



**2018-2019 AONN+  
North Texas Local  
Navigator Network  
Officers**

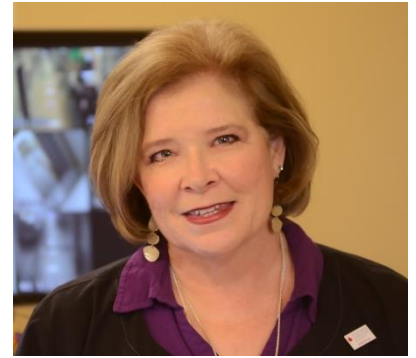
## President

**Name:** Kathleen (Kathy), BSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG

**Type of Navigator:** Breast Cancer Nurse Navigator

**Place of Employment:** Medical City Dallas, Medical City Lewisville and Solis of Flower Mound.

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** My favorite part of being a NN is the personal connection I make with my patients. I enjoy providing them with education and resources regarding their particular type of cancer. I love it when they call me to ask a question or when I am able to help them solve a problem.



**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I have a broad knowledge base in Oncology and experiences to draw on as I have been in the oncology field for 20+ years in various roles. I have a tremendous amount of empathy for my patients as I have had close family members who have gone through cancer experiences and know how it affects the whole family.

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** In my role as AONN+ chapter president for 2018-19, I am looking forward to growing our chapter and helping to bring new ideas for best practices to our group. I am tremendously excited for our chapter to host the upcoming national AONN+ conference in Dallas in November. It's our time to show the great accomplishments our Patient and Nurse Navigators are performing in the DFW Metroplex and how we are making a difference in our patient's lives.

## President-Elect

**Name:** Katie McCamey BS, RN, CBCN®

**Type of Navigator:** Breast Cancer Nurse Navigator

**Place of Employment:** Medical City Dallas Hospital

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** I love being able to have the time to provide education to my patients and their family members, and also to be able to assist in empowering my patients throughout their cancer journey.

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I have over three years of direct navigation experience for breast oncology patients, and have worked as a nurse for over nine years with prior bedside nursing in gyn-oncology. I am currently a certified breast care nurse (CBCN) through ONCC.

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** I hope during my role as president-elect I am able to assist and advise our president Kathy Ames, have regular contact with our members and officers, and represent and speak on behalf of our local AONN network within our communities and with outside organizations. I hope to assist to continue to grow and strengthen our North Texas navigator network through educational opportunities, events, and networking for our members.

## Immediate Past President

**Name:** Molly Sutton, MS, RN, OCN

**Type of Navigation** Complex GI and Sarcoma Oncology Nurse Navigator at

**Place of Employment** Medical City Dallas and President of the North Texas Navigator Network.

**What do you enjoy most about your job as Navigator?** I love getting to know about my patients' personal lives; what they enjoy doing, how they spend time with their families, how they prioritize their lives.

**What special skills do you bring to your job, including hidden or visible talents and past work/life experience?** One special skill that comes to mind is my ability to communicate with non-verbal people, or with anyone who has communication challenges. I worked for the state of Texas for 13 years at Denton State School. This was a residential facility for adults with intellectual disabilities. Many of the people I worked with there had cerebral palsy or other physical challenges that often prevented speech. I learned to screen everyone who could not talk to determine whether they had developed alternative forms of communication. Sometimes, people could only answer "yes" or "no" to my questions by moving a body part, for example, rolling the eyes upward for "yes" or side to side for "no." With patience and time, I learned to communicate well enough in some cases to determine what things were most important to the people I worked with. I still use these skills from time to time.



## Secretary

**Name:** Gabriela Martinez goes by Gaby

**Title:** Oncology Patient Care Coordinator

**Place of Employment:** Parkland Health and Hospital System

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** Helping patients

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** Financial knowledge, (knowledge of different funding that can help our Breast Cancer patients).

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** This experience with help to grow my knowledge within the navigation and coordination field.

## Historian

**Name:** Flor Florido

**Type of Navigator:** Patient Navigator

**Place of Employment:** Parkland Health & Hospital System

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** What I enjoy the most about being a navigator is being able to identify any difficulty that a patient may face in order to give them the necessary support and guidance to access the health care they need. This in turn, helps me to be able to build a relationship of trust with patients and make them feel supported and looked after; making my job as a navigator truly satisfying.

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I am very patient, flexible, multi-task oriented, and an organized person which helps when working in this type of job setting. My experience includes working in different workplace settings - from a small community clinic to a hospital setting. I have served in different roles from registration, to billing, to department lead, to management support and as a float (filling in where needed when needed). This allows me to use my previous experiences to educate patients, provide support and answer any questions that may arise.

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** As an officer, I hope to acquire new knowledge regarding cancer, treatments and amenities that are available for the patient - all while being part of great network of people from different organizations.

## Communications/ Web Master

**Name:** Kristi Garrison MS, CHES, CHW, OPN-CG

**Type of Navigator:** Patient Navigator for pancreas and lung cancer

**Place of Employment:** Baylor Charles A Sammons Cancer Center at Dallas

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** Connecting with patients and families is my favorite part of being a navigator. Seeing families come together to fight cancer and support their loved one is a great joy to me. It is a privilege to be able to advocate for and partner with all patients and families throughout their cancer journey.

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I have a strong background in population health, which has allowed me to develop the skills needed to look at health disparities on a systematic level and to find ways to address barriers to care that will have the greatest impact on the population served. Navigation is a very patient-centered, personalized profession, but I think bringing a big-picture perspective to patient care is valuable to addressing a large number of barriers in an efficient and effective manner.

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** So many of the Dallas patients are connected with multiple healthcare systems, so I hope to use our platform to bring Navigators across Dallas-Fort Worth together to increase collaboration and resource sharing throughout different systems.



## Membership

**Name:** Susan (Sue) Johnson, RN, BS, MBA, CPHQ, CNBN, ONN-CG

**Type of Navigator:** Oncology Nurse Navigator, Neuro, Head & Neck, GYN Onc, Sarcoma, Cyber knife

**Place of Employment:** Sarah Cannon Division – Medical City Plano, McKinney, Frisco, Dallas, Ft. Worth

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** I enjoy helping patients travel down a new, and oftentimes, frightening journey as a cancer patient. It is rewarding to me to lessen their worries and concerns by providing resources to remove barriers for them. It gives me satisfaction to be able to help patients become more educated about their disease process and learn to better cope with it.

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I bring 20+ years of nursing experience to my role as a Nurse Navigator, seven of which have been dedicated to Oncology. I have served in several disease specific areas such as Breast, Neuro, Head and Neck, Sarcoma, and most recently, GYN Oncology. I maintain 58 Continuing Education Units every two years, and I hold three certifications in fields of Oncology and Quality Improvement.

**What do you hope to accomplish as an officer?** As an Officer for the North Dallas AONN+, I hope to help build a positive, professional organization that promotes Nursing Navigation.



## Program/Vendor Liaison

**Name:** Audrey Thompson BSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG

**Type of Navigator:** Oncology Inpatient Nurse Navigator

**Place of Employment:** Baylor Scott & White Medical Center- McKinney

**What do you enjoy most about being a Navigator?** The people I have met. This includes patients, colleagues, Physicians, all ancillary staff and basically anyone who plays a role in making navigation

succeed. I also enjoy the diversity of navigation. Sometimes I educate, sometimes I provide support, other times I am the one being educated.

**What special skills and experience do you bring to your job?** I would say being creative is my skill. My mind is always thinking about the next idea that can positively influence how we navigate and care for patients. This can be in the form of finding new and additional resources to coordinating events for patients and families to attend where they can forget about cancer for a while.

## Community Outreach

**Name:** Katie Brown, OPN-CG

**Place of Employment:** LUNGeivity Foundation

**Type of Navigation:** Lung Cancer Support & Survivorship

**What do you enjoy most about your job as Navigator?**

I am the Vice President of Survivorship for LUNGeivity so I don't work in a hospital or clinic but I do work with patients and health care providers. My team and I help to navigate lung cancer patients to resources and support programs and we help healthcare providers by providing them the information they need to better care for their patients.



**What special skills do you bring to your job, including hidden or visible talents and past work/life experience?** I feel like supporting patients is my calling. I am a cancer survivor. I also lost my dad to lung cancer. I have experienced barriers to care and poor health systems. I've personally struggled with feelings of isolation and helplessness. I never want another patient to feel the way my dad or I did.

**Name:** Katie Narvarte, LMSW

**Type of Navigation:** Survivorship Navigator

**Place of Employment** Sarah Cannon Institute at Medical City Healthcare

**Please tell us about your role and what you like.**

My favorite part about my role is the diversity of my job. I'm working with patients and families after active treatment, but also develop research, and build programming. I feel fortunate that I can contribute to our cancer community in so many different ways.

**How does (being a social worker and) your past experiences help you in your job as navigator?**

My husband is a cancer survivor, so being a caregiver gives me a lot of empathy for the entire family going through the cancer journey. As a social worker, I've the opportunity to work in many different environments – as a juvenile parole officer, in India, in higher education – and I'm thankful that all those experiences have given me a broader world view I carry with me today.

**Are there any special projects, skills or tasks you do? Any special populations you work with?**

Last year I was so fortunate to join Camp Kesem as one of their mental health professionals, which was so rewarding. Camp Kesem is a week-long camp for kids with a parent with a cancer diagnosis, or who has passed from cancer. This is free to the families, and all money is raised by college kids who also act as counselors. Being able to be a source of support for the kids, helping them process their emotions, and see them laugh, play, and confide in other kids was one of the most powerful experiences I've experienced.



