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Our Officers are list on Nursing Network under [About Us](#).

Cancer & Health Awareness

- ✿ [Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- ✿ [National Cancer Control Month](#)
- ✿ [National Minority Health Month](#)
- ✿ [Occupational Therapy Month](#)
- ✿ [Oral, Head, and Neck Ca Awareness Month](#)
- ✿ [Testicular Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- ✿ [National Young Adult Ca Awareness Wk](#) (1-7)
- ✿ [Testicular Ca Awareness Week](#) (1-7)
- ✿ [National Minority Cancer Awareness Wk](#) (8-14)
- ✿ [Oral, Head, & Neck Ca Awareness Wk](#) (8-15)
- ✿ [National Cancer Registrars Week](#) (9-13)
- ✿ [National Volunteer Week](#) (15-21)
- ✿ [Wound, Ostomy & Continence \(WOC\) Nurse Wk](#) (15-21)
- ✿ [World Health Day](#) (7)
- ✿ [Transplant Nurses Day](#) (18)
- ✿ [Administrative Assistant Day](#) (25)

Resources of the Month

The [United Ostomy Association of America](#) has an updated website that has free downloadable patient and clinical resources and is more user friendly. UOAA is the main organization for people living with ostomies and is an excellent resource.

AONN+ DFW Navigation Network Election

We're pleased to announce that **our 2018 AONN+ DFW Navigation Network election** is rapidly approaching.

This year five officers will be elected into the following two year terms:

- ✿ President Elect (One year term then will roll over into President the following year)
- ✿ Secretary
- ✿ Historian
- ✿ Nominations
- ✿ Communications/Webmaster

It's certain that great talent and leadership lie within our membership. Please take a moment to reflect on your strengths and how your talents can be applied towards leading our chapter. Candidate name, position of interest and short bio should be submitted to no later than April 20th and election will open around May 1st. Contact Nominations Chair, Kristi Griffith (kristi.griffith@BSWHealth.org) with your interest and/or questions.



Gwen Spector RN, BSN, COCN Complex GI
Oncology Nurse Navigator at Sarah Cannon Cancer
Institute at Medical City Healthcare

In honor of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Week, I thought it was a good time to tell you about myself since I am a certified Ostomy Care Nurse as well as a Nurse Navigator.

Being a Navigator means... something different for each patient, depending on their needs and where they are in their journey. Some people just need a little while others need a lot. I find that even the

patients who don't think they need a navigator usually change their mind once I've spoken to them and told them about the resources available to them. I know we definitely fill in many of the gaps along their journey.

What do you enjoy most about your job as Navigator? I enjoy assisting patients, letting them know they're not alone, and helping them learn. I especially enjoy teaching patients after their Esophagectomy surgery and guiding those living with ostomies.

What special skills do you bring to your job, including hidden or visible talents and past work/life experience? This role is the compilation of all my skills and experience I've gained as a nurse for over 30 years. Along with my ostomy certification, I am also a certified health coach and have a strong history in all things GI. My passions are education (particularly patient), helping facilitate our ostomy support group, creating resources and writing. Over the past 18 months I've written over 30 blogs for [PearlPoint](#), Sarah Cannon, Medical City Healthcare and Ostomy connection. I am also the webmaster over [North Texas Wound and Ostomy Nurses](#), a digital network started with 2 nursing friends for the local Wound, Ostomy and Continence (WOC) nurses.

Are there any tips, resources and/or words of inspiration or advice you would like to share with other Navigators? Find your passion, expertise or niche and share it with others. People look to me as the teacher but the reality is we all can and do teach. Step towards your own professional development by writing, teaching a class to a nursing unit or support group. I would also say if you don't know your hospital WOC nurse, then make contact. We're all part of the multi-disciplinary team. Your patients may never have an ostomy but I bet several have wounds.

Save the Date

The next AONN meeting will be **Tuesday June 5th at 6:00 pm**. Details to be announced at a later date.

The other meetings for this year will be, September 4th and December 4th. More details to come.



[Advanced Practice Oncology Summit](#)

April 6-7
Ft. Worth, TX

[Blood Cancer Survivorship: Food Saved Me, Health and Nutrition Food Demonstration](#)

April 19, 2018; 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Texas Oncology Methodist Charlton Cancer Center
3555 W. Wheatland Rd., Dallas

[AONN+ Mid-year Conference](#)

May 4-6
Boston, MA

[The Oncology Nursing Society's Annual Conference](#)

May 17-20
Washington, DC

[ONA Navigation Summit](#)

June 14-16
Chicago, IL

[AONN+ Ninth Annual Navigation & Survivorship Conference](#)




















November 15-18
Dallas, TX
Hilton Anatole Dallas

Additional resources:

- [Clinical Care Options Oncology](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [Oncology Live Education](#)

Need Online Continuing Ed?

- [Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators \(AONN\)](#)
- [ASCO University: Cancer topics CME](#)
- [Abbott Nutrition Health Institute](#)

-  [Cancer and Careers](#)
-  [CDC Learning Connection](#)
-  [Coram](#)
-  [InPractice](#) (Partnered with ONS)
-  [Journal of Advanced Practitioner in Oncology\(JADPRO\)](#)
-  [Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Professional Education](#)
-  [MD Anderson Oncology Professional Education](#)
-  [Medscape Oncology CME](#)
-  [My CME: Oncology Nurse Advisor article](#)
-  [National Comprehensive Cancer Network \(NCCN\)](#)
-  [Nurse.com](#)
-  [Nurse CEU.com](#)
-  [OncoLink](#)
-  [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#)
-  [Oncology Nursing Society](#) (ONS)
-  [Pearls Review](#)
-  [Philips Learning Center](#)
-  [Radiation Oncology](#)
-  [Texas Board of Nurse Examiners](#)



Some of these may require you to be a member or may have a fee

Don't forget...

If you haven't already:

Like us on Facebook
@dfwoncologynavigators



AND...

Sign up for our website, [DFW Oncology Navigators](#), on [Nursing Network](#). It's easy, costs nothing and will only take a few minutes:

1. First join Nursing Network at www.nursingnetwork.com Please include your specialties and where you are employed.
2. Then "follow **DFW Oncology Navigators**. By signing up you help us keep track of our local community of Navigators. Not sure if you signed up already? Go to our site [membership](#) and check. If

you are not a member but getting correspondence from us it's because you are on a list that was created when you were sent an invitation to join.

Message from the Webmaster

I hope you are showered with all good things,
Happy April!



Gwen Spector RN, BSN, COCN
Webmaster for North Texas Navigator
Network and DFW Oncology Navigators.