

September 2020 LNN Newsletter

There is a theme that developed as I wrote this newsletter…your voice. I have delineated in red where your voice has made a difference in driving the focus of this organization.

What a summer at AONN+ as we have celebrated major milestones and said goodbye to a friend! Our milestones were the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), a wholly owned subsidiary of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), granting accreditation to the AONN+ Foundation for Learning under ISO/IEC 17024, Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons. In other words, AONN+ Foundation for Learning, Inc, has achieved national accreditation to offer the only national certification to Oncology Nurse Navigator-Certified Generalist (ONN-CG℠) and the Oncology Patient Navigator-Certified Generalist (OPN-CG℠). The certifications are important to ensure that clinical nurse and patient navigators have the knowledge to competently demonstrate effective navigation services across the cancer care continuum within their scope of practice. A major accomplishment for the profession of navigation.

And another highlight was AONN+, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, announced the launch of the Navigation Metrics Toolkit. This strategically designed toolkit provides navigators guidance on how to select, implement, report, and utilize navigation metrics to help improve patient care and foster navigation program development and growth. This has been evolving and developing over the last 5 years after you asked how to show value in navigation. . Another major growth as a profession! The Navigation Metrics Toolkit can be found at [www.aonnonline.org/navigation-metrics](http://www.aonnonline.org/navigation-metrics).

 Our goodbye was to Danelle Johnston, Chief Nursing Officer. After 3 years of leadership, she resigned after being a part of the Academy since its inception in 2009 acting in various roles as active member, Co-Chair of the Evidence into Practice Committee, Co-Chair of the Metrics Task Force, and Leadership Council member and then in 2017, she served the AONN+ community as Chief Nursing Officer. She will continue to champion the mission of AONN+ and stay involved with the organization as an active member. Her parting words to you as members are “I encourage all of you to STRIVE to make a difference for the oncology navigation profession and for the patients and families you impact on a daily basis. Remember the navigator pledge: share and grow in knowledge, empower through advocacy, demonstrate compassion throughout the continuum, provide hope, and embrace quality of life for the patients and families you serve. Your passion for providing care for the cancer community is contagious. Continue to be innovative in finding better ways to enhance patient care delivery and mentor those following in your footsteps.”

 The leadership team of Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, HON-ONN-CG, as your Program Director, Emily Gentry, RN, BSN, OCN, HON-ONN-CG, as Senior Director of Education and Program Development and Co-Director of Certification, and Monica Dean as Director of Patient Navigation Program Development and Co-Director of Certification will continue to take this organization forward in its mission and vision to advance the role of patient navigation in cancer care across the care continuum. With a solid transition plan in place, they have a strong foundation of knowledge and skills and will support all AONN+ projects as the next Chief Nursing Officer is selected.

With all the national office accomplishments and changes, I would like to make sure that each of you are safe and well as you continue to navigate through this pandemic. The Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is working with the National Navigation Roundtable on a paper to be published in Cancer at the end of this year or beginning of 2021 with the results of the survey that many of you participated in relating to how COVID-19 has effected your navigation role. Your voice was appreciated to give the picture of navigation in 2020.

Speaking of COVID, The AONN+ COVID-19 toolkit won a Folio: Eddie and Ozzie honorable mention award for Overall Digital Brand Extension - Association/Nonprofit and AONN+ Facebook Community for Social Media/Online Community - Association/Nonprofit. This award recognizes excellence in engaging content and gorgeous design across all sectors of the publishing industry and the recognition was narrowed down from thousands of entries. It is a huge shout out to the internal team that keeps AONN+ at the forefront of technology! This team works tirelessly to keep your voice heard (you were asked for suggestions to the toolkit!) and communication coming your way. Other winners associated with AONN+ were:

AVBCC COVID-19 webcast series **won** the Folio Award for Overall Digital Brand Extension

- Association/Nonprofit!

Honorable Mentions:

The Lynx Group Digital Team (Digital Team of the Year)

The Lynx Group Design Team (Design Team of the Year)

AVBCC COVID-19 webcast series (Digital Integration with Print - Association/Nonprofit)

Conquer, the patient voice (Consumer Overall Editorial Excellence)

As a response to the 2019 LNN leaders survey to explore the successes and challenges of implementing, developing, and sustaining an LNN, AONN+ has offered a **free** leadership pre-conference session at the Annual AONN+ Conference to the leader or co-leader listed on your website. The invite was in respect to those that spend the hours planning and leading on the local level. This will be training from the Leadership Council on “all things” related to being a successful leader! Leaders received the invite in August via email…let me know if you have any questions!

A tremendous thank you to each LNN that worked with the Lynx group in testing the waters for a Speakers Bureau. This was also an ask from the 2019 survey and work is underway to solidify programs for you in 2021!

And speaking of the **Eleventh Annual AONN+ Conference**, it will be here soon – November 4 – 8, 2020! I look forward to interacting with many of you that will be in attendance! If you have not registered, there is still time!

* Register for the [Virtual 11th Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) Navigation & Survivorship Conference](https://aonnonline.org/conferences/annual-conference) by October 1st to receive your Welcome Kit! The kit will be full of exclusive products just for 2020 AONN+ Annual Conference attendees, including event essentials that will level-up your digital experience.
* Everyone that registers will receive free registration to the 10th Association for Value-Based Cancer Care Summit & Educational Program. <http://www.valuebasedcancer.com/avbcc/2020-summit/>
* The main events of the 2020 AONN+ Annual Conference will include informative sessions by industry thought leaders, poster and podium presentations, the [AONN+ Awards](https://aonnonline.org/awards), and the Annual Poster Presenter Awards (those that worked on an abstract).
* Your voice is heard in all award selections as you reach out to the AONN+ leadership with suggestions. Keep the list in front of you year round and send to nominations to me as you think of them!
* Register with a group of 5 friends/colleagues and take 15% off your registration fee, or a group of 10 and receive 20% off. To take advantage of this cost-saving opportunity, sign up to attend the conference at [annual.aonnonline.org/annual2020](https://e.thelynxgroup.com/t/l?ssid=34615&subscriber_id=bhourkqaqptibqvvylbqxwodtxbubme&delivery_id=ammzeuxvizxmxfgsrunyofztxrrcbfj&td=9E4qbDUKrljQJwpoXUUi0wPQKhEYE8K-5PxpcEhqOQ0uN-2wjCJ4c_khNnCjF0mwm1uIT9n4ozNoo9BWJ_BJGyoQWepmnQlasH1rVt2qO_K0Ftesm4ASCmEH8WPbeGwY2lXhRQKktJ69t6QCWYMhbiP9DszV1mBx4C4zxaMOjYqih9eWt6BRp61p1imtgPEsRge4oSgwBurOswo5J23pNlsY9QLb7pe4RXVtKskPIfXj-8eLbylYBoShz_Vg7Xcl0vzVwfLxuke5s) and key in the codes below:

 5 Attendees AONNGROUP15

10 Attendees AONNGROUP20

* The 2020 LNN of the Year will be announced! Thank you to each LNN that showed interest in this honor…stay tuned!
* Visit the virtual sponsors and ask them about providing programs for your LNN in 2021.

For those that are unable to join us this year, the fee to view post conference and get CEUs will be $350 for the entire conference or $15 per hour of CEUs.

Your voice mattered again! Thank you taking the time to answer the survey last June about certification. The survey drove the selection site for the fall 2020 testing! The AONN+ Foundation for Learning (AONN+ FFL) is pleased to share the following testing sites have been added to our regional certification offerings!

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| **New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania** |
| APA Hotel Woodbridge120 Wood Avenue SouthIselin, NJ 08830 |
| **Florida** |
| Miami Marriott Dadeland9090 South Dadeland Blvd.Miami, FL 33156 |
| **North Carolina** |
| Wake Forest Baptist Health Comprehensive Cancer Center10th Floor, Conference Room B&CMedical Center Blvd.Winston-Salem, NC 27157

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| **Texas** |
| Omni Austin Hotel Downtown700 San Jacinto at 8th StreetAustin, TX 78701 |
| **Indiana** |

Cancer Support Community,Central Indiana5150 West 71st StreetIndianapolis, IN 46268 |

All exams will be administered on **Saturday, November 14, 2020**, at 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. If you wish to take advantage of this chance to sit for the exams at a regional testing site in 2020, please view the requirements for registration for the individual exams and submit the completed application, appropriate materials, and testing fee on or before Saturday, October 24, 2020. <https://aonnffl.org/regional-certification>

AONN+’s commitment to support our professional members with credible resources/information they can use to educate and empower those around them is going strong with Facebook Live, Podcasts and webinars! I hope all of you have been enjoying the Facebook Live series. The link to the event page for the previous Live sessions as well as monthly future gatherings is found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/168161291161779/>.

The upcoming **Facebook Live** events are:

How Can We Help: State of the 11th Annual AONN+ National Conference

Wednesday, October 7, 2020: 1:00pm – 2:15pm EDT

How Can We Help: Equipping Your Patients for the Holiday Season & Navigator Self-Care

Wednesday, November 11, 2020: 1:00pm – 2:15pm EDT

How Can We Help: State of Clinical Trials

Wednesday, December 2, 2020: 1:00pm – 2:15pm EST

If you cannot make it to the live event or do not have Facebook access…No problem! All the live and archived sessions are available to the public and easy to access. Just click on one of our past events below and you can still watch it on Facebook. <https://aonnonline.org/31-aonn/222-facebook-live-series>

And the monthly **PODCASTS** started in July! They can be found at <https://www.aonnonline.org/education/podcasts>. The Role of the Navigator as the Genetic Extender, How to Implement a Successful Virtual Environment for Support Programs and Challenges with Disparate Populations have been released. Wonderful short pearls of wisdom from key navigation leaders! Professional Development and the Role of Certification, How to Best Use Advocacy Organizations and more will be released in 2020! Once a month we will release a new episode that features AONN+ members highlighting community stories from the front lines, best practices, lessons learned throughout a navigator career, resources, and support services. Again, we need your voice…what ideas do you have for Facebook Live and Podcasts?

 The summer has been rich with **webinars** - Patient Advocacy: Navigating Across Models of Care in June, AONN+ Policy & Advocacy Webinar in July, Mentorship: The Key to Personal and Professional Growth in August, and Biomarker in September, In the future look for How to Have Difficult Conversations at End of Life and others to be posted at <https://aonnonline.org/education/continuing-education-activities>.

The work at AONN+ through the committees has not slowed down this summer! And your voice is critical again as the committee chairs have asked each of you to fill out the survey sent to you in September. they will use to plan for 2021 from the compiled data. The AONN+ National Committees will be using your responses to enrich future goal setting and initiatives in the coming year and AONN+ looks forward to sharing your survey answers with you as we begin 2021.

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| [Begin Survey](https://e.thelynxgroup.com/t/l?ssid=34615&subscriber_id=buodkqudjucmoekozbxspmlcxqlbbjf&delivery_id=avngkkqjmzstvhxawggluwozhrlhbgg&td=DRNh7jG7HxgBRTSvAsFx7AG_ju9LlXX8jHrf1dm99DK1b9WrZs_Rf6AwFoB20wJlUe9qxjqNQQAQL9y9kmqHJLc1rtYmitJ-KmjD5-aDvFP3MFrugeOT22c3LBnYgn45MuTBaJZ5uqVMugnC_wkUjbYxJ8fLcV9I93Ku38yX74T9A4_HIAa8uoarTDGkEEgHxt_oZ8Q2-VQ4BDdzzGjFXYP4s89xeJuN9GerVhjhPRn2su2JuyT30sLA) |

**National Committees**

Here is the latest from the Committee Chairs! Please follow them at <https://aonnonline.org/community/committees>.

**Metrics** – The Metrics Toolkit was finalized and now they are working with the Policy & Advocacy committee to discuss reimbursement. Look in the future for a crosswalk document with the ONS core competencies and AONN+ knowledge domains.

**Policy & Advocacy** – Held a webinar on “Policy in the Era of COVID” where Clara and Elizabeth did a Facebook live on how to approach advocacy organizations during COVID. Clara is working on an Advocacy Toolkit. Elizabeth Partnering with Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force to standardize the definition of patient navigation types and scopes. The committee continues to work on standards for policies as they recommend and sign on letters for AONN+. AONN+ supported letter to the Chairman on the Senate HELP committee on provisions that should be included in the next COVID19 package in July.

**Genetics & Genomics** – Genetics symposium will take place at the Annual Conference. This will allow the committee to curate some enduring material on the website! Jen and Frank did a podcast on genetics. The committee is in the planning stage of creating a toolkit.

**Abstract Review** – All submissions have been done this year with 40 accepted abstracts. COVID took priority to doing research studies. CEUs will be available for the poster presentations this year at the annual conference!

**Technology & Innovation** – They will use the committee survey data to determine what the members want in 2021. The committee has divided into three subcommittees: research, advocacy, and education. Look for a technology "How To" guide they are developing as well as compiling a list of vendors and suppliers that have technology to support the role of navigator.

**AQUIRE** – They recently did a webinar on Mentorship. Will use the committee survey data to determine what the members are interested in. *Looking for some additional members.*

**Survivorship** – They are considering publishing a JONS article on survivorship and COVID. Also discussing cancer rehab and alternate models of care.

**Clinical Trials** – This group is looking for co-chairs. Emily Gentry is serving as the interim chair.

**Conference Planning** - The Annual Conference has a lot of exciting topics planned. The keynote has been solidified and they have listened to member feedback and incorporated into the agenda. *They are opening the committee to new members as some transition off.*

**Community Outreach, Early Detection & Prevention Committee** - This new committee will be chaired by Kim Parham & Andi Dwyer. *Online application is open* – if you know anyone that may be a good fit, please encourage them to apply for the committee.

**Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council (LC) group continues to ZOOM on your behalf in 2020! Your LC member, Jennifer Bires is a new mother! Leela Jo was born Saturday, August 8 and Jennifer joined the leadership call August 11…what an amazing commitment and dedication to AONN+!

To be a successful organization, our leaders serve on many national navigation associations or organizations. The National Navigation Roundtable is an example. They are having a session on Tuesday, September 29 2 -4:30 PM (EDT) on Navigation in a New Era: Crisis and Opportunity. You can listen in by registering at <https://navigationroundtable.org/>.

All LC members approve any surveys that are released to membership unless the survey is part of an AONN+ scope of work project. The LC is finalizing a Policy and Procedure so members will not be inundated with multiple surveys. This policy will not allow commercial surveying. It has been proposed to have an AONN+ project section on the website where members can post surveys or tool reviews that allow the members an option to answer the survey/review or not. The AONN+ digital team has that request so stay tuned!

Your voice was heard and a Scholarship Fund for conference attendance whether virtual or in-person is being developed with the goal to have in place by 2021! Each LC member suggested thoughtful edits and recommendations. The AONN+ management has been notified and is working on how donations to this fund can be captured by the organization.

A LC succession plan has been approved and unanimously passed by LC members. There is a future focus on additional diversity and underserved populations representation.

The group has been hard at work on their pre-conference session - *Seed into Your Professional Development and Strengthen Your Skills*. In this session, seasoned and rising leaders will explore varying aspects of exercising leadership. Participants will also learn how to work with others in a leadership context. They will discover skills to build teams, coach individuals and meet group and individual challenges that arise in a leadership role. Participants will develop personal insight and perspective on their leadership style to fit their work and team environment. The session will review contemporary issues in the healthcare and oncology landscape and examine how this impacts leadership. Participants will also learn methodologies to collaborate, communicate and interact with professional leaders.

And a last note for many of you that work with Spanish speaking navigators or those in other countries. Through funding and support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center, along with Navegación de Pacientes Internacional, and the Latino Cancer Institute, has released a Spanish Guide for Patient Navigators - A Supplement to the Oncology Patient Navigator Training: The Fundamentals. This guide provides the foundational knowledge that Spanish speaking oncology patient navigators need, as well as free resources and tools that can be put into practice immediately. Download this 207-page guide by visiting bit.ly/SpanishPNGuide2020

As always, ***please feel free to reach out for questions, concerns or send me LNN news!***

I am grateful for all you do and your voice that allows AONN+ represent you as a national professional organization!

Sharon

Sharon Gentry, MSN, RN, HON ONN-CG, AOCN, CBCN

AONN+ Program Director

