

Greater Kansas City ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2025



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- ONS Banquet – 4/17/2026
- ONS Congress, San Antonio, TX– 5/13–5/17/26
- ONS / BMT Prep Course – 9/26–9/27/2026

2026 meeting date will be included when available.

Social Media

INSTAGRAM: ONC_GKCC

FACEBOOK: GKCCONS

[HTTPS://COMMUNITIES.ONS.ORG/GREATER KANSASCITY/HOME](https://communities.ons.org/greater-kansascity/home)

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Helen Vega is the \$1,000 education grant winner.

Helen is a nursing student at Johnson County Community College with many glowing nominations.

Dear Members,

I want to share my sincere thank you for your support this year. I have served for many years on our chapter board and have had the opportunity to learn so many new things. This year was no exception. We were met with some challenges and have celebrated many successes.

Your board worked throughout the year to provide opportunities for quality educational programming, networking opportunities with your peers and a way to exchange ideas and information about your challenges and successes in oncology nursing.

We are proud of our accomplishments. These included:

- 6 – \$2000 awards to the 50th Annual ONS Congress , April 9–13th
- Oncology Nurse Month – \$50 off ONS/GKCCONS membership/Student nurse recruitment Free ONS/GKCCONS membership, May 2025
- 350 lip balm donated to Cancer Survivor Day goody bags, June 1st
- 1-\$1000 Nursing Student Scholarship, December 2025
- OCN/BMTCN Review , January 25–26
- Chapter Meeting – Menarini Pharma sponsored speaker/meal, March 18th
- CE Chapter Meeting – The Power of Policy (1.5 CE), April 22nd
- Annual Banquet –Members/+one Dinner/speakers/entertainment, May 9th
- Chapter Meeting –AstraZeneca sponsored speaker/meal, June 17th
- Chapter Meeting – GSK sponsored speaker/meal, August 19th
- Chapter Meeting – Abbvie sponsored speaker/meal, September 16th
- Education Fair 6.3 CE with 1.8 pharmacology hours, October 18th
- CE Chapter Meeting – Cannabis and Cancer (1.5 CE), November 18th

We know there is more work to be done and look forward to partnering with you to build on our success as a chapter and leaders in our oncology community.

As we look forward to the new year, I wish you all joy, peace, and good health.

Best Wishes,
Dawn Deacon
President

ONS Board



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President	Jill Heider
President Elect	<i>*Your name here*</i>
Board Secretary	Cath Glennon
Treasurer	Kim Goff
Director at Large	Heather Figary
Chapter Development	D'Jimmy Candid
Chapter Development	Heather Edwards
Programs	Megan Brenning
Programs	<i>*Your name here*</i>
Communications	Kristine Bryant
Communications	<i>*Your name here*</i>
Legislative Liason–MO	Diann Godbey

The ONS Greater Kansas City Chapter recently participated in the Saint Luke's Nurse Residency Professional Fair with the goal of educating new nurses about the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and promoting chapter membership. Our chapter hosted an informational table where board members, Heather Figary and Lana Holcom, engaged with nurse residents, shared resources, and discussed the value of ONS involvement early in their careers.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about ONS educational offerings, certification support, networking opportunities, and the benefits of local chapter participation. Conversations focused on how ONS membership supports professional growth, fosters mentorship, and strengthens oncology nursing practice.

Thank you to Heather Figary and Lana Holcom who represented the chapter and helped raise awareness of ONS within the Saint Luke's nursing community. A special thank you to Heather Edwards for organizing and inviting our chapter to this event! Outreach events like this are an important part of connecting with future oncology nurses and continuing to grow our chapter.



Blood Cancer United Advocacy Give Kids a Chance Act

The U.S. House of Representatives advanced a key bill on 12/22/25 that will help children with blood cancer by:

- Ensuring studies for possible new treatments are completed on time
- Boosting funding for and incentivizing critical pediatric cancer research.

Progress being made. Now, onto the Senate who is urged to pass the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act without delay.

Healthcare tax credit

Congress left town without renewing; U.S. House leadership didn't allow for a vote.

Nearly two million patients with chronic conditions like blood cancer will be unable to afford their health insurance premiums. A bipartisan group of lawmakers is working to force a vote on this issue in January as this and other lifesaving work is continued.

MO legislative liaison,
Cath Glennon

Six Standards of Establishing and Sustaining Healthy Work Environments

By Connie Green MSN, RN, OCN, NEA-BC. Attended ONCC Congress 2024

Creating and maintaining a healthy work environment is essential to nurse well-being, patient safety, and organizational success. The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) has identified six evidence-based standards that serve as a foundation for cultivating such environments.

Originally published in 2005 and revalidated in 2016, these standards continue to guide nursing practice and leadership. Research shows that nurses working in units that implement these standards are significantly more likely to report:

- A higher percentage of shifts with appropriate staffing
- Lower levels of moral distress
- Higher quality of care
- Reduced intent to leave their organization

Skilled Communication

Nurses must be as proficient in communication as they are in clinical skills. Responding thoughtfully—rather than reacting emotionally—helps foster respectful and effective dialogue. Take a moment to pause, breathe, and engage with intention.

True Collaboration

Collaboration must be actively pursued and nurtured. Nurses should invest in building relationships across disciplines, remain open to listening, and commit to shared decision-making and mutual respect.

Effective Decision Making

Decisions that impact care should include input from all relevant stakeholders, especially those providing direct patient care. Nurses bring invaluable insight and expertise that must be recognized in organizational decision-making processes.

Appropriate Staffing

Staffing should reflect a match between nurse competencies and patient needs. Recognizing each team member's strengths and contributions helps optimize care delivery and team dynamics.

Meaningful Recognition

Acknowledging the efforts and achievements of nurses fosters a culture of appreciation. Expressing gratitude—such as saying “thank you” at the end of a shift—can uplift morale and reinforce a sense of purpose.

Authentic Leadership

Leaders play a critical role in modeling and promoting healthy work environments. Authentic leadership involves engaging others, transparency, and inspiring action. As illustrated in the “Second Dancer” concept (watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW8amMCVAJQ>), leadership is not just about initiating change, it's about encouraging others to join and sustain it.

Taking the First Step

To begin improving your work environment, assess where your team currently stands. The Healthy Work Environment Assessment Tool (HWEAT), available for free on the AACN website, allows teams to evaluate their performance across each standard. With this insight, you can develop targeted strategies for growth and improvement.

<https://www.aacn.org/nursing-excellence/healthy-work-environments/aacn-healthy-work-environment-assessment-tool>