Director at Large—Education

CANO/ACIO OFFERS YOU OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As Director At Large—Education, I am often asked by nurses, “What can CANO/ACIO do for me?” Let’s explore the answer to this question in more detail.

For those of you who have oncology certification, CON(C), you know that qualifying for your re-certification requires 20 hours of continuing education every year for five years. Your participation in CANO education activities will provide your annual required continuing education (CE) hours in their totality. Let me further outline:

- each webinar will earn one CE hour for registrants and four hours for the presenter
- CANO/ACIO membership earns four hours each year
- conference attendance can earn up to 20 hours
- participating in your CANO chapter education activities will earn CE hours.

However, this is a very small component of what CANO/ACIO can do for you. CANO/ACIO is full of opportunities to develop yourself professionally and advance your career. These opportunities can include submitting articles to the Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal; participating in a local chapter and its activities; answering calls for involvement in the creation of standards of care, practice guidelines, or learning modules; participating in Special Interest Groups and network groups; submitting a conference abstract for presenting a poster or a podium presentation; and participating in research surveys. You may feel that these opportunities are not applicable to your practice, that you may not have the necessary expertise to be involved in them, or that they do not do anything for you. I respectfully challenge this notion.

CANO/ACIO believes each nurse can be a leader. I, too, believe this. But I will add—it is up to each nurse to position themselves in situations that foster their professional development and leadership. I urge you to not only seize opportunities, but also create opportunities. If you have an idea, dream it, share it and achieve it. Reach out to those nurses you respect and value for guidance and support. They had great mentors and I am betting they would be honoured to coach or mentor another nurse.

CANO’s strength is its members—the breadth and depth of knowledge, expertise, scholarship, and passion for oncology nursing and patient care within the members is invigorating and infectious.

It may be a cliché, but my advice is “start small”. Take a small step to get started. Attend a chapter meeting, organize a relevant practice article review with colleagues, then another, and another. Submit a reflection to Connections. Submit a reflection to the Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal on the pragmatism of reviewing articles (or a topic of your choice). Submit a conference poster. Then think about doing a podium presentation. Or present a webinar on a practice topic about which you are passionate. I know other oncology nurses are very interested in what is happening in nursing practice across the country. Participate in creating practice standards. Create a pocket card to help with practice and education. Build your expertise.

Get elected to your local oncology nursing chapter board or become a member of a CANO/ACIO committee. Why not think about getting elected to the Board of Directors—even becoming president one day. Get your Master’s or PhD. Get appointed to the World Health Organization or the International Council of Nurses. All this has happened to CANO/ACIO members, as a result of their involvement with the organization and the oncology nursing colleagues they have met.

When all is said and done, most of all, mentor the rising stars. Celebrate nursing. This is what CANO can do for you. It is the vehicle to support your professional development everywhere from the bedside to the boardroom.

See... easy! You are already on your way, you’re reading this. All it takes is another step. What will your next one be?

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