

July, 2019

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Upcoming Events

June 27 – September 30: [CNA Exam Application for November 1-15 Exam Window](#)

Now–August 16
[Nominations open for 2019 BC Cancer Excellence Awards](#)

September 23-26:
[21st World Congress of Psycho-Oncology](#)

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

November 21-23: [BC Cancer Summit](#)

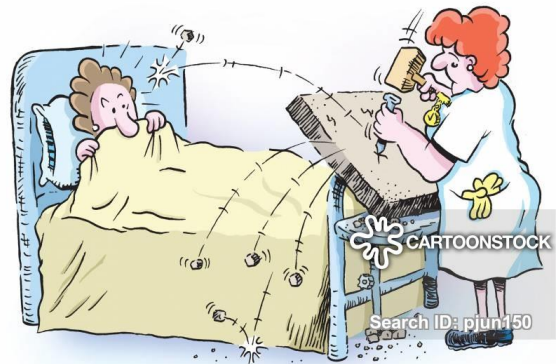
Funding

[BCNU](#) – Member Education Bursary, deadline to apply September 15th

[RNFBC Bursary Application Process](#) – bursaries for students who are enrolled in

Welcome to the July 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 edition's theme is highlighting the advantages that technology has provided for nursing in improving accuracy, efficiency, and ultimately, patient outcomes.

With advanced technology at our fingertips, the world of information gaining and sharing is changing. We have access to drug databases with a simple click of a mouse, portable diagnostics for more efficient patient care, and the soon to be electronic medical record for a safe and convenient way of storing and sharing information, just to name a few.



Nursing notes before the computer.

Nurses: Superheroes aided by technology

“Being a nurse is a highly demanding, but genuinely fulfilling job with the chance to touch many people’s lives. As it requires the core of what makes us human – paying attention, being empathetic and caring -, it will never be replaced by technology. However, innovations can relieve nurses of the burden of many monotonous and repetitive tasks.”

<https://medicalfuturist.com/the-future-of-nurses-superheroes-aided-by-technology>

So, let’s see how our BC Cancer Policy Office has used technology to enhance our knowledge platform and offer a more accessible way to navigate BC Cancer and PHSA wide policies and procedures with the recent move to SHOP (continued below).

basic, post-basic, re-entry and graduate education programs in nursing. Deadline to apply is September 15th

Communication Updates

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

[ST Update – A](#) monthly newsletter for health professionals who provide systemic therapy care and treatment

SHOP

BC Cancer SHOP Launched on Monday June 24th!

[Shared Health Organizations Portal](#), also known as SHOP, is the new home for BC Cancer and PHSA wide policies and procedures. As of June 24th, all provincial program documents will be accessible on SHOP, including provincial nursing policies and procedures.

Programs Currently on SHOP: Provincial Nursing, Provincial Pharmacy, Systemic Therapy, Radiation Therapy, Breast Screening, Health Information Management, Patient Experience Program, Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care, and BC Cancer Wide Policies.

What does this mean for BC Cancer Nurses? You should now use SHOP to access all provincial level nursing documents as well as other documents from provincial programs. As site specific documents move to SHOP at a later date, the documents on previously stored on H-drive will slowly be archived and become inaccessible.

Check out the [SHOP POD page](#) for tips and tricks on how to use SHOP. If you have any questions about SHOP, get in touch with the BC Cancer Policy Office at policyoffice@bccancer.bc.ca or 604-877-6000 ext. 62881.

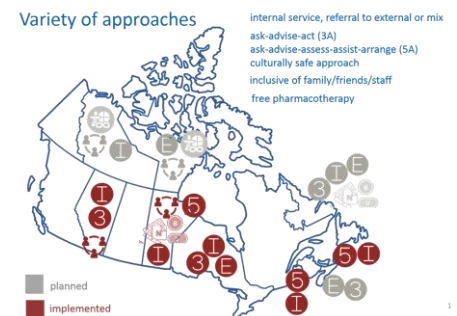
WHAT'S NEW

Smoking Cessation

Why: Did you know that the [2014 Surgeon General's Report](#) found that tobacco cessation at the time of cancer diagnosis could lower the risk of death by up to 40%?! Or how about that the benefits of smoking cessation are considered equal to, or exceeding treatment in some cancers? Patients who continue to smoke during treatment can have decreased effectiveness of both Radiation Therapy and certain Systemic Therapy drugs, increased risk of surgical complications, delayed wound healing, and second primary cancers.

Where: BC Cancer! BC is one of the only provinces in Canada without a smoking cessation program. This fall, smoking cessation will be implemented in all six centres as both a new standard of care and a form of cancer treatment (and we will have a spot on the map)!

When: September 9, 2019 is the “Go-live” date for implementation. Stay tuned for an education session (Starting **July 16- Aug 30**) prior to the Go-live at your centre to learn about the benefits of smoking cessation, the risk of not quitting following a cancer diagnosis, pharmacotherapy, QuitNow, and more. Questions? Follow up with your Clinical Nurse Educator for more information!



PRISM Update

BC Cancer's Patient Reported Information and Symptom Management (PRISM) form has been recently updated with input from clinical staff, patients, and families. The PRISM form will continue to be completed by all new patients referred to BC Cancer at the time of their first consultation. Updates to the PRISM form include:

- Information about the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act” (page 1)

- Patients can inform us of the name they wish to be addressed by (page 1)
- Open-ended gender diversity question (page 1)
- Removal of the sexual orientation question
- Footnote for staff to suggest changes to the form (page 1)
- Revision to the *Wishes and plans for your healthcare* section (page 5)
- Updated *Canadian Problem Checklist* as part of the PSSCAN-R (page 7)

If you have any questions or feedback about the new revisions, please email Ryna Levy-Milne at rlevymilne@bccancer.bc.ca

EDUCATION & RESOURCES



EDUCATOR PATHWAY

The Educator Pathway is Back!

The PHSA Educator Pathway Level 2 Program is back and accepting applications for the Fall, 2019 intake now! This 8 day course is spread over September to November, and is open to all PHSA staff whose work involves educating, facilitating, and inspiring patients, students, teams or volunteers.

The fall cohort will be an in-class session happening in Vancouver. Plans for a winter videolinked cohort are currently in process.

Check out what some of the past participants of the Educator Pathway have said about the course, and read more about the application process and required competencies [on the POD](#). If you think this program is right for you, and fits with your professional development pathway, you will need to discuss and obtain support from your supervisor and Clinical Manager.

The Education Bulletin

The BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy Program (PSTP) has launched a new education initiative to provide Education Bulletins to educate health care staff on new treatment programs planned for implementation at BC Cancer in the near future. The goal of this initiative is to support clinical staff to:

- provide safe and competent patient care during the administration, distribution and management of new and complex treatment programs
- identify drug(s)/treatment program(s) expected to be launched in the near future to allow adequate time for clinical staff to become familiar with these treatments prior to encountering them in practice
- inform staff of drug treatments that may be delivered to patients prior to formal listing through manufacturer patient support programs or clinical trials
- Each Education Bulletin will include details about the new drugs(s)/treatment program, the approved indication(s), how they are administered, and their common adverse effects.



The PSTP will distribute the Education Bulletins via email in advance of the expected formal launch date; they will also be posted on the BC Cancer website, under [Education Bulletin](#).

Want to stay in the loop? Contact Provincial Systemic Therapy Program: ProvincialSystemicOffice@bccancer.bc.ca to be added to the email distribution list.

HIGHLIGHTS

With nominations now open for the second annual BC Cancer Excellence Awards, we wanted to take a moment to showcase nurse extraordinaire Corrina Werbecky, winner of last year's Inaugural Patient Care Champion Award. Corrina's nominator last summer

wrote that she is “an excellent nurse and a faithful patient advocate. She is one of the most caring people I know. She goes above and beyond so patients and their families have all the support they need. They are lucky to have her on their side, and we are fortunate to work with her.” See below for Corrina’s Q&A!



You were the first-ever winner of the Patient Care Champion award. What has that honour meant to you?



It was such an honour to be nominated for this award by the amazing people I work with every day for a job I love to do. I work with such an amazing multidisciplinary team and together we make a difference. To be recognized by my peers is the ultimate prize. It confirms that I chose the right profession and my peers respect my nursing practice. I am so blessed.



When you accepted your award at last November’s BC Cancer Summit, you spoke passionately about patient-centred care. And we know you feel really strongly about treating the whole patient. Tell me more about that as a priority.



As an oncology nurse we cannot just treat the cancer; we need to look at each patient individually and how cancer affects them physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

I think of a young wife and mother who has been diagnosed with breast cancer:

Physically: She may be dealing with healing her mastectomy scar, side effects of treatment – radiation, chemotherapy or both.

Emotionally: altered body image, how she will manage telling her children, fear of death, loss of control, depression.

Spiritually: loss of faith, conflicts between religious or spiritual beliefs and cancer treatments, as well as coping with illness.

Socially: a strain on her relationships with friends and family. Some may become more distant, some closer. Decreased energy. She may isolate herself.

If we care for the needs of a patient, we treat the whole person, and understand a person’s life story. When we provide patient-centred care we give our patients autonomy, dignity and respect.



We received lots of nominations in 2018 for nurses, and they were often referred to as “compassionate” and “caring.” What is it about nursing, or people who become nurses, that leads to those descriptions?



Nursing to me is about the desire to fix people’s suffering using care and compassion. Compassion is not only about good, basic care like giving medications, relieving pain, and toileting. It’s showing empathy, respect, listening, and offering the same care you would wish for your loved ones. Compassion is shown not only by action but also by words. Patients believe a good nurse shows compassion by having a true interest in them and by developing a relationship. Simple touch during one-on-one conversations puts patients at ease. Care and compassion, words often used to describe nurses, are innate traits but they can also be taught.



Nursing is complicated work and ever-evolving. What do you do to get better at your job?



Yes, nursing is ever-evolving. I always look for opportunities to increase my knowledge by attending “lunch and learns” here at work, where we have different disciplines presenting on different topics. Or attending oncology conferences, such as last year’s BC Cancer Summit. We have a great nurse educator, Megan Crosby, who helps us be on top of our game. I like to learn new things, so I am always googling how I can better my practice. And taking courses as they become available.



As BC Cancer continues to evolve and improve patient-centred care, do you have any advice for the organization – or thoughts on what everyone can do to contribute?



BC Cancer is truly listening to what our patients want and promoting patient-centred care as its top priority. I am blessed to work for an organization that truly listens to its employees – and the patients we care for.

Accreditation 2019 – The results are in!

BC Cancer has successfully achieved “Accredited with Exemplary Standing”, which is the highest level of accreditation granted to a health care organization. This honorable status is recognized by less than 10% of



organizations surveyed, which truly demonstrates the excellent work which was done not only during accreditation, but daily – in order to provide the best care to our patients and their families.

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, and patients who helped and continue to help us provide the best care at BC Cancer. Kudos to you all!

UBC School of Nursing – Centenary Medal of Distinction Awardees

BC Cancer’s own Bernice Budz, Vice President of Patient Experience & Interprofessional Practice, as well as Tracy Truant, former Director of Research, Education and Innovation, have been awarded the honorary Centenary Medal of Distinction Award.

The UBC School of Nursing’s Centenary Medal of Distinction is a once-in-a-lifetime award which has been created to mark the celebration of the School of Nursing’s 100th Anniversary. The award aims to recognize individuals “who have brought high honour to the school and/or to the profession of nursing, and/or who have made long-standing/significant contributions to advance its vision, mission, and mandate.” Read more about Bernice and Tracy’s contributions to nursing by clicking their name below.

Congratulations on this incredible achievement!



[Bernice Budz](#)



[Tracy Truant](#)

FEATURE ARTICLE

This article highlights just some of the different types of technology and technological advances applicable to oncology care.

“Health care has evolved from a paternalistic, physician-driven system to a system that focuses on, and engages, the patient. Technology has played a large part in this evolution”

Shulmeister, L. (2016). Technology and the transformation of oncology care. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S074920811600022X>

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