

March, 2019

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Upcoming Events

January 10-March 31:
[CNA Exam Application
for May 1 - 15 Exam
Window](#)

April 2: [Oncology
Nursing Day](#)

April 1-7: [National
Health Ethics Week](#)

April 29-May 2:
[Accreditation](#)

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

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

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

Funding

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

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY



Welcome to the March 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 is all about celebrating and embracing diversity in the nursing workforce.

DIVERSITY ACROSS BC

Dawson Creek CON Clinic

We are a few members of the Cancer Care team from Dawson Creek, BC. Our regular staff consists of two GPOs, two full-time RNs, a part-time unit clerk, and an amazing pharmacy department. Dawson Creek is a rural city of about 13,000 people, but serves a large geographical area. Some patients travel more than 100 kilometres to receive care in our clinic, and over 400 kilometres to BC Cancer Prince George where they receive radiation and other treatments. Our patients frequently use Telehealth



"We are proud to call Dawson Creek home and are very grateful for the wonderful people we work with every day – patients, families, and coworkers alike."

our patients frequently use Telehealth

[CANO Research Grants](#) - Enables nurses to conduct research by providing support in developing a proposal in the early stages of a research project that will result in the conduct of research

[RNFBBC Bursary Application Process](#) – bursaries for students who are enrolled in basic, post-basic, re-entry and graduate education programs in nursing

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 g\C](#) [COMMUNICATION\Nursing Practice Committee \(NPC\)](#).

Communication Updates

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

[ST Update](#)

services, the Northern Health Connections bus, and the Kordyban Lodge to help offset the burden of travelling, and often express how much they appreciate these services. Our clinic has combined cancer care and ambulatory care services. In addition to providing treatment and support to cancer patients, we also provide IV therapy to non-cancer patients.

Left to right: Lynn Moch, RN, Pam Hanna, RN, Tasha G., Pharmacy Assistant, Jessica Godau, Unit Clerk, Leslie Joy, RN



“As oncology nurses, we feel it is a privilege to be part of our patients’ journey, whether it is simply walking alongside, navigating new terrain, or championing their own inner super hero.”

Nanaimo CON Clinic

We are the nurses of the Nanaimo Cancer Clinic. The clinic is a CON site on Vancouver Island that serves a large geographical area stretching from Ladysmith to Qualicum Beach, and extends to the west coast communities of Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, and beyond. We are an ambulatory clinic that provides education, systemic therapy, and follow up care to over 800 patients per month across multiple tumor groups. Our team of nurses, physicians, and pharmacy staff are committed to working alongside our patients and families to provide quality cancer care and assist them in navigating this

unknown territory. As a team, we are very proud of the personalized and patient-centered oncology care we provide despite staffing shortages and clinic constraints. Our group of nurses is cohesive, both in our professional roles and our lives outside of the clinic. It is this special relationship with our colleagues that allows us to provide cancer care in a way that makes our patients feel as though they are part of this professional, knowledgeable, yet truly human team – a team that is supportive in every step of the way.

Left to right: Rachel Gaskell, RN, Sarah Hamblin, RN, Robyn Dunstan, RN, Shawn Morrison, RN, Kari O'Hara, RN

WHAT'S NEW

Countdown to Accreditation 2019

Accreditation is both an evaluation process used to assess the quality of health services provided and a means of improving patient safety, care, and experience. Mock surveys and information fairs will take place at each centre between February – April in preparation for Accreditation. BC Cancer will host surveyors from April 29 – May 2, where information will be gathered by reviewing patient files and documentation, speaking with BC Cancer staff and patients, and observing practice. The seven Quality and Safety themes that will be emphasized are Infection Prevention and Control, Culture of Safety, Worklife/Workforce, Patient and Family Involvement, Cancer Populations, Medication Management, and Communications. For detailed information regarding these themes, check out [H:\EVERYONE\BCCA Accreditation 2019](#)



**ACCREDITATION
CANADA**

Better Quality. Better Health.

Medication Reconciliation and Best Possible Medication History

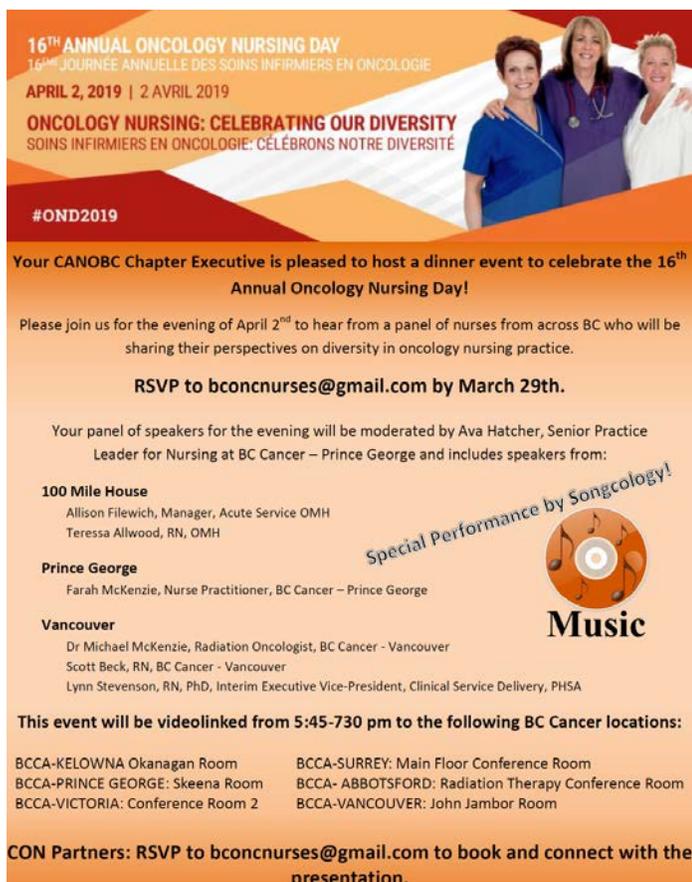
Medication Reconciliation (MedRec) is a comprehensive medication review conducted in partnership with patients and families that ensures complete information about current medication use is documented and communicated with all care providers. One component of MedRec that nurses are responsible for completing is the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH). This process involves using a systematic approach to verify with patients and families that the list of medications on their Excelleris profile is accurate, including prescription, non-prescription, traditional, holistic, and herbal medications, as well as vitamins and supplements. Any discrepancies must be documented and communicated to the Physician or Nurse Practitioner, who then completes the reconciliation. Questions? Connect with your local Clinical Nurse Leaders or Clinical Nurse Educator!

PRACTICE UPDATES

Nursing Practice Committee

For over 20 years, BC Cancer's Nursing Practice Committee (NPC) has reviewed and advanced evidence-based nursing practice, ensured access to safe patient care, improved health outcomes for patients, and provided subject matter expertise to oncology nurses. March 2019 will be the final NPC meeting, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank nurses for their active participation on the committee throughout the years. Additionally, we would like to thank Karen Janes, Nursing Professional Practice Leader, who has masterfully chaired NPC for the last several years with ongoing passion and dedication in supporting patient care. The meaningful work that has been accomplished with NPC will move forward with a new structure - stay tuned for an update in the next Nursing Matters newsletter!

EDUCATION & RESOURCES



16th ANNUAL ONCOLOGY NURSING DAY
16^{ème} JOURNÉE ANNUELLE DES SOINS INFIRMIERS EN ONCOLOGIE
APRIL 2, 2019 | 2 AVRIL 2019
ONCOLOGY NURSING: CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY
SOINS INFIRMIERS EN ONCOLOGIE: CÉLÉBRONS NOTRE DIVERSITÉ

#OND2019

Your CANOBC Chapter Executive is pleased to host a dinner event to celebrate the 16th Annual Oncology Nursing Day!

Please join us for the evening of April 2nd to hear from a panel of nurses from across BC who will be sharing their perspectives on diversity in oncology nursing practice.

RSVP to bconcnurses@gmail.com by March 29th.

Your panel of speakers for the evening will be moderated by Ava Hatcher, Senior Practice Leader for Nursing at BC Cancer – Prince George and includes speakers from:

100 Mile House
Allison Filewich, Manager, Acute Service OMH
Teresa Allwood, RN, OMH

Prince George
Farah McKenzie, Nurse Practitioner, BC Cancer – Prince George

Vancouver
Dr Michael McKenzie, Radiation Oncologist, BC Cancer - Vancouver
Scott Beck, RN, BC Cancer - Vancouver
Lynn Stevenson, RN, PhD, Interim Executive Vice-President, Clinical Service Delivery, PHSA

Special Performance by Songcology!

Music

This event will be videolinked from 5:45-7:30 pm to the following BC Cancer locations:

BCCA-KELOWNA Okanagan Room	BCCA-SURREY: Main Floor Conference Room
BCCA-PRINCE GEORGE: Skeena Room	BCCA- ABBOTSFORD: Radiation Therapy Conference Room
BCCA-VICTORIA: Conference Room 2	BCCA-VANCOUVER: John Jambor Room

CON Partners: RSVP to bconcnurses@gmail.com to book and connect with the presentation.

On Tuesday April 2, oncology nurses in a variety of roles from across the province and across health organizations will gather for an evening of video-linked collegiality, mutual affirmation, and shared stories. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Diversity," which is in line with the CANO conference theme for 2019. The evening never disappoints in inspiring attendees and acknowledging the hard work that we do. It is also a rare opportunity to gather with colleagues across our province, share a meal together, and Celebrate Our Diversity. We hope that many of you are able to attend!

If you are interested in finding out about the benefits of joining CANO please follow this [link](#). Students receive FREE membership!

To join or renew your membership, you can find more information [here!](#)



CNA Certification – Certified in Oncology Nursing (C) Canada – CON(C)

Have you registered to become CNA-certified in oncology? If not, do not fret – the deadline to register has been extended to March 31st! If you are writing the exam, join the BC Cancer CNA Oncology Certification study group... Search for:

[BCCA Nursing- CNA Oncology Certification Exam Study Group](#) on the Learning Hub!

Certified nurses are...

- Recognized nationally for their practice excellence and commitment to lifelong learning
- Valued by employers because their certification demonstrates specialized knowledge and brings many benefits to organizations
- Viewed as having enhanced professional credibility



See more information on the [CNA website!](#)



New to BC Cancer – Daratumumab

On February 1st, the drug Daratumumab went live at BC Cancer as a part of two protocols – UMYDARLD and UMYDARBD. A monoclonal antibody, Daratumumab potently inhibits the growth of CD38-expressing tumour cells and may induce tumour cell lysis by utilizing multiple effector functions in malignancies expressing CD38 ([BC Cancer Drug Manual, 2019](#)).

On a BC Cancer Server? Check out the Daratumumab education PowerPoint on the [H drive](#) and find out more about pre-medicating to decrease the risk of hypersensitivity reactions, administration considerations, and more!

HIGHLIGHTS

BC Cancer Research Challenge

The Practice-Based Research Challenge was launched on January 24, 2019. This team-based initiative is directed towards all point-of-care inter-professional staff who are 'newbies' to research. Applications closed February 20th. The intent of the Challenge is to:

HELP learn about research and conduct your own clinical practice project

PROVIDE information, mentorship, and funding

ANSWER a question about your own clinical practice using research

Through the challenge, participant teams will learn basic research skills and compete for funding to conduct a small-scale research project (~18 months). The Challenge is an innovative approach that bridges the gap between clinical practice and research by empowering point-of-care staff to identify challenging clinical issues. Accepted teams are being supported with:

- 5 Training workshops - literature review, research methods, ethics, and budgeting
- Funding: the 5 successful teams will receive up to \$5K per team
- Mentoring: teams are being paired with mentors experienced in conducting research

By participating in the Challenge, participants will grow their confidence in seeking answers, which will increase effectiveness of patient care through an emphasis on evidence-based practice.



The Challenge is currently moving forward with approximately 19 teams! These teams are representative of most of our Regional Centre's and disciplines including nursing, nutrition services, radiation therapy, supportive services and more. Go teams, Go!

Get to Know – Kavita Sarwal

Inspired by the research challenge? Get to know the person behind this exciting initiative – Kavita Sarwal!

BACKGROUND- EDUCATION AND CURRENT POSITION: In September, 2018, Kavita accepted the interim position for Director Research Innovation and Education within the Patient Experience and Interprofessional Practice portfolio. Kavita has completed her Masters in Health Administration followed by a PhD from The University of British Columbia. For over a decade, she has been developing international collaborations in cancer control while pursuing health systems planning and strategic transformational work with health authorities in British Columbia. Her most recent position is with Fraser Health.

FUN FACT: Kavita loves the outdoors, especially challenging activities while in the mountains or on the water. Recently, while pushing herself on skis, Kavita landed on an icy patch on Grouse Mountain, soon to find herself in a spread-eagle fashion on the snow with no recollection of how she got there. This resulted in her having to sit still for a day eating her favorite “beaver tails and hot chocolate.” Not one to be deterred, Kavita is back getting her skis waxed, tuned to hit the mountains again!

WHAT INSPIRES KAVITA? “My team and the BC Cancer team as a whole is what puts a smile on my face each day. Their passion, commitment and enthusiasm to make a difference are what make me come with a spring in my step each day.”

FEATURE ARTICLE

Do You Value Difference and Embrace Diversity as a Strength?

Salma Debs-Ivall touches on a personal story that helped shape the last 20 years of her career and ignited the will to advocate, research, teach and write about cultural competence. Read this short article here and reflect on your own practice - do you value difference and embrace diversity in the nursing workforce?

“We must pursue cultural competence if we are to eliminate historical disparities and inequities in the health status of people of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds”

Debs-Ivall, S. (2018). Do you value difference and embrace diversity as a strength? *Canadian Nurse*. Retrieved from <https://canadian-nurse.com/en/articles/issues/2018/may-june-2018/do-you-value-difference-and-embrace-diversity-as-a-strength>

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