

# A Journal Whose Time Has Come

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Advanced practice has been part of my career path for 24 years. As the first oncology clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and first oncology nurse practitioner (NP) to work at my academic teaching hospital in the 1980s, I often struggled to find information in the literature specific to my needs as an advanced practice clinician. Although excellent ar-

ticles were available in the general oncology nursing literature, I often found myself referring to medical oncology papers that provided comprehensive information on cancer care but little to no specific information on the role of the CNS or NP. That is why I am especially pleased to announce the debut of a new publication, the *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*—a journal devoted to the needs of the advanced practitioner caring for patients with cancer.

Today, the literature offers many outstanding medical and nursing publications for individuals working in the discipline of oncology. However, we have lacked a journal that specifically targets our unique role: the advanced practitioner in oncology. The new *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology* will help meet the educational needs of a rapidly growing specialty in oncology, providing clinical updates and new information relevant to the individuals working in advanced practice. It is the first journal of its kind to target this group specifically.

The numbers of advanced practice clinicians working in the field of oncology are increasing. These professionals, including CNSs, NPs, and physician assistants (PAs), are visible in all facets of oncology care. Advanced practice nurses and PAs play an essential role in the interdisciplinary health care team and provide quality care throughout the spectrum of the cancer experience. Given a looming physician shortage, that role will likely become increasingly important. The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) notes that our society is aging, with a corresponding increase in age-related cancer cases an-

anticipated (Erikson, Salsberg, Forte, Bruinooge, & Goldstein, 2007). One of the proposed solutions to the increased need for oncology patient care is the increased use of NPs and PAs to improve practice efficiency. This will continue to highlight the importance of the advanced practitioner (Nevidjon, et al. 2009; Erikson, et al. 2007).

Although NPs, CNSs, and PAs may perform different care functions in the arena of oncology, all advanced practice clinicians share a common goal of striving to improve patient care (Murphy-Ende, 2002). In order to provide the best care possible, advanced practice clinicians must stay current in our constantly changing specialty, whether working in education, research, clinical, or consultant positions. To do this, we rely on professional membership societies, attendance at major oncology medical and nursing meetings, Web-based learning activities, and access to medical and nursing journals focused on care of the oncology patient.

It is our hope to publish a journal that will provide timely review articles, unique case studies, helpful information on tools and technology related to practice, and other useful sections designed to assist both the new advanced practice clinician and the experienced practitioner. We plan to launch a journal club to help instruct the advanced practice clinician in the evaluation and critique of research-based articles and other subjects of interest to advanced practice health care providers. Review papers will provide new information on cutting-edge therapies, genetics, and symptom management to improve our care of oncology patients. Because many of you are prescribers, we hope to present you with significant pharmacologic updates applicable to the advanced practice role in the *Prescriber's Corner* feature. Ultimately, it is our hope that this journal will complement the existing journals in cancer care and provide targeted information critical to the practice of advanced practice clinicians.

This inaugural issue of the *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology* contains an article by Wendy Vogel on the general role of the advanced practitioner in oncology care today. Connie Visovsky discusses the advanced practitioner's part in the struggle to manage chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and reviews the basics of the neurologic exam. Sandy Kurtin reports on hematologic malignancies in the elderly population, including updates from the recent American Society of Hematology meeting. The hereditary aspects of colorectal cancer and the advanced practice role is reviewed by Karen Roesser in our *Grand Rounds* feature.

The use of bendamustine (Treanda) in patients with cancer is described by Amy Goodrich in the *Prescriber's Corner*. *Clinical Snapshot* offers a short review of the management of diarrhea in the patient with cancer by Carolyn Grande. And a review of helpful reference management software tools is highlighted in our Tools and Technology feature.

Each feature or article includes information specific to the role of the advanced practice clinician. We hope that you will find this information helpful in your practice whether you work as a CNS, NP, or PA in oncology. We encourage your comments, submissions, and feedback as the journal evolves. And we enthusiastically welcome you to the *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*.

## References

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