

OAPN Scientific Committee

The OAPN Scientific Committee provides research expertise, guidance and leadership to ensure the conduct of high quality research that is relevant to national and international oncology APN stakeholders.

Joining Dr. Bryant-Lukosius on the Scientific Committee are:



Dr. Sanchia Aranda,
Director of Cancer Nursing Research at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Head, School of Nursing at the University of Melbourne



Dr. Debra Bakker,
Professor, School of Nursing at Laurentian University



Dr. Jessica Corner,
Professor of Cancer and Palliative Care and Head of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Southampton, Chief Clinician, Macmillan Cancer Support



Dr. Greta Cummings,
Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta and Principal Investigator of the *Connecting Leadership Education & Research (CLEAR) Outcomes Program*

OAPN Research Associates

Oncology APNs from across Canada will be invited to become Research Associates of OAPN. The benefits of APN participation in OAPN include:

- Development of research projects as principal or co-investigators
- Consultation and support to conduct research and implement evidence-based initiatives relevant to the patients they serve
- Professional development including: mentorship, graduate oncology courses, and evidence-based practice workshops
- Opportunities to network and collaborate with APNs and researchers with shared interests, nationally and internationally

Juravinski Cancer Program – OAPN Research Associates

Anita Adams, RN(EC), BScN, MN, NP-Adult, CPMHN(C),
Nurse Practitioner, Hematology Disease Site Team

Mary Ruth Crabb, RN, BScN, MN,
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Palliative Care

Jan Park Dorsay, RN(EC), BAA(Nursing), MN, NP-Adult, CON(C),
Nurse Practitioner, Inpatient Oncology Rehabilitation Program

Deb Evans, RN, BScN, MScN, CON(C), Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pain and Symptom Management, Supportive Care Department

Margaret Forbes, RN, BScN, CON(C),
Nurse Practitioner Intern, Breast Disease Site Team

Kathleen Greene, RN(EC), BScN, MN, NP-Adult,
Nurse Practitioner, Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplant Program

Kari Kolm, RN(EC), BScN, MN, NP-Adult,
Nurse Practitioner, Hematology Disease Site Team

Lorraine Martelli-Reid, RN(EC), BScN, MN, NP-Adult,
Nurse Practitioner, Lung Disease Site Team

Laura Mishko, RMN, CPN, BScN, MEd, Clinical Nurse Specialist Intern, Mental Health, Supportive Care Department

Dorothy Vaitekunas, RN, BScN, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C), CHPNC(C),
Advanced Practice Nurse, Palliative Care

Jennifer Wiernikowski, RN(EC), BScN, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C),
Chief of Nursing Practice & Nurse Practitioner, Breast Disease Site Team

Christine Zywine, RN, BScN, MN, CHPCA(C),
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Head and Neck Disease Site Team

Please contact us for more information about our research and education initiatives:

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Leadership and innovation
in **oncology advanced**
practice nursing



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Role of Oncology Advanced Practice Nurses

Oncology advanced practice nurses (APNs) are clinical experts involved in the specialized care of patients and families affected by cancer. They work to improve patient health through innovation in nursing practice and in the delivery of cancer services.

Oncology APNs work in community, ambulatory and inpatient settings and provide nursing services across the cancer journey from cancer prevention, early detection and screening, treatment, recovery and palliative and end-of-life care.

In addition to their clinical expertise, APNs require competencies in education, research, organizational leadership and professional development. Two types of oncology APN roles are recognized in Canada: Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner.

Impact of Oncology APNs

Research has shown that well designed oncology APN roles have a significant impact in a number of priority health care delivery areas:

- Improving access, coordination and continuity of care
- Improving patient and health care provider satisfaction
- Prevention or reduction of side effects and complications
- Improving health, functional capacity, quality of life and survival rates for high risk populations
- Lower acute care costs with a reduction in hospital lengths of stay and readmissions
- Improved patient and health care provider uptake of evidence-based practices



**Dr. Denise Bryant-Lukosius,
OAPN Director**

Dr. Bryant-Lukosius is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing and Department of Oncology and the Senior Scientist for the CHSRF/CIHR Chair Program in APN at

McMaster University. She has a cross appointment to the Juravinski Cancer Program as an academic clinician with responsibilities for promoting APN role development and nursing research.

OAPN builds on the research program Dr. Bryant-Lukosius has conducted over the past 5 years in partnership with APNs, regional cancer programs, the Nursing Secretariat of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Esther Green, Provincial Head of Nursing and Psychosocial Oncology at Cancer Care Ontario.

What is OAPN?

The Canadian Centre of Excellence in Oncology Advanced Practice Nursing, known as OAPN for short, is the first nursing research unit to be established by a cancer program in Canada.

The goal of OAPN is to provide a comprehensive, integrated national program of leading-edge research, education, mentorship and knowledge translation initiatives to support the effective use of oncology APN roles in cancer care.

A National Advisory Committee will guide the overall development of OAPN.

A Scientific Committee of national and international experts in oncology, APN, health care planning, knowledge translation and research has been established to lead the initial development and implementation of the research program.

Future practice, education and research partnerships will be established to address national priorities for enhancing the contribution of APNs in cancer care.

Why do we need OAPN?

As clinical experts, leaders and change agents, APNs are recognized as an important strategy for improving access to high quality, cost-effective and sustainable models of cancer care. By 2012, Ontario alone will require 150 new oncology APN positions to meet rising demands for cancer services.

While there is substantive international evidence about the benefits of oncology APN roles, the full contribution of these roles for improving the health of Canadians through their effective development, deployment and integration within the health system has yet to be fully realized.

OAPN Objectives

- Establish a national and international hub of oncology APNs, clinicians, educators, researchers, managers and policy makers
- Increase capacity to conduct research in 3 priority areas:
 - ▶ New oncology APN therapies or clinical interventions
 - ▶ New models of cancer care that include oncology APN and other advanced health care provider roles
 - ▶ Interventions for effective oncology APN development and role implementation
- Provide education and mentorship opportunities to support development, recruitment and retention of oncology APNs
- Promote evidence-based oncology nursing practice through the development of practice guidelines and knowledge transfer activities
- Increase awareness and understanding of oncology APN roles