



## Monthly eNews



### Presidential Messages: Updates

**1)** Institutes of Learning 2008 was a spectacular success! We had many PSONS members who helped make this a fabulous conference and experience for those nurses visiting our city. ONS indicated that there were almost 500 advanced practitioners here for the Advanced Practice portion of the conference, which started Thursday evening and concluded on Saturday. Another 1500 nurses participated in IOL, which started on Friday morning and concluded on Sunday. PSONS has many people to thank, including all 105 volunteers who helped our guests have a wonderful IOL experience! Huge thanks go to our IOL liaison, Martha Purrier and her key assistants: Juanita Madison, Marilyn Birchman and Nancy Thompson. The response from the participants to the service project of bringing toiletries from their hotel rooms for the Downtown Emergency Shelter was unbelievable. Read the next PSONS quarterly for more details

**2)** Are you wondering what is happening with PSONS-sponsored education in 2009? The board has taken your feedback from last year's table-top discussions at Symposium and worked to put together an educational program that supports the issues that you identified as being important to you. Briefly, those items you identified as being important are having CE credits for educational programs, having programs that meet the needs of those of you who are out of the Seattle area, being able to identify which programs are PSONS-sponsored vs industry-sponsored, and having nurse-speakers instead of MDs. Here is the educational plan for 2009:

- All educational programs sponsored by PSONS will have CE credits.
- The board is planning to support teleconference capability to determine interest in participating in educational programs remotely. We plan to begin this in April 2009. We are interested in having a liaison from both the north Puget Sound and the south Puget Sound who might work with the board to provide actual educational opportunities in those communities so if that is of interest to you, please contact Renita Vance, PSONS President.
- PSONS educational programs will occur on the third Wednesday of each month. We have sent letters to our industry partners notifying them of this date as the date for our educational programs.
- With the change in PhRMA guidelines and our commitment to CE credits at each program, support from our industry partners is a challenge so we will be doing more programs at local institutions with PSONS sponsoring dinner. This is a great opportunity to "see" other institutions and if you are interested in hosting a program, please let Renita Vance know.
- PSONS educational programs will have a fee associated with them. There are many reasons to do this, not the least of which is to help offset the cost of the meals, which PSONS will be providing. Members will pay \$5 and nonmembers will pay \$10. We are offering members a punch card good for six programs for a cost of \$25, a savings of \$5.
- In an effort to "go green" PSONS is no longer mailing flyers about educational programs. You will receive an Evite invitation to the educational programs and the information will be posted on the PSONS website prior to each program. You may RSVP via the Evite or by contacting Alliance Strategies at [alliancestrategies@verizon.net](mailto:alliancestrategies@verizon.net) Please be sure PSONS has an accurate email address on file in the directory so you can receive these invitations.
- There will be a short chapter meeting at each educational program. The PSONS president or another member of the board will conduct this meeting. Usually it will consist of announcements or committee updates from ONS. If you have an item that you would like announced, please contact the PSONS president at

[psonspresident@gmail.com](mailto:psonspresident@gmail.com)

**3)** Many of you know Rose Preston a PSONS member of long standing who has made numerous contributions to our organization. She was an active member of the Symposium committee for several years. She has an enthusiasm for our profession that is clearly evident when you talk to her. She's given much and now it is time for us to give to her. Rose is undergoing a stem cell transplant at the VA. Our support and well wishes are needed to speed her recovery. You can follow her progress online and sign her guestbook with a message of support here

[www.caringbridge.org/visit/rosepreston](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rosepreston)

<<https://owa.tshosting.com/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rosepreston>>

And cards, letters, magazines, puzzles can be sent to her at the VA at this address;

VAPSHCS

1660 Columbian Way S

Seattle, WA 98027

#### **4) Scholarships for Congress available**

##### **Purpose:**

To support the professional nurse who has demonstrated innovation in responding to challenges in practice, that has made a difference for the patient/family, institution and/or fellow healthcare professionals.

##### **Nomination:**

The nominee can be nominated by any PSONS member or be self-nominated.

##### **Award:**

Two recipients who are current members of PSONS and ONS. will be selected. Each nominee will receive an educational grant of \$500.00 towards ONS Congress registration. The deadline for nomination is Friday, March 20, 2009. Nominees will be notified no later than March 27 and checks will be sent to recipients at that time. Verification of attendance will be required following Congress.

##### **Qualifications:**

The nominee must be a registered nurse involved in cancer nursing.

The nominee must be a current member of ONS and PSONS.

The nominee must have demonstrated innovativeness in responding to challenges in practice.

The nominee can be nominated by any PSONS member or be self-nominated.

Nomination packet to include:

Biographical data sheet

Written description of nurses response to challenges in practice, not to exceed 350 words. Word count must be inserted or application is not eligible.

Resume no longer than 2 pages

Nominations should be returned to [psonspresident@gmail.com](mailto:psonspresident@gmail.com) by March 20

The nominee must be able to attend the entire Congress.

*Special considerations will be given to applicants who have not had the opportunity to attend a ONS National conference, or new to oncology.*

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## Welcome to our New Members!

Mairita Danilyuk  
Pam Davies, SCCA  
Jerra Fjelstad  
Erika Hanson  
Stephanie Lemmel, Celgene  
Denice Oien  
Karen Riva, Bristol Myers  
Deborah Swanson

### *ONS e-news Member Spotlight for March 2009*



Renee Yanke

**Employer:** Whidbey General  
**City & State:** Clinton, WA  
**SIG:** [Nurse Practitioner](#), [PNI & Complementary Therapies](#), [Managements](#)  
**Chapter:** [Puget Sound](#)

**What do you love about oncology nursing?** The camaraderie among Oncology Nursing – mentoring, friendliness, and support. ONS is a great organization with great education and resources

[View Past Featured Members](#)

If you would like to be featured in the Member Spotlight, please fill out [this form](#) and send it along with your picture to [enews@ons.org](mailto:enews@ons.org).

## Educational Offerings

- 1) **You can now register for the PSONS Symposium on-line at our website.**

### [PSONS SYMPOSIUM](#) [March 20-21, 2009](#)

**2) Save the Date:** Washington State Medical Oncology Society (WSMOS)  
May 15, 2009 Spring Membership Meeting  
**When:** Membership Meeting Friday May 15, 2009 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Evening Reception Thursday May 14, 2009 TBA  
**Where:** Grand Hyatt Seattle  
721 Pine Street  
Seattle, WA 98101

Plan to join your peers and hear the latest news on clinical, legislative and business issues impacting oncology services.

### 3) April 2009 Declared National Safe Handling Awareness Month

#### *National Campaign Aims to Protect Healthcare Workers from Hazardous Drug Exposure*

COLUMBUS, OH (February 24, 2009) – In an act to further education surrounding the safe handling of hazardous drugs in the healthcare setting, April 2009 has been declared the first-ever National Safe Handling Awareness Month with Monday, April 20, 2009 being declared the first-ever National Safe Handling Awareness Day. In recognition of National Safe Handling Awareness Month, a variety of regional and national continuing education (CE) activities will be scheduled throughout April. The headline event, a complimentary, nationwide CE webcast, will take place on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00pm EST. The event will be followed by a live “Ask the Experts” session featuring today’s industry thought leaders:

Participants may visit [www.statce.com/safehandling](http://www.statce.com/safehandling) for more information or to register for the program.

**4) Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course** - ONS has a live 2-day Chemotherapy and Biotherapy program available at a location near you! This course provides nurses with a comprehensive overview of chemotherapy and biotherapy and includes information on newly approved drugs (available at the time of publication) to keep nurses apprised of the latest developments in drug therapy. Participants must be licensed registered nurses who have been employed as such for a minimum of six months. This course content is appropriate for nurses who are new to chemotherapy administration, as well as for those who want a comprehensive review. See the PSONS website for details

More educational offerings, not directly sponsored by the PSONS education committee, are listed on the webpage

## PSONS Website

Please visit our web page frequently. It is constantly being updated.

- New Employment opportunities
- Education and CEU opportunities (frequently list others not included in this monthly e-mail)
- Board meeting dates and times
- Board members contact information

*And much more!*

## News Release



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For immediate release: February 20, 2009

**Contacts:**

**Tim Church, Communications Office**  
**360-236-4077**  
**Donn Moyer, Communications Office**  
**360-236-4076**

**Death with Dignity Act rules adopted by state health department**

**OLYMPIA** — The state Department of Health today adopted rules required by Initiative 1000, the Death with Dignity Act.

The new rules describe the agency's responsibility to collect information specified in the initiative and to set the qualifications of witnesses designated by long-term care facilities. The rules also clarify definitions, reporting requirements for health care providers, and confidentiality of the information collected.

During the public comment period, the Department of Health received more than 200 comments; and nearly two dozen people testified at a public hearing.

The [final rules](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/0906010DeathwithDignity.pdf) (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/0906010DeathwithDignity.pdf>), which include minor changes to clarify language and make technical corrections, are available online.

Last November, voters approved Initiative 1000, modeled on the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. It becomes effective March 5.

**2) Big Victories (and it's only March)**

Two months into the year and there have already been two big victories for ACS CAN.

On February 4, we won a 62-cent increase in the federal tobacco tax. This is a great win because we know that a 10 percent increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes reduces youth smoking by up to 7 percent and reduces overall cigarette consumption by up to 4 percent.

Then, just two weeks ago, **ACS CAN secured a \$1.2 billion increase in federal funding for cancer research.** This huge funding increase was part of the economic stimulus bill.

## Communications

If you have been thinking about becoming more active in our PSONS chapter, the communications committee has some great opportunities to get you involved. We are looking for two volunteers to be editor and co-editor of the quarterly newsletter. Time commitment is about 10-12 hours per quarter. We also need "reporters" to help with recurring articles (200 – 500 words per article or interview) and/or original articles (500 words). This is a great opportunity to be a part of an excellent team and contribute to your chapter. For more information contact Linda Cuaron 206-605-8750 or email, [lcuaron@comcast.net](mailto:lcuaron@comcast.net)

## Symposium

**Registration still available via the PSONS website**  
**PSONS SYMPOSIUM: Oncology Experts in Our Own Back Yard**  
**March 20-21, 2009**

Hope to see you there and don't forget your item for the Northwest Harvest Food Drive

## New Contact Info for PSONS Board!

The PSONS board has new contact information! Please utilize the following email addresses to contact board members. We definitely want your input and would love to hear from you! All board meetings are open to the membership. WE have changed our board meeting schedule and now meet quarterly for a half day. Our next meeting is Friday, April 24 from 8-1 at Gilda's Club in Seattle. Please join us!

[psonspresident@gmail.com](mailto:psonspresident@gmail.com)  
Renita Vance

[psonssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:psonssecretary@gmail.com)  
Nancy Thompson

[psonstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:psonstreasurer@gmail.com)  
Bonne Childs

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Janet Bagley

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Linda Hohengarten

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Marge Ramsdell

Look for upcoming ability to opt out of electronic directory and email notifications. If you wish to opt out now you may call our office 425.771.4189 and request to do so.

Visit the Puget Sound Oncology Nursing Society website at [www.psons.org](http://www.psons.org) for other chapter information and job opportunities

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