

HCONS 2024 Board Biosketches

- **Kristin Johnson, President:** I have been an oncology nurse for 15 years and am currently working at MD Anderson Cancer Center as a Clinical Trials Activation Specialist. I have a Bachelor's degree in Genetics from Texas A&M University, then later went back for my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, and my Master's in Nursing Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. I have been a Certified Oncology Nurse (OCN) since 2009 and have served on the HCONS board for the last 3 years as Secretary for 2 years, then as President-elect. I enjoy the networking and education aspects of HCONS and look forward to serving the group as President this year.
- **Joaquin Buitrago, President-elect:** Joaquin Buitrago is a Nurse Educator at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. He also serves as an Adjunct Faculty at Texas Woman's University, Associate Editor for the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, and the President-elect of the Houston Chapter Oncology Nursing Society. He began his nursing career with an Associate Degree in Nursing from Miami Dade Community College, as a clinical nurse in a community hospital and the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Houston-Victoria, a Master in Science Degree, and a PhD in Nursing from Texas Woman's University. Dr. Buitrago's career has been in nursing education with a focus on Hematology/Oncology to enhance professional development for nurses. He has a passion for nursing and has focused his career in nursing education on creating and sustaining transformational cultures, promoting nurses' professional development, and fostering healthy work environments. Dr. Buitrago has published and presented widely on several clinical and research topics, including moral distress in oncology nursing, nursing implications during immunotherapies, symptom management, and telehealth among others.
- **Catherine Mbango, Treasurer:** I am an Assistant Professor with 20+ years nursing experience in various settings; Oncology, Hematology, Med Surg, Orthopedics, and Academia. I have been a member of HCONS since 2003. One thing I like about HCONS is the various networking opportunities and educational scholarships that are available for its membership.
- **Meghan Jones, Treasurer-elect:** I have been a nurse for 13 years, eight years as an Oncology Nurse at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I obtained my master's degree from University of Texas at El Paso and currently a Certified Nursing Professional Development Specialist (NPD-BC) and a Certified Oncology Nurse (OCN). I have been an active member of the Houston Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society (HCONS) for eight years, previously serving as Secretary and currently as Treasurer-elect of the Board.

- **Peggy Tong, Secretary**: I have been a registered nurse for 28 years; 20 years have been with MD Anderson Cancer Center. In 2013, I obtained my MBA from Texas Woman's University. I am a Certified Oncology Nurse (OCN) and have been an active member of the Houston Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society (HCONS) for at least 15 years. Being involved with HCONS has provided many opportunities to stay updated and expand cancer care knowledge and exchange information with colleagues in the field. This is my first year serving as Secretary for HCONS and feel privileged to be surrounded by such a wonderful team of board members/colleagues.

- **Cassandra Green, Past President:** Cassandra Green is an Oncology Nurse Navigator at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital in Nassau Bay, TX. She is the past President of the Houston Chapter Oncology Nursing Society and President-Elect for the ONCC Board of Directors. In March 2023 she was chosen as one of Texas Nurses Association District 9 top 30 nurses. Cassandra has worked in legislative circles to increase Texas biomarker testing access. She advocates for oncology nursing certification and loves educating nurses about the impact certification has made on her oncology nursing career.