

Candidate for Treasurer: Karen Perez

Position Statement

Dear Members of the Miami Dade Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society,

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Treasurer, and I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of our esteemed chapter. My candidacy is driven by a deep commitment to the field of oncology nursing, coupled with a strong desire to serve our community of dedicated professionals.

Professional Experience and Expertise: With an extensive background in nursing education, leadership roles, and as an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, I bring a wealth of experience to the table. My work as a Director of Nursing and Senior Nurse Educator at reputable institutions has equipped me with financial management skills, budgeting expertise, and a keen understanding of the operational aspects crucial for effective leadership.

Commitment to Excellence: I am committed to upholding the highest standards of financial integrity and transparency in the role of Treasurer. My goal is to ensure that our chapter's financial resources are managed efficiently, fostering trust and accountability among our members. My experience in overseeing budgets, allocating resources, and managing financial compliance uniquely positions me to contribute to the financial well-being of our chapter.

Philosophy of Service: I believe in a collaborative and inclusive approach to leadership. If elected, I will actively engage with chapter members, listen to their needs, and work diligently to address any financial concerns. Open communication and transparency will be at the forefront of my service philosophy, ensuring that members are well-informed about the chapter's financial decisions.

Goals for the Chapter: In this role, my overarching goal is to enhance the financial sustainability of our chapter, enabling us to expand our impact within the oncology nursing community. I plan to implement streamlined financial processes, explore potential funding opportunities, and seek partnerships that align with our chapter's mission.

Moreover, I aim to facilitate educational initiatives and professional development opportunities by strategically allocating financial resources. Collaborating with the leadership team, I will work towards creating a robust financial foundation that supports our chapter's initiatives and goals.

Conclusion: I am excited about the prospect of serving as Treasurer for the Miami Dade Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. My dedication to the nursing profession, coupled with my financial acumen and leadership experience, positions me to contribute effectively to the success of our chapter. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you all and contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of our esteemed organization.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am eager to bring my skills, passion, and dedication to the role of Treasurer.

Biography

Dr. Karen Perez is a highly accomplished Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, holding a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) and a Master of Science in Nursing Education (MSN Ed.). With an impressive educational background, she has established herself as a leader in the field of nursing.

Throughout her career, Dr. Perez has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and innovation. She has held key roles, including Remote DNP Faculty, Dean of Distance Education Nursing Program, and Adjunct Professor at institutions such as Miami Regional University and Capella University. In these capacities, she played pivotal roles in curriculum development, program design, and the effective integration of technology into nursing education.

Notably, Dr. Perez has been an active member of professional organizations such as the American Nurses Association, American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing, Oncology Nursing Society and the American Organization of Nursing Leadership . Her dedication extends beyond professional realms, as evidenced by her involvement in community service, including roles as a keynote speaker addressing domestic violence issues and empowering women and girls in Jamaica.

As an author, Dr. Perez has contributed significantly to nursing literature, with publications ranging from concept analysis to books on time management and PICOT questions. Her passion for knowledge dissemination is further evident in her involvement in poster presentations and guest lectures.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Perez is recognized for her commitment to volunteer work, notably with the Greater Miami Church of God, where she serves as the Chairperson for the Health Department. Her leadership has been instrumental in organizing health fairs, back-to-school events, and other initiatives benefiting the community.

Dr. Karen Perez brings a wealth of expertise, a dedication to education, and a strong sense of community engagement. Her multifaceted contributions make her an invaluable candidate for Treasurer for the Local Miami-Dade Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Candidate for Treasurer: Lisa Philipp

Biography

Lisa Philipp has been a registered nurse since 1991 with her entire career in oncology. She has worked in many areas including inpatient and outpatient settings and currently oversees 14 infusion sites at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center as the Executive Director of Clinical Operations. She has experience in both the clinical and business aspects of patient care. She is passionate for patient assistance, reflecting that no patient should have to forego oncology treatment due to cost. She began her career with her Associate's degree from Miami Dade Community College and subsequently obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from University of Texas at Arlington. She supports lifelong learning and is currently pursuing her Doctoral degree in Nursing at University of Texas at Arlington with an expected graduation date of September 2024. She fosters educational growth in her teams. She enjoys mentoring new leaders and has grown many internal nurses to leadership positions. She has been an intermittent member of Oncology Nursing Society at the local and national level but is looking to take an active role in making an impact.

Position Statement

I have a tremendous passion for caring for oncology patients. I have dedicated my entire 32 year nursing career to caring for these patients. Oncology patients demonstrate such incredible strength and resilience that has impacted the way that I look at life. Appreciating the little things is more of a priority and worrying about the small things has become insignificant. I will be forever grateful for experiencing the strength of the patients that I have met.

In my current role, I am honored to work with oncology nurses that have a similar passion for oncology. This dedication to their patients and their profession is awe inspiring. Many of the nurses do not take advantage of the fellowship and exchange of ideas and experiences that membership to Oncology Nursing Society provides. The resources are significant and can greatly benefit the professional growth of nurses. I would like to see a growth in membership in our local chapter. I would also like to see more involvement from our current members. There is power in numbers and oncology nurses are a force to be reckoned with. Increasing the local membership will also increase the financial resources of the local chapter and in turn benefit the membership as a whole.

I bring more than 30 years of oncology experience in a variety of settings. I would like to share this experience with newer nurses to grow the profession and the specialty.

Candidate for Treasurer: Diana Romero

Position Statement

I plan to serve as treasurer for Miami Dade ONS by overseeing all financial transactions and fundraising efforts. I would work closely with the president, president-elect, and other board members to assure we are also contributing to the education of our oncology nurses in the committee. I hope to learn to manage the chapter's money and report appropriately to the IRS. I hope to make financial best practice decisions. While serving in the employee engagement committee in MCI I also managed the committee's money as well as help raise funds in order to do activities for the employees, I hope I can utilize these skills as treasurer for Miami Dade ONS.

Biography

My name is Diana Romero. I currently work as a nurse practitioner in thoracic medical oncology at Miami Cancer Institute. I started out as a new nurse in oncology in 2016, where I worked in the inpatient oncology unit (5 Clarke) in Baptist Hospital of Miami where I worked 1.5 years. I then transferred to the outpatient setting to work in Miami Cancer Institute's chemotherapy infusion suite. During my time there I received my Oncology Certification in December of 2018. I decided to go back to school for my master's where I attended Barry University so that I could become a nurse practitioner to better serve our cancer patient population. Throughout this time, I was active in attending Miami Dade ONS meetings, in 2019 I served as membership chair. Then for the year 2022 I served as social media chair which I currently serve. I also served as chair and co-chair in the activities committee when I worked in the chemo infusion suite. Currently I am active in nursing committees such as advanced practice activities committees. I am running for treasurer in hopes to do more within Miami Dade Oncology Nurses society.

Candidate for Director-At-Large: Marcia Johnson

Position Statement and Biography

I'm Marcia Johnson, a highly experienced health professional with over 30 years of nursing experience, seeking to become your next Director at Large. My extensive knowledge, skills, and passion align perfectly with the society's vision and mission. Over the past two decades, I have actively participated in the society, consistently demonstrating my commitment to oncology nursing. I have a Post Masters' in Advanced Nursing Practice and have been Board Certified since 2019. I have extensive experience in leading healthcare operations in a demanding, patient-centered environment, focusing on providing evidence-based practice, education, and information exchange.

One area in which I have excelled is financial management. I understand the complexities of managing costs and outcomes within a budget, and I possess the necessary business acumen skills to navigate this challenging landscape. I recognize the importance of sustainable budgeting in healthcare, as highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am well-versed in the clash between care and cost in nursing and can effectively balance the needs of patients with the financial realities of the healthcare system.

In addition to my financial management skills, I am also knowledgeable about current trends and issues in oncology nursing. I stay up to date with the latest research and advancements in cancer care, ensuring that I am equipped with the most relevant information to drive excellence in the field. I understand the importance of evidence-based practice and am committed to advocating for research that improves patient outcomes. As a potential candidate, I have held numerous leadership positions in the profession and in the Oncology Nursing Society of Miami Dade Chapter.

In my career, I have held various roles in the healthcare industry, including Director of Nursing at the University of Miami, Nurse Manager at the University of Miami, Adjunct Clinical Instructor at the University of Miami, Lead Facility Nursing Supervisor, Inpatient Unit, Facility supervisor, Charge and Staff Nurse-Oncology Unit, and more. I have been involved in quality improvement, clinical trials, and have co-authored a publication on the effects of aloe vera gel/mild soap versus mild soap alone in preventing skin reactions in patients undergoing radiation therapy. My experience includes managing inpatient units, creating schedules for staff, teaching, providing leadership, and administering chemotherapy via peripheral lines and ports. I have also worked in a bone marrow unit. I have also participated in leadership programs sponsored by the Oncology Nursing Society (LDI) and the "ONS ATAG Program," which involved disseminating information learnt to target populations in diverse settings.

I got my start as a Pool RN at the University of Miami from 1992-1994. In addition to my work in the field, I have been involved in other roles such as adjunct faculty at the University of Miami, lead implementation UChart, and the Guardian Angel Program. In 2010, I completed the University of Miami Master's Degree in Clinical Education and had studied at Florida International University from 1999-2003.

Candidate for Director-At-Large: Natalia Lemus

Position Statement

If elected for Director at large, I would love to continue to assist in all of our chapter's goal such as tri-county events and continued empowerment to oncology nursing. I would also like to mentor our new elected treasurer. I believe that this position will help with my personal goals as a leader in the oncology setting.

Biography

My nursing career began in 2008 as a scholar nurse partner in Baptist Hospital of Miami. I graduated in 2009 and started in the inpatient oncology unit and stayed there for 8 years doing multiple roles. Roles included charge RN, Step-Down RN and preceptor. In 2017, I moved on to Miami Cancer Institute and helped open the Blood and Marrow Transplant unit. I was there for 4 years also doing different roles such as Charge RN Supervisor, Triage RN and apheresis RN. My current role is in Mount Sinai Medical Center as a patient oncology educator in the outpatient clinics.

I have been a member of ONS for many years now. In 2022, I had the opportunity to be treasurer. During this term, I was very involved with our then president to prepare and effectively complete tri-county event in Miami Dade. I have been very lucky to work with such a helpful group and it has definitely served me with a lot of new knowledge.

Candidate for President-Elect: Jessie Desir

Position Statement

As an oncology nurse educator, I recognize that oncology nurses are constantly challenged to “do more with less.” Furthermore, we are challenged to obtain continuing education and earn C.E.U. Credits and obtain specialty certifications. As an oncology educator, I have noticed the need for educational support. Therefore, I plan to serve in my nominated position to fulfill the goal of our chapter, which is to become an American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredited chapter. Furthermore, I plan to support the Miami-Dade chapter by serving the oncology nursing community through networking opportunities, encouraging oncology nursing educational programs, and supporting volunteer services throughout the nursing community.

Best regards, Jessie Desir M.S. Ed., R.N., AMB-BC, OCN

Biography

I, Jessie Desir, am grateful for my nomination for the MDONS chapter President-Elect. I accept this nomination and will take this opportunity to communicate my current professional role. I am a dedicated oncology nurse educator supporting all Miami-Dade nurses by providing comprehensive education and knowledge on oncological disease sites. I recognize that oncology nurses are constantly challenged to “do more with less.” Furthermore, we are challenged to obtain continuing education and earn C.E.U. Credits and obtain specialty certifications. As an oncology educator, I have noticed the need for educational support. Therefore, I plan to serve in my nominated position to fulfill the goal of our chapter, which is to become an American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredited chapter. Furthermore, I plan to support the Miami-Dade chapter by serving the oncology nursing community through networking opportunities, encouraging oncology nursing educational programs, and supporting volunteer services throughout the nursing community.

Candidate for President-Elect: Coral Frau

Position Statement and Biography

My name is Coral Frau, and I have proudly served as a nurse for seven years. My career has been characterized by a dynamic trajectory, beginning as a cardiac telemetry nurse before transitioning to the esteemed Miami Cancer Institute, an integral part of Baptist Hospital. Within this institution, I progressed from a dedicated nurse to a patient care supervisor and, most recently, assumed the role of patient care manager.

Throughout my career, I have actively engaged with various professional organizations, demonstrating my passion for continuous learning and collaborative efforts within the nursing community. My involvement with the Oncology Nursing Society commenced in 2020, where I eagerly took on the responsibility of chairing the nominations committee. Despite taking a brief leave due to the arrival of my child last year, I am now fully prepared to resume my active participation and contribute wholeheartedly to the society's mission.

My dedication to oncology nursing is underscored by the recognition I have received, including being honored as Nurse of the Year in both 2019 and 2020. Additionally, I am a proud DAISY Award nominee and recipient in 2021. These accolades serve as a testament to my commitment to providing exceptional patient care and fostering a collaborative and supportive healthcare environment.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the prospect of further contributing to the Oncology Nursing Society. If selected for this position, I am eager to learn and collaborate closely with the president to continue advancing the society's goals. My ambition is to serve as the president of the Miami-Dade Chapter Oncology Nursing Society in 2025, where I aim to lead initiatives that will propel the organization to new heights.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for considering my candidacy. The opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the Oncology Nursing Society is an honor I do not take lightly. I look forward to the possibility of working alongside the esteemed members of the society and the president to make a lasting impact on our shared mission.