cancer Society volunteer, she chaired several national committees. She co-edited two books on oncology social work, served on cancer journal review boards, authored several papers, and presented numerous workshops.

She remains an active volunteer in her community and church, recently chairing the Community Outreach Committee in her retirement center, and serving on the core team of her parish's 2022 Visioning and Strategic Planning effort.

Marie is married to Don Lauria, emeritus professor, UNC School of Public Health. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.



Susan Hedlund,  
MSW, LCSW. OSW-  
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Susan Hedlund, LCSW, has been a social worker in the health care field for thirty years and has extensive experience working with individuals and families facing life threatening illness and loss. She is currently the Manager of Patient and Family Support Services at the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health and Sciences University and is an associate professor at OHSU School of Medicine and PSU School of Social Work.

She is a past president of the Association of Oncology Social Work, received AOSW's Leadership Award in 1999 and the ACS Quality of Life Award in 2009, and the Sojourn's Award for Palliative Care in 2013.



<p>Susan M. Stensland, LCSW</p>	<p>Susan Stensland is retired after 37 yrs at Nebraska Medicine, where she led oncology social work practice for the majority of her career. During her oncology work, she helped develop and participated in the hospice consultation team, bone marrow transplant team, survivorship clinic, distress screening, support groups. She implemented and provided leadership for the Medical Legal Partnership in Oncology.</p> <p>As an AOSW Charter member she served in many roles including Regional Director, Treasurer, BMT SIG Co-Coordinator, Conference Committee, President, and received the Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award. Additionally her local and national oncology involvement included Omaha Hospice Organization Board/President, helped develop and first President of Omaha oncology social work group; local American Cancer Society (ACS) Patient Issues Chair; nationally ACS Patient Services Advisory Group and ACS Professional Education Subcommittee on Clinical Oncology Social Work Training. She also provided local and national oncology presentations.</p> <p>As she assumed the role of Manager of the Social Work Department, she gradually decreased direct patient care, but continued close involvement in psychosocial oncology programs and support groups, as well as her professional oncology organizational affiliations. Upon retirement in January 2017, she was supervising medical social workers covering a full spectrum of care (inpatient, outpatient, primary care, mental health).</p>	
<p>Matthew Loscalzo, MSW, LCSW</p>	<p>For more than three decades, Matthew Loscalzo has worked tirelessly to change the culture of treatment beyond simply curing disease. He is both pioneer and innovator, seeing to the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social needs of patients, their loved ones and their caregivers.</p> <p>He has brought this philosophy of compassionate expertise to every institution he has served. At New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Loscalzo specialized in the psychological management of pain, mentoring physicians, psychologists, social workers, health educators and others. At Johns Hopkins University he created the school's first cross-discipline postgraduate institute focused on supportive care and the country's first supportive care screening program.</p> <p>At City of Hope since 2007, Loscalzo has built a world-class Supportive Care team that puts all of our resources at every patient's disposal, from pain and palliative care, to psychiatry and psychology,</p>	

	<p>social work; spiritual care, family and community education, child life, and much more. To help make it all work, he and his team designed the unique SupportScreen touchscreen program for patients and their families.</p> <p>Professor Loscalzo has won a long list of awards and is a sought-after speaker and writer. He authored many peer reviewed articles and the popular book, "For The Women We Love: A Breast Cancer Action Plan and Caregiver's Guide For Men."</p>	
<p>Victoria N. Kennedy, LCSW</p>	<p>Vicki Kennedy, LCSW is the Executive Director of Oncology Strategy and Patient Engagement for Cullari Communications Global. Ms. Kennedy is a leading expert in psychosocial oncology including screening and management of cancer-related distress, treatment decision support, and effective integration of patient engagement strategies that help define patient value, improve quality of life and enhance health outcomes.</p> <p>Prior to coming to CCG, Vicki served as Vice President of Program Development &amp; Delivery for the Cancer Support Community (CSC) in Washington, DC, where she was responsible for development, delivery and quality assurance of CSC clinical programs worldwide.</p> <p>An oncology social worker for the past 35 years, Ms. Kennedy has dedicated her career to ensuring that people touched by cancer have awareness of and access to evidence-based psychosocial care. Vicki is a past-president of Association of Oncology Social Work and currently serves on the board of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. She also serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Oncology Practice Management. A leading speaker for patient advocacy, engagement and survivorship, Ms. Kennedy was awarded the Association of Oncology Social Work's Quality of Life in Cancer Care Award highlighting oncology social work's commitment to improving the lives of people with cancer.</p>	
<p>Hester Hill Schnipper, LICSW, OSW-C</p>	<p>Hester Hill Schnipper, LICSW, BCD, OSW-C is the Chief of Oncology Social Work at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She has been an adjunct professor at Simmons College and Boston University Schools of Social Work and at the Harvard Medical School. She was the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's first Hatcher Professor of Survivorship, and the Breast Cancer Patient Advocate for RevolutionHealth.com. For many years, she has written a daily blog, "Living</p>	

with Cancer" for BIDMC:  
<http://www.bidmc.org/livingwithcancer>

Her daily clinical work includes the care of women living with all stages of breast and GYN cancer; she facilitates five support groups and develops other support and educational resources for her institution's oncology community. She served as the Patient Advocate for the Dana Farber Harvard Cancer Center's Breast Cancer SPORE grant. A nationally known speaker, Ms. Schnipper has written numerous articles for professional journals about issues for both breast cancer survivors and professional caregivers, authored chapters for psycho-oncology and surgical textbooks and has been a contributing writer to MAMM, PR, and Cancer Today magazines. She has written two books: Woman to Woman: A Handbook for Women Newly Diagnosed with Breast Cancer and After Breast Cancer: A Commonsense Guide to Life After Treatment. She is a past President of the Association of Oncology Social Work and presided over the dissolution of NAOSW and the birth of AOSW; in 1991, she received their Oncology Social Worker of the Year award, and, in 2007, their Leadership in Oncology Social Work award. In addition to numerous other awards for her clinical work and writing, in 2005, she was named Boston's Exceptional Woman in Healthcare by radio station 106.7, MAGIC.

In 1993 and, again in 2005, Ms Schnipper was diagnosed with breast cancer and treated with surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and hormone therapy. These diagnoses transformed her life's work into her life. She has two young adult daughters and lives, gratefully, with her husband in Concord, Massachusetts.

Pictured (L to R): Susan Hedlund, Naomi Stearns, and Hester Hill Schnipper

James Zabora,  
MSW, ScD

Dr. James Zabora returned to the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins from his position as Executive Director of the Life with Cancer Program for the Inova Health System in Northern Virginia after serving as Dean and Professor of Social Work at the National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS) of The Catholic University of America (CUA) for 10 years. Prior to CUA, Dr. Zabora had a 20 year career at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Prior to Johns Hopkins, Dr. Zabora held the position of Associate Director of the Southeast Baltimore Drug Treatment Programs, one of the leading programs in the United States as recognized by the National Institute of Drug Abuse. At Johns Hopkins, he was an Assistant Professor of Oncology in the School of Medicine with two secondary appointments as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health in



Environmental Health Sciences & Health Policy and Management. As an administrator, he served as one of the five Associate Directors in the Comprehensive Cancer Center with a special focus on community programs and research. Dr. Zabora developed what was considered to be the best psychosocial services for cancer patients and their families in the United States. In addition, he was the administrator of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program for low-income women living in Baltimore City. In this role, he was a lead author of the Baltimore City Cancer Plan for Johns Hopkins under the Cigarette Restitution Fund for the State of Maryland. As a result of the success of these initiatives, he was appointed Co-Director of the Baltimore City Cancer Plan and Co-Director for Community Outreach and Education of the Urban Environmental Health Center in the School of Public Health. Currently, Dr. Zabora's research continues to focus on cancer prevention and control, psychosocial screening, problem-solving education, and quality of life among cancer patients and their families.

Grace Christ

Dr. Grace Christ is Professor Emerita and Research Scientist at the Columbia University School of Social Work. Dr. Christ was formerly the director of social work at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, is a founding and past president of the Association of Oncology Social Workers, and coeditor of the newly published Handbook of Oncology Social Work (Oxford University Press). Currently she is a cofounder and board chair of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN), an organization that emerged from the Social Work Leadership Development Awards Program of the Soros Foundation's Project on Death in America (PDIA), which Dr. Christ directed. She also developed the FDNY-CSU/Columbia University Family Program, which provided both intervention and research on the experiences of families of firefighters who died in the World Trade Center disaster on 9/11/01. She is a recipient of the National American Cancer Society's Distinguished Service Award, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Research Award, and PDIA's Career Achievement Award. Among other publications, her book Healing Children's Grief (Oxford University Press) was recognized by the International Association of Palliative Care leadership as one of twelve books providing critical new directions in the field of palliative care for the twenty-first century.



Naomi Stearns,  
MSW, BCD (retired)

Naomi (Noni) Stearns, was a Charter Member and served as the first President of AOSW. She was the Director of Social Work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute from 1979-1993. She was an Instructor at the Boston University School of Medicine and a Clinical Associate at the Simmons School of Social Work. She co-edited *Oncology Social Work: A Clinician's Guide* (1993) and *Social Work in Oncology: Supporting Survivors, Families & Caregivers* (2001). She has authored numerous publications and lectured both nationally and internationally on a wide variety of psychosocial issues relating to chronic illness and its effect on the family.

She received the AOSW Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award in 1992. Following her retirement, she continued to serve on several hospital advisory committees and helped to develop the Houston US Oncology Foundation patient resource fund. She was diagnosed with and successfully treated for breast cancer in 1995. Returning to the Boston area in 2014 she now lives in Needham, MA with her husband where she continues her post-retirement volunteer activities. She closely follows AOSW and feels like the proud mother whose offspring have surpassed her wildest dreams for them. If that dates her, that is just fine!



Pictured (L to R): Susan Hedlund,  
Naomi Stearns, and Hester Hill  
Schnipper