

NURSING MATTERS

January, 2019

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Upcoming Events

January 10-March 1:
[CNA Exam Application
for May 1 - 15 Exam
Window](#)

February 21-23: [13th
Canadian Melanoma
Conference](#)

April 2: [Oncology
Nursing Day](#)

May 6-12: [National
Nursing Week](#)

October 20-23: [CANO
Conference](#)

Funding

[BCNU](#) – Member Education Bursary opens early January, deadline to apply April 15th

[CANO Research Grants](#) - Enables nurses to conduct research by providing support in developing a proposal in the early

IT'S A CELEBRATION!



Welcome to the January issue of NURSING MATTERS, a bi-monthly newsletter developed by oncology nurses in BC. Our aim is to help connect oncology nurses

across the province and keep you informed of upcoming changes, events, opportunities, resources and research. We would love to hear your ideas and feedback! If you would like to submit an article, please email us at nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca for more information.

This month's issue will focus on celebrating – celebrating a new year, celebrating the successes of our oncology nurses in BC, lifetime achievements, CANO nominations, the practice changes that have recently gone live and the importance of celebrating achievements in the workplace. So, without further adieu, let's celebrate!

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Tracy Truant recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award

The Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) has named BC Cancer's **Dr. Tracy Truant** as the 2018 recipient of the CANO Lifetime Achievement award. The award recognizes Dr. Truant's "sustained national and international contribution to oncology nursing during her career." Dr. Truant has been an inspiration in the oncology community. In her film tribute, colleagues touch on the impact Tracy has made across Canada.

[Watch Film Tribute Here](#)

"Tracy's fingerprints are all over CANO. From the standards of practice initiatives that she has led, to the strategic plans over the past 10 years, to the laughter and friendships that have been nurtured under her tender leadership."

stages of a research project that will result in the conduct of research

Nursing Practice Committee

Nursing Practice Committee (NPC) meetings take place monthly. Each centre has an NPC representative who will be able to provide you with updates and minutes are available to read on the [H:\EVERYONE\nursing\C OMMUNICATION\Nursing Practice Committee \(NPC\).](H:\EVERYONE\nursing\C OMMUNICATION\Nursing Practice Committee (NPC).)

Communication Updates

[CST](#) – There is a new one-stop shop website for all things CST

[ST Update](#)

2018 NNPBC Excellence in Nursing Leadership – Bernice Budz



Our very own Bernice Budz, Vice President Patient Experience & Interprofessional Practice, received the Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) 2018 award for **Excellence in Nursing Leadership.**

Bernice is an inspirational leader who encourages and supports individuals and teams to use and develop their strengths to improve patient care and the students' educational experience. On a daily basis she demonstrates many leadership qualities including; compassion, excellent listening and communication skills, a strong moral compass, commitment and accountability, purposeful and strategic leadership with a future focus. She is a mentor to many individuals and has encouraged and coached countless individuals to grow personally and as leaders. – NNPBC, Nursing Awards of Excellence Programme 2018

Oncology Nurse of the Year Nominee & BC Cancer Excellence award nominee – Janice Dirksen



Each year, CANO recognizes an oncology nurse who demonstrates passion and possesses the qualities needed in leadership and teamwork. Janice Dirksen, Clinical Nurse Leader for the inpatient unit at BC Cancer, Vancouver Center, was one of the deserving nominees.

In addition, Janice was recognized as a nominee for the BC Cancer “Unsung Hero” award, where she is described as having “an uncanny knowledge of what is happening in all areas of care for each patient,” and “patients, families and those of us lucky enough to have her as a colleague observe it every day.”

CANO Presentation – Crystele Montpetit

Crystele Montpetit, a registered nurse with BC Cancer, brought experience from her previous work on a burn unit to introduce an idea and initiate a research study within the Radiation Department at the Surrey Cancer Centre that sparked change and a whole lot more. She was recently published in the Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal and presented her findings at the most recent CANO conference. See what Crystele has to say about the experience below:

“Everything starts from an idea. A simple idea can create change that positively affects the care we provide. It can be as simple as changing the way we look at something and questioning current practice. At the Surrey Cancer Centre a simple idea turned into a quality improvement project that has supported countless women throughout their journey with breast cancer. The use of InterDry for radiation breast patients has provided comfort during treatment by reducing friction, wicking away excess moisture and decreasing overall pain. Close follow-up and assessment of these patients had positively influenced the nurse-client relationship in that these women began sharing their anxieties, fears and struggles – subsequently, nurses shared resources and a listening ear.”



I encourage all of you to follow through with your ideas to facilitate the positive effect of change. Anything we can do to help our patients is worth the time and perseverance. The smallest ideas and changes often make the biggest difference.”

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<http://www.canadianoncologynursingjournal.com/index.php/conj/article/view/912/819>

WHAT’S NEW

Automated Dispensing Cabinets (Omniceil)

The end of 2018 marked the implementation of Omnicell cabinets throughout BC Cancer. The cabinets now house both supportive care and wardstock medications in bar-coded, unit dosed packages, which plays a critical role in medication safety and nurse efficiency. Omnicell cabinets are one of the features of the Closed Loop Medication Management System, which, when combined with Cerner, will allow for seamless flow of information, starting from the electronic ordering of medications right through to medication barcoding at the time of administration. See the chart below for highlights of both the cabinets themselves and unit dose and bar-coding:

Omniceil	Unit Dose & Bar Coding
Decreases medication restocking selection errors	Reduced medication management errors resulting in adverse drug events
Provides near total access of medications needed in patient care, which decreases delivery and turnaround time	Prevents look-alike and sound-alike errors during dispensing and administration
Greater control of inventory and cost management	Prevents wrong drug, wrong form, wrong route, extra dose, dose missed errors, wrong patient, and wrong time
Increased security and accountability, particularly around narcotics	Prevents distribution of expired or recalled products
	Provides an audit tool for inventory, error reporting, and time to administration reports

PRACTICE UPDATES

Nursing Practice Reference C-86

Measuring PICC Length

Frontline nurses have reported ambiguity in the terms “external catheter marking” and “external catheter length” when measuring both the internal and external length of PICCs. You’ve spoken and we’ve listened! C-86 has been updated to provide clarification in terminology. External catheter marking has been replaced with **internal catheter measurement**, to reflect the length of the PICC in centimetres, from the tip to the exit site. External catheter length has been replaced with **external catheter measurement**, to reflect the length of the PICC in centimetres, from the identified terminus to the exit site.

Cleansing the Exit Site

Additionally, clarification has been added surrounding cleaning of the exit site. After completing an environmental scan of chlorhexidine products at each of the centres and reviewing the literature, it has been determined that the both the exit site and surrounding skin need to be adequately cleaned. The process has been clarified to reflect this.



Refer to the newly updated C-86 [here](#). Questions? Follow up with your Clinical Nurse Educator.

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

Health Ethics at BC Cancer: Support for you and your patients

Working in a complex cancer care system to support people with life-limiting illnesses means that we face ethical issues almost every day. BC Cancer offers tools and resources to help you navigate these situations. To start, let's talk about BC Cancer's updated Ethics framework! The framework presents a shared language about ethics to facilitate communication and build a common understanding of how to approach ethical challenges. For more information, check out the [POD](#).



Additionally, the ethics committee at your regional centre is your first point of contact for ethics information and education. Contact your [Regional Centre Ethics Committee](#) for help with applying the framework to an ethical issue, for answers to general ethical questions, and for multidisciplinary discussions about policies, resource allocation, or patient care concerns.

Did you know that PHSA Clinical Ethicists provide in-person and telephone support to staff, patients and families facing complex, difficult medical decisions? Common topics include:

- Uncertainty or confusion about what treatment option or care plan is best
- Questions about a person's role in making health care decisions for themselves
- Concerns about continuing, stopping or refusing treatment
- Different opinions about treatment goals or the plan of care
- End of life decision making

You may refer patients to a clinical ethicist or they can refer themselves. For more information visit the [BC Cancer website](#).

BC Cancer Preceptor Education Workshop



The BC Cancer Preceptor Workshop is up and running for 2019. A re-design of the previous workshop and a complement to the previously offered Educator Pathway Level I, the BC Cancer Preceptor Workshop provides the knowledge and skills to effectively develop preceptors and mentors to strengthen and build relationships with learners in their working environment. The next workshop is scheduled for February 1st, and is offered at all 6 centres via videolink. Search the Learning Hub for: [BC Cancer Preceptor Education](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

BC Cancer Summit

The BC Cancer Summit held on November 23-24, 2018 was a tremendous success, with 900 people in attendance. One of the highlights of the event was the BC Cancer Excellence Awards, where three individuals and two teams were recognized for their remarkable work. 90 nominations were received for the following five awards, which is truly inspiring. The winners are listed below, and we've chosen to highlight one of our very own BC Cancer nursing colleagues, winner of the Patient Care Champion Award, Corrina Werbecky:



Patient Care Champion: Corrina Werbecky, Registered Nurse (Prince George): "Corrina is an excellent nurse and a faithful patient advocate. She is one of the most compassionate, caring people I know. She goes above and beyond so patients and their families have all the support they need. Even if it is not her job that day, and she's extremely busy, she'll call a patient and ask how they're doing." *The Patient Care Champion helps improve patients'*

experience, quality of life, quality of care and/or knowledge of the cancer system – either directly or indirectly. They show compassion, ingenuity and leadership, and act as a role model for others.

- **Innovation & Discovery in Action:** SpaceOAR Hydrogel Team (Victoria)
- **Unsung Hero:** Lou Ross, Systemic Therapy Clerk (Victoria)
- **Teamwork and Collaboration in Action:** Kelowna 2017 Flood and Fire Emergency Response Team
- **Workplace Inspiration:** Sophie Clyne-Salley, Senior Manager (Provincial Systemic Therapy Program)

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Path to Change

What better way to celebrate nurses and nursing contribution to the field of oncology than featuring an article by BC Cancer's very own Dr. Tracy Truant? In [The path to change: Oncology nurses leading the way](#), Dr. Truant outlines how oncology nurses "transform our cancer care system to be more equitable, person-focused and responsive to patient and family needs" (p. 72). She uses a metaphor of ascending an at times treacherous mountain to illustrate supporting patients and families through treatment, and describes the nurse's role as one of a trailblazer.



"We are the leaders we have been waiting for. We need to illuminate the dark spots and shine a light on the contributions that oncology nurses are already making to carve a path for change"

So, give this inspiring article a read-through and celebrate yourself! Let it be a reminder that the amazing, person-centered care you provide to patients and families every day makes you both a nurse leader and a rock star!

Truant, T. (2018). The path to change: Oncology nurses leading the way. *Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal*, 28(2), 72-73. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianoncologynursingjournal.com/index.php/conj/article/view/880/794>

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