Preliminary Program

36th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 10–12, 2020
Raleigh Marriott City Center, Raleigh, NC

Taking Flight: Creating a 2020 Vision in Oncology Social Work
2020 Annual Conference Theme

**Taking Flight:** Creating a 2020 Vision in Oncology Social Work
The theme for our the 36th AOSW Annual Conference speaks to the specialized skills and talents that oncology social workers use to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, their families and communities. This knowledge, specialized training and comfort is highly valued by those we serve.

The AOSW Annual Conference provides an opportunity for us to learn, share our knowledge and offer support to each other. The presentations and educational sessions reflect the most important issues facing oncology social workers today.

**AOSW Mission**
The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement of psychosocial services to people with cancer and their families. Created in 1984 by social workers interested in oncology and by existing national cancer organizations, AOSW is an expanding force of psychosocial oncology professionals.

**AOSW 2020 Conference Objectives**

- **Ethics:**
  Demonstrate knowledge and application of social work ethical standards in an ever-changing health care and technological landscape.

- **Research:**
  Identify opportunities to effectively integrate cutting-edge research into practice, policy and service delivery across the spectrum of cancer care.

- **Patient-Centered Care:**
  Demonstrate examples of fresh approaches that empower the oncology professional to provide high-quality patient and family-centered care.

- **Leadership:**
  Illustrate innovative models of leadership across the oncology care continuum in areas of mentorship, program development, change management, conflict management, administration and executive leadership.

- **Access to Care:**
  Discuss innovations in psycho-social oncology that address disparities and access to care among vulnerable populations.

- **Advocacy & Health Policy:**
  Examine emerging visions for oncology care, nationally and globally, and explore partnership opportunities that allow oncology social workers to advocate for and effect change in the delivery of cancer care.

- **The Future of Oncology Social Work:**
  Empower psycho-social oncology professionals to grow as we face a changing health care landscape, global connectivity and the power of social media, and the rapid evolution of cancer treatment.

For more about AOSW or information on becoming an AOSW member, visit www.aosw.org.
Conference Location & Hotel Information

A visit to Raleigh, North Carolina, is more than a trip to a blossoming Southern metropolis; it is a culinary, historical and cultural experience that promises to refresh and energize. Invigorate your senses by sampling the many flavors of cutting-edge Southern cuisine enhanced by artisan craft brews and spirits. Join in broadening your horizons through an enticing array of visual and performing arts exhibitions. Get your toes tapping to the sounds of emerging music and bands and discover gifts and treasures from local boutiques, including many handmade and custom designs for truly eclectic finds. Raleigh is also a short drive away from Durham, another popular destination with award-winning food and drink. Our host hotel, Raleigh Marriott City Center, is located in the center of Raleigh’s revitalized downtown. Enjoy a leisurely stroll to explore the area’s most popular attractions and James Beard Award-winning restaurants. Once inside the hotel’s stylish and comfortable great room lobby you can unwind with a Starbucks coffee or a locally inspired entrée or signature cocktail from Rye Bar & Southern Kitchen. The amenity-filled guest rooms feature 55” flat screen TVs and modern workspaces. Elevate your exercise routine in the 24/7 fitness center, featuring Peloton bikes. Raleigh may be quiet about the fact that it’s leading in most recent quality-of-life rankings, but the fact is, you’ll enjoy visiting as much as locals enjoy living here. Come see what the city will inspire in you.

Climate
In Raleigh, the average temperatures in early June range from a low of 67°F to a high of 96°F. Attire for the conference is business casual. Because meeting room temperatures fluctuate, attendees may wish to bring a sweater or jacket.

Conference Hotel
AOSW Conference Rate available until Monday, May 18, 2020

Raleigh Marriott City Center
500 Fayetteville St, Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: +1-919-833-1120
Reservations: +1-888-236-2427

Be sure to mention AOSW when making your reservation.

The AOSW-negotiated rate is $195 per night. Rooms and rates are based on availability and subject to state and local fees/taxes (currently 13.25 percent). A credit card is required to hold your reservation. Hotel check-in is 4 p.m., and check-out is at noon.

The conference rate will apply for the nights of Sunday, June 7, through Saturday, June 13, 2020 (three days prior and one day post-meeting). Rates are subject to daily incidentals and state and city taxes per room, per night. Cancellations must be made 48 hours before the day of arrival to avoid a cancellation fee of one night’s room and tax. To reserve a room at the AOSW Conference click here or call the JW Marriott at +1-888-236-2427 and mention that you are part of the AOSW 36th Annual Conference.

AOSW Conference rooms are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Conference room rates apply only to AOSW attendee reservations received before May 20, 2020, provided rooms are still available in the AOSW room block. Reservation requests made after this date will be confirmed on a space available basis at prevailing hotel rates.
ADA Accommodations
For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, contact Andrea Ward at +1-847-686-2282 or award@aosw.org. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

Roommate Service
For assistance in finding a roommate, contact Andrea Ward, AOSW conference administrator. She will send you a list of other registrants looking for a roommate. It is your responsibility to contact someone on the roommate list and make your reservation with the hotel directly. When emailing Andrea, be sure to include arrival and departure dates, your gender, city and country you reside in and smoking preference to be included on the roommate list.

Getting To and Around Raleigh

Discounted Airfare
Delta Air Lines offers special discounted airfares to AOSW attendees for both domestic and international travel in 2020. Discounts vary, depending on the class of ticket purchased, up to 10 percent off the fare for domestic travel. Go to www.delta.com > Click “Advanced Search” > Enter NMTVL in the “Meeting Event Code” box. If your flight qualifies for a discount, it will automatically be applied to your search results. We suggest using this discount to book your AOSW flight.

Meeting Event Code: NMTVL
SkyBonus Points Member Number: US0084894

Area Airports & Transportation
Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is located 19.2 miles from the Raleigh Marriott City Center (about 23 minutes by car).

Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
Airport Phone: +1 919-840-7700
Hotel direction: 14.9 miles SE

This hotel does not provide shuttle service. Alternate transportation: Super Shuttle (pricing subject to change); reservation required.
Estimated taxi fare: $45 USD (one way).

Driving directions
I-40E toward Raleigh. S Saunders St. exit - 298B toward downtown. Merge onto S Saunders, 401 N. Continue on 401 N. Turn right onto Lenoir St. Parking Garage will be on left entrance side of the hotel off Lenoir St. For valet parking continue past the parking garage entrance and turn left onto Fayetteville St.

Car Rental
Avis is the official car rental service for the 2019 AOSW Annual Conference. Click here for online reservations or call +1-800-331-1600 and indicate Avis AOSW Worldwide Discount Number D015425 to receive special pricing.

The Avis Worldwide Discount number will be effective from seven days prior to the event until seven days after the event. An advanced reservation is recommended.

Parking
The Raleigh Marriott City Center provides valet parking at a fee of $30 USD daily. On-site parking is available at a fee of $18 USD daily. Off-site parking is available for $3/hour or $15/day.
Attractions + Things to Do in Raleigh

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences – Largest natural sciences institution in the Southeast located in the heart of downtown Raleigh. This Smithsonian-affiliated museum is the most visited in North Carolina. Admission is free.

North Carolina Museum of History – Another Smithsonian-affiliated museum in downtown Raleigh. Admission is free.

North Carolina Museum of Art – Features a beautiful park with trails and outdoor art exhibits as well as indoor permanent and rotating exhibits. Contemplative spaces, lively, engaging tours, performing arts, and family workshops. Admission is free.

CAM Raleigh – A contemporary art museum housed in a twenty-thousand square foot refurbished warehouse. Admission is free.

JC Raulston Arboretum – A nationally acclaimed garden with one of the largest and most diverse collections of landscape plants in the Southeast.

Taste Carolina Gourmet Food Tours – Named one of the 10 must-try food tours in America! Walking tour to five to six independently owned, farm-to-table restaurants in the heart of downtown Raleigh. Along the way, professional guides tell you about local history and new developments in town. Enjoy food, drink and conversation while discovering the area’s best gathering places.

Capital City Tours – Tours focusing on African American history and cultural landmarks including The South’s oldest Black university, the nation’s first institute for blind African Americans, the first medical school for African Americans and the foundations of 1960s nonviolent resistance to segregation

North Carolina State Farmers Public Market – Fresh, local produce, meats, cheeses, crafts, bakery items, a market grill, and North Carolina wines. Wide variety of specialty shops with beauty products and North Carolina gifts. Open 7 days/week, year-round.

Art To Heart Trail – Six-mile-long walkable or bikeable trail running through Downtown Raleigh. Join the trail on Downtown’s Fayetteville Street, and it’ll take you past the Red Hat Amphitheater and Raleigh Convention Center before skirting around Pullen Park. The trail culminates in the park of the North Carolina Art Museum.

Breakfast + Brunch

Big Ed’s City Market – Southern diner fare in the city center. Giant hotcakes, buttery, fluffy biscuits and of course lots of fried food.

The Morning Times – A local favorite for more than a decade. Stop in for a quick bite to eat during the week, or table service for Sunday brunch.

Beasley’s Chicken + Honey – Owned by Ashley Christensen, the nation’s top outstanding chef as selected by the James Beard Foundation. Superb fried chicken drizzled with honey with delicious southern sides. Wonderful for brunch, lunch and dinner too.

Lucettegrace – Artful French pastry shop with biscuits, a full coffee bar, delicate croissants and other breakfast sweets. Stop by for dessert later in the day as well.

Lunch + Dinner

Brewery Bhavana – Flower shop, dim sum restaurant, bookstore, and brewery. Reservations highly encouraged.

The Raleigh Times – Belgian beers, microbrews and American pub grub

MOFU Shoppe – The owners got their start as operators of a food truck specializing in Asian street food, and it shows in the expanded menu at their brick-and-mortar restaurant.

Trophy Tap & Table – Downtown outpost of local Trophy Brewing with expanded food menu

Pit Authentic BBQ Restaurant – Great spot in the warehouse district to try authentic North Carolina BBQ

Garland – Indian flavors with influences from around Asia and the Middle East

The Fiction Kitchen – Delicious all-vegetarian menu

Drinks

Little City Brewing + Provisions – Industrial-chic bar with cocktails, beer, and wine

C. Grace – Cocktail lounge with a Prohibition-era feel presenting live jazz & classic handcrafted drinks

Death and Taxes – Inventive New American dishes & cocktails in an intimate, swanky setting

Fox Liquor Bar – An Ashley Christensen bar

Raleigh Beer Garden – Offering 350+ beers on tap

Food Halls

Morgan Street Food Hall

Transfer Co. Food Hall – These spaces showcase a diverse group of local eateries, and they have something for everyone to enjoy. Open almost all day, every day of the week, the downtown food halls are a great option for breakfast, lunch or dinner.
Registration Information

What is included in the conference fee?

- Unlimited course selection beginning with the Opening Keynote Address on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, and continuing through conference adjournment on Friday, June 12, 2020.
- Entrance to Exhibit Hall, with breakfast provided each day.
- Lunch provided Wednesday and Thursday of conference.
- Admittance to the AOSW’s Quality of Life in Cancer Care Lecture.
- Annual Business Meeting.
- Opening Reception and Poster Session on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.
- Access to password-protected website where handouts will be available for download prior to and following the conference.
- Complimentary wifi in conference areas.

Continuing Education

There will be an additional fee of $35 per attendee for those interested in earning CEs. See the Registration Form for details.

After completion of the online post conference evaluations and proper scanning into sessions, Continuing Education certificates will be issued to those who registered for CEs.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

This organization, Association for Oncology Social Workers (AOSW), provider #1351, is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) www.aswb.org, through the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. AOSW maintains responsibility for the program. ASWB Approval Period: 11/11/2019 – 11/11/2022. Social workers should contact their regulatory boards to determine course approval. Social workers participating in this conference will receive a maximum of 26.00 CEs, 8.00 Cultural Competency and 5.0 Ethics and 3.50 Clinical continuing education clock hours for participating in this training.

Florida Department of Health, Division Social Work, MFT, Counseling

In accordance with the criteria outlined in the Florida Statues Chapter 491 and by the Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality assurance, the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers (FSOSW) Provider #50-775, exp. 03/31/2021, will be applying for CEs for clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors for Licensure renewal. There is no fee for FSOSW members; other Florida non-members will need to pay $5 per CE or join the organization for $35. Florida registrants may obtain an exact list of approved clinical and non-clinical sessions or more information by contacting Cara Kondaki, LCSW, at +1-954-659-5604 or by email at kondakc@ccf.org.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

AOSW will be applying Continuing Education Units, some of which will be for Ethics, from NASW. Final number of credits will be available at the conference.

New York State Education Department’s State Board of Social Work

Association of Oncology Social Work, Inc., SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0320.
Ethics Disclaimer: It is the responsibility of the attendee to check with their state board to determine if the ethics hours offered meet the regulations of their Board. Certificates of attendance and verification of credit will be issued to those who registered for CEs after completion of the online post-conference evaluations.

Non-Credit Events:
CE credit is not offered for committee meetings, poster sessions, networking sessions and registration/breaks. Other sessions may not carry credit and will be indicated with an **.

Instruction Methodology:
Didactic, audio-visuals, demonstrations, experiential exercises, case examples, small and large group discussions.

Target Audience:
Oncology social workers and other social workers who work with cancer patients and their families.

Grievance Policy:
Grievances regarding conference sessions, content, abstract selection and presentation can also be submitted to any member of the conference planning committee and are escalated appropriately to the conference chair, director of education, board of directors or home office staff. Grievances are responded to in a timely fashion with the goal of mitigation of the issues brought to the leadership. If a registered participant is unable to attend a meeting after registration, refund requests are processed on a case-by-case basis. If an attendee has a complaint or grievance, it must be submitted in writing by the participant to: AOSW, One Parkview Plaza, Suite 800, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. The letter will be reviewed by organizational members consisting of the social worker consultant, and other organizational members based on geographic distribution, experience, professional specialty, etc. The Organization will respond to the attendee in writing.

Educational Levels of Presentations
Introductory level presentations include an introduction to content area in oncology social work practice. These sessions may include providing information about a particular condition, treatment method, or issue related to oncology social work. Beginner level presentations are appropriate for all, but with specific applicability to BSWs, new MSW graduates or those new to the practice of oncology social work.

Intermediate level presentations include sessions which build on knowledge that practitioners with some experience already have. These sessions focus on skill-building or adding knowledge; possibly with a brief overview of basic information. These sessions are appropriate for mid-career level practitioners as well as more advanced practitioners interested in exposure to new skill sets and research.

Advanced level presentations include sessions which address content for advanced level practitioners who have been working in oncology social work for some time and have a clear understanding of a wide range of concepts, practice, research and administrative issues that impact practice. Covers complexities involved in oncology social work and intervention to address them and influence change.

Course Designations:
Cultural Competency
Ethics
Clinical
Silent Auction

Please think about upholding our AOSW tradition of supporting the annual silent auction. The silent auction will be held during the Opening Reception on Wednesday, June 10, from 7-8:30 p.m. We will be holding a silent auction to support AOSW awards and scholarships for future conferences. We welcome any contributions by conference attendees or organizations! Past donations included small, easily packable items such as gift cards, handcrafts or jewelry. We also appreciate baskets of local goodies.

The auction will be set up and silent bids will be taken during the poster sessions. If you have items to donate, email Jordan Burghardt at jburghardt@aosw.org by May 1, 2020. All proceeds will support AOSW Scholarship programs.

AOSW Imprinted Products

Looking for a way to show your pride in being a member of the AOSW community? Our imprinted AOSW T-shirt or sweatshirt convey your pride in being an AOSW member or supporter. Plus, all proceeds benefit AOSW programs and services.

Choose from:
- T-shirt (light gray, with chest imprint)
- Sweatshirt (white, with chest and sleeve imprint)

Simply indicate which items you’d like to order on your Annual Conference Registration Form or when registering online. Your items will be waiting for you when you check in at the Annual Conference Registration Desk.

Special CE Offerings

AOSW is pleased to offer the following special CE offerings for attendees.

First, AOSW is offering five half-day workshops on Tuesday, June 9, for up to 8.0 additional CEs. There are three morning workshops being offered and two afternoon workshops.

Next, all SIG meetings offer CEs. The 90-minute sessions will include 30 minutes of networking and 60 minutes of presentations, for an additional 1.0 CE. You can attend any SIG meeting of your choosing – you do not have to be a member of the SIG to attend. Find a subject that’s interesting to you and learn more about the subspecialties of oncology social work!

Finally, AOSW will host six Practice Intensives sessions (PIs). Comprised of two 90-minute sessions, the CEs allow you to get more in-depth, thorough training from content experts. This year’s PI topics include:
- Oncology Social Work 101
- Mindfulness
- Advocacy
- Ethics
- Sexuality
- The State of Pain

Earn 3.0 CEs while developing skills you can incorporate into your work.
SPECIAL EVENTS AND OFFERINGS

**ACS Doctoral Institute** (no CE, invitation only)

**American Cancer Society Institute for Social Work Doctoral Scholars, Mentors, and Alumni (Invitation only)**

The American Cancer Society is the nation’s largest private, not-for-profit source of funds for cancer research and training. Beginning in the 1980s, ACS has provided grants for master’s and doctoral students pursuing careers in oncology social work. Current doctoral student awardees and their mentors plus grantee alumni meet annually at this institute to present their research, receive feedback, and participate in career development activities. In 2020, the Institute will be hosted at the AOSW annual conference, which offers the opportunity to expand networking and collaboration to include AOSW members who are researchers or are interested in pursuing a PhD. The full-day institute will be invitation-only, but will include afternoon sessions open to conference participants. This event does not have CE attached to it.

ACS awardees meet annually at the ACS Social Work Doctoral Institute, which in 2020 will be hosted for the first time at the AOSW Conference. This event is invitation only and does not have CE attached to it. For more information, please contact American Cancer Society’s Program Manager, Extramural Research, Stella Jones at stella.jones@cancer.org.

**Pre-Conference Morning Workshop**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)

**The Art of Writing for Publication**

*Daniela Wittmann, PhD, LMSW; Karen Kayser, PhD, MSW*

**Summary:** Publishing articles and reviewing manuscripts for journals are not only important professional activities for social workers but also shape the science that is published, disseminates evidence-based interventions into practice, and gives voice to research participants and patients. Most early-career professionals and doctoral students receive little training on how to write for journals and how to review for peer-reviewed journals. Even seasoned professionals may wonder about the publication process and what reviewers are looking for in a good manuscript. This workshop aims to address these obstacles to writing. This will take the participants through the publishing process, from initial writing of a manuscript, submission to a journal through the revise-and-resubmit phase on to publication. It will focus on 1) how to write a variety of articles (original research, case study, book review or commentary) and 2) how to be a peer reviewer for a journal in psychosocial oncology. Participants will learn the specific things that editors look for in a good review. They will also learn how to write a good response to a revise and resubmit decision. Ethical considerations related to plagiarism and human subjects in research will be addressed. The intensive will be interactive with worksheets to assist participants in developing a writing project. Handouts of recommended readings, examples of reviews, and tip sheets will be given to participants.

**Course Designation:** Clinical

**Keywords:** Research, Education

**Presentation Level:** Advanced
Pre-Conference Morning Workshop
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)

Advance Care Planning: Implementing an Educational Program to Improve ACP Discussion with Oncology Patients and Families
Annabelle Bitter, MSW, LCSW; Teresa van Oort, MHA, MSSW, LCSW; Mark Anderson, JD, LMSW

Summary: We will explore what Advance Care Planning encompasses, the documents often involved in these conversations, how legacy planning plays a role in the process, and how to engage staff in a daylong training curriculum. Trainees will learn to better address advance care planning needs and how to have a richer more comprehensive conversation with their patients about these very important issues. Presenters have many years of experience addressing advance care planning with patients, teaching these skills to their colleagues, and supervising other social workers as they learn to better address these needs. Target audience will be any social workers and/or supervisors who work with oncology patients in a health care setting.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Pre-Conference Morning Workshop
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)

An Overview of Veterans in Cancer Care, From Diagnosis to End-of-Life
Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, LCSW, FAOSW; Louisa Daratsos, PhD, LCSW; Alba Lopez, DSW, LCSW

Summary: Many oncology social workers do not assess for military history and are not aware of a patient’s veteran identity. While there is literature about negative outcomes of military service such as PTSD, homelessness, suicide risk and substance abuse, less discussed is the impact military service and veteran’s identity may have on how one experiences a cancer. Becoming aware of veterans and the service-related exposures that put veterans at risk for certain cancers is an essential part of an oncology social worker’s competence. Further there is a need to develop skills to enhance the quality of life for veterans who may bring more than just a cancer diagnosis to the treatment center. This Pre-Conference Workshop will review the latest research on veteran identity and help participants apply the findings to oncology social work practice. The Workshop will enhance skills specific to conducting assessments with veterans as well as how access the myriad of resources, including mental health, PTSD, substance abuse and suicide prevention. When social workers appreciate why there is an emphasis on the veteran population, their efforts to bring veteran centered care into their practice will improve.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Veterans, Special Populations
Presentation Level: Intermediate

I am grateful for AOSW and honored to have been chosen as a scholarship recipient. We often face challenges in our field of work so it is truly wonderful to be part of a community that supports and empowers one another.”
Geena Festa, LCSW
Pre-Conference Afternoon Workshop
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (4.0 CE)

Circles of Hope: A Large Group Model of Social Work Intervention
Nancy Cincotta, LCSW, MPhil

Summary: The goal of the workshop would be to enhance the participants comfort in engaging in the use of a large group model and will provide participants with a realistic understanding and portrayal of the group work process, its utility and how to work within the framework of large population-based models. The differences and similarities between small group and large group models will be part of the dialogue and existing literature in these areas will be reviewed. Particular skills and technique of this unique model of practice will be identified and explored. In defining “large” as group numbers ranging from 20-100 participants in the process, the large group’s unique value, its clinical strengths, and its value in oncology social work will be components of the framework of this presentation. The model’s impact in building and sustaining communities, and the many benefits which occur when such communities form will also be explored with examples in communities of families impacted by childhood cancer, bone marrow failure diseases and in bereaved communities. Reflections on the model, and perceptions of its utility will be portrayed through the voices of group participants.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Pre-Conference Afternoon Workshop
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (4.0 CE)

Sexual Health and the Oncology Social Worker’s Role: Lifespan, Ethical and Clinical Considerations
Jillian Bissar, LCSW-S

Summary: A didactic skill building interaction on the importance of self awareness, clinical and ethical considerations across the lifespan. Attendees will learn to address human sexuality and relational needs with a diverse clientele in an oncology care setting.

Course Designation: Ethics
Keywords: Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Introductory

First-Time Attendee/New Member Social
BYOB (Buy Your Own Beverage) Informal Networking Event
Join AOSW leaders at Rye Bar, the Raleigh Marriott’s signature bar. Indulge in a perfectly poured cocktail, craft beer or fine wine. Meet with friends and make new ones in our casually cool restaurant with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday.
Post-Conference Training Opportunity
The Children's Treehouse Foundation presents a special training workshop for professionals interested in launching CLIMB®, a psychosocial intervention, group-support program for children whose parents have cancer, at their cancer center.

**CLIMB® – Psychosocial Intervention Training Workshop Information and Registration:**

**Dates:** Friday – Sunday, June 12-14, 2020, up to 12.0 CEs available  
**Location:** Raleigh, North Carolina immediately following the AOSW Annual Conference

Since 2004, The Children’s Treehouse Foundation has been training oncology professionals to deliver CLIMB® to the children of their adult cancer patients. CLIMB® (Children’s Lives Include Moments of Bravery) is a psychosocial intervention, group-support program for children whose parents have cancer; children who are often overlooked in the cancer treatment conversation. By special arrangement this training is being made available immediately following the 2020 AOSW Annual Conference (separate registration required). The training runs Friday, June 12, beginning at 6:00 pm through Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 pm in Raleigh, NC. All meals included.

For more information and to register, please [CLICK HERE](#) or call Denis at (303) 322-1202.

**Please note: this is not affiliated with the AOSW Conference**

For more information, contact training@childrenstreehousefdn.org or find more information online.

Practice Intensive Speakers

**Oncology Social Work 101: Preparing to Launch and Flying Through the First Years**  
*Catherine Credeur, LMSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Dinah Foster, LCSW, OSW-C; Faren Frederick, LMSW*

**Summary:** This skill building, two-part practice intensive is an orientation to the field of psychosocial oncology and oncology social work career development. The target audience for this session are oncology social workers with three years or less in this niche field. Participants may be new graduates or practitioners shifting from another area of social work. The goals for this session are to provide a brief introduction to current trends and significant tasks in oncology social work, connect with oncology social workers in similar areas of practice for ongoing networking, and identify opportunities for self-care and career growth. Special attention will be given to working with underserved populations and the transference of prior experience and skills into oncology social work.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Self-Care  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Raising Your Ethical Antennae: An Interactive Crash Course in Identifying and Understanding Ethical Problems in Patient Care**  
*Jennifer Ballentine, MA; Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNAP, FAOSW*

**Summary:** Oncology social workers are uniquely positioned to uncover and help resolve ethical problems in patient care—but they often lack the necessary ethical theory, vocabulary, framework and practical tools to handle matters that just feel “icky.” While hospitals and some cancer care centers have ethics committees to undertake formal deliberations, many ethical issues arise in hallway conversations, at the bedside or on timeframes not conducive to formal processes. Having a comprehensible and easily recalled framework for recognizing, naming and understanding ethical issues as they arise are valuable skills for social workers in the oncology care setting, especially with respect to diverse and underserved patient populations. Specifically, attendees will learn how to define and identify “ethical” problems and distinguish them from other types of problems (clinical, administrative,
legal, etc.); use ethical principles to identify the core conflict in the ethical problem; discern and include cultural considerations; frame the “ethical question,” apply a basic understanding of major ethical frameworks to begin to develop a position; refer the issue to a supervisor, the interdisciplinary team, or ethics committee as appropriate. This workshop will provide early career and experienced social workers with an overview of health care ethics, applications for quality curative and palliative care, and useful tools for recognizing and defining ethical problems for the attention of the interdisciplinary team or ethics committee. Teaching methods include didactic presentation, flip-chart and worksheet-facilitated interactive exercises, presenter-facilitated large-group discussion, small group work and report-out, patient narratives and practice sessions.

**Course Designation:** Ethics  
**Keywords:** Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**The State of Pain: Reducing Barriers and Increasing Access to Effective Evidence-Informed Cancer Pain Management**  
Yvette Colón, PhD, ACSW, BCD, FNAP, LMSN, FAOSW; Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNAP, FAOSW; Terry Altilio, MSW, ACSW, LCSW

**Summary:** Pain is a common occurrence in cancer, affected by a variety of biological, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural factors. Most oncology social workers work with patients and families whose lives have been touched by pain and may not have training and skills to provide effective psychosocial interventions to reduce the multidimensional impacts of pain. This workshop is designed to help oncology social workers identify historical and current barriers to managing pain and relieving suffering, including the racial and gender disparities that continue to impact care. Managing pain in collaboration with interprofessional colleagues requires an understanding of ethical challenges and the current political and public policy landscape surrounding pain management and opioid use. This landscape makes access more complex, demanding expert assessment and treatment plans to maximize effectiveness, with attention to structures to enhance safe prescribing. Participants will gain an awareness of available evidence-informed psychological interventions for cancer pain management, including interactive guided imagery and relaxation. Tools such as journals and diaries will be introduced, both to inform assessment and enrich therapeutic outcomes. Participants will review demonstrations and key components of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) that can be used to help patients and families cope with and reduce pain. Information about basic and advanced training for these interventions, continuing education opportunities, and professional resources will be provided. Additionally, this workshop will reinforce pain management as an expected knowledge base in oncology social work.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
**Mind the Gap: Building Advocacy Skills to Cross the Line Between Clinical and Policy Practice**

Sarah Conning, LCSW, OSW-C; Michael Grignon, LMSW, CCM, MBA; Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW; Maureen Rigney, LICSW; Katie Tremel, LCSW, OSW-C; Sean Powell, LCSW, CCM, OSW-C; Leena Nehru, LCSW, OSW-C

**Summary:** The imperative to promote social justice is a defining feature of the social work profession. Viewing individuals within the context of their social environment and supporting them with interventions that span micro, meso and macro levels is both the genius of social work and a sorely needed corrective in our health care system. Yet strong forces within our training, employment and professional development create a divide between clinical and policy practice. Recognizing that the 2020 AOSW Annual Conference will take place during a presidential election season in which health and social welfare policies are likely to be widely debated, this panel presentation will include a health policy briefing and overview of current focus issues identified by major cancer advocacy organizations. Participants will review and practice advocacy skills that can be used right away, including identifying policy implications of individual cases, helping patients tell their stories, communicating with decisionmakers, and engaging with advocacy coalitions. We will critically examine the “gap” that persists between clinical and policy practice in order to identify barriers and opportunities to better fulfill our advocacy mission, both individually and collectively. Participants in this session will help to inform and shape AOSW’s advocacy agenda by engaging in critical analysis and discussion, together with members of the Advocacy Committee, of this crucial dimension of our profession.

**Course Designation:** Clinical

**Keywords:** Advocacy

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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**Staying Grounded in the Midst of Turbulence: In-Person and Online Contemplative Psychotherapy Approaches in Cancer Care**

Thomas Pier, LCSW, OSW-C, CMF; Kerry Irish, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

**Summary:** Psychosocial and existential concerns in cancer care are nearly universal. Contemplative approaches addressing these concerns are rapidly growing in implementation. Contemplative approaches have the potential for mitigating existential distress, cultivating prognostic awareness, and fostering spiritual approaches to grieving and coping with advanced cancer (Blinderman & Schapiro, 2016). In light of this growing understanding, this presentation will explore contemplative approaches and interventions that enhance the client’s sense of meaning, purpose, and hope as well as resilience when facing the challenges of living with life-limiting illness. Since these concerns are not treatment location specific, oncology social workers are increasingly offering, and being encouraged to offer, contemplative approaches in cancer counseling using telehealth thereby increasing access considering distance and geography, mobility concerns, treatment demands, stigma, immediacy of need, lack of access for those in rural locations and the needs of other underserved populations. Competency and legal, ethical and HIPAA compliance in offering contemplative approaches, including use of online technologies, are critical to professional growth and clinical development. This clinical practice intensive centralizes the importance of bringing contemplative approaches into cancer care spaces and the community including specifically using online technologies. Benefits, efficacy, pros and cons, obstacles, legal, ethical and HIPAA compliance, platforms, methods, and practical considerations for integrating contemplative practice approaches into in-person and online cancer counseling services will be provided. Practical considerations such as needed equipment, engagement techniques, effective utilization, costs and platforms, training and practice, client assistance using online technologies, accurate documentation and other aspects of online therapy will be discussed.

**Course Designation:** Clinical

**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs

**Presentation Level:** Advanced
Bringing Sex into the Conversation: Understanding and Overcoming our own Biases of Differing Sexual Behaviors
Sage Bolte, Ph.D., LCSW, CST; Jennifer Bires, LICSW, OSW-C; Thomas Pier, LCSW, OSW-C, CMF

Summary: A Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR), often the cornerstone of sexual health trainings, use media, vignettes and other information to begin examining and understanding the many layers of our sexual attitudes and beliefs. This mini SAR will allow participants to begin to explore their own sexual health value system. Sexual health is a critical aspect of quality of life. Cancer and its treatments have both acute and chronic impact on a patient’s and partner’s sexual health (Flynn et al., 2011), yet this critical assessment and conversation is all too often overlooked in medical assessments (Arora et al., 2013; Bdair & Constantino, 2017; Nusbaum & Hamilton, 2002). Barriers to more challenging conversations like sexual health can certainly be environmental including real time constraints, but many of the major barriers are our own internal barriers – perceptions, assumptions, discomfort, misinformation and fear (Bdair & Constantino, 2017). To do this, it requires a level of comfort in raising the questions of sexual health along with a level of comfort in being open to whatever information or additional questions may arise once the topic is broached. This interactive presentation using didactic and experiential teaching methods, grounded in research and evidenced based interventions, will explore our own perceived and real barriers along with the discomforts we may experience in doing sexual health assessments so that we can be fully present and the best advocates for our patients and their sexual health and lead by example within our teams.

Course Designation: Cultural Competency
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Advanced

Welcome Breakfast/Meet the Leaders
Wednesday, June 5
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

All attendees are invited to attend our Welcome Breakfast with AOSW Leadership on Wednesday morning before the Awards Ceremony and Opening Keynote. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with the AOSW Board and learn how to get the most out of the conference and membership.

If you’re a first-time attendee, or you’re still getting your bearings, this will help welcome you to AOSW. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with the AOSW Board and Conference Committee and learn how to get the most out of the conference and membership. We want to meet and learn more about you!

Thank you so much. I have had a long and wonderful oncology career and have been very excited to have partnered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in so many ways. I cannot thank you enough for this recognition.”

Nancy Cincotta, LCSW, MPhil
Welcome & Awards Ceremony
Wednesday, June 10
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Each year, AOSW presents awards and scholarships to members of the Association who have made distinguished contributions to the field of oncology social work. Please join us as we present our 2020 AOSW Recognition Awards at the Opening Ceremony. Awards and scholarships being presented include:

- LLS-Hematology-Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award (sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)
- LLS Hematology/Oncology Social Worker Lifetime Achievement Award (sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)
- GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer Social Worker of the Year Award (sponsored by the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer)
- Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award (sponsored by Cancer Support Community)
- Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award (sponsored by the American Cancer Society)
- Naomi Stearns Scholarship
- Palliative Care and End-of-Life Scholarship

New Awards & Scholarships in 2020

This year we are also pleased to announce the inaugural GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award. GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer recognizes the work and importance of social workers in the lives of people at risk for lung cancer, those diagnosed and their loved ones. This award, given annually, recognizes dedication to the lung cancer community and field of oncology social work. The award comes with a $1,500 stipend that covers conference registration, hotel/airfare, and membership fees for non-members.

We are also pleased to announce the inaugural AOSW Volunteer of the Year Award. This Award is given to an AOSW member who has volunteered for the association. Only committee members and board members are eligible to nominate candidates for this award. The award comes with a $1,000 stipend that covers conference registration and hotel/airfare.

Finally, this year is the inaugural year for the Kim Lawson Scholarship Fund. Established to honor AOSW President Kim Lawson, this $1,000 scholarship defrays the cost of conference attendance for an AOSW member who has demonstrated commitment to the profession, including pursuing a PhD or DSW as part of their professional development. The scholarship is supported through generous donations of supporters, including our own members.

“I am thrilled and honored to be a recipient of an AOSW Conference Scholarship. Attending the AOSW conference is a one of the most valuable ways that I connect with colleagues and stay abreast of developments in our profession. AOSW keeps me inspired and informed. I couldn’t do my job without it.”

Jena Cooreman, LCSW, OSW-C
AOSW Fellows

History
In 2017 the AOSW Board of Directors established the honorary status of Fellow for the Association. The Inaugural Class of AOSW Fellows, consisting of AOSW Past Presidents, was announced in 2018.

AOSW Fellowship recognizes and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of psychosocial oncology. Membership in the Fellowship is not purely honorific, however: it carries an expectation of ongoing contributions to and leadership within the AOSW

2020 AOSW Fellows
AOSW is pleased to announce their 2020 Fellows:

Lynn Behar, PhD, MSW, FAOSW
Lynn Behar has been an Oncology Social Worker for over 30 years, receiving her MSW and PhD from the University of Washington. Her work spans a wide range of clinical, supervisory, academic, research, administrative and consulting roles. Lynn is co-editor of the Handbook of Oncology Social Work: Psychosocial Care for People with Cancer, Oxford University Press. She is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Psychosocial Oncology. At the University of Washington School of Social Work, Lynn and her husband, Howard, founded the Center for Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work. Lynn has been a member of the Association of Oncology Social Work for 34 years, serving on the Board of Directors for nine years, chairing the annual conference in 2012 in Atlanta, and serving on many committees. She was a co-author of the AOSW Social Work Guide to Conducting Research in Psychosocial Oncology. She was awarded the American Cancer Society’s Oncology Social Work Leadership Award by AOSW.

Yvette Colón, PhD, BCD, FAOSW
For 30 years, Dr. Yvette Colón has provided bilingual (English/Spanish) social work services in a variety of oncology, pain management, and end-of-life care nonprofit settings.

She has been an AOSW member for over 30 years. In that time, she has served on many committees as well as the Board of Directors. She was a Regional Director, leader of several SIGs, and coordinator of the AOSW Cancer Survivors Network 1999-2019.

Currently, she serves as editorial board member of the Journal of Pain & Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy and the Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care.

She is a founding board member of The Pain Community and serves as its volunteer Director of Education and Research. She has taught, lectured, and published extensively on psychosocial oncology, pain management, end-of-life social work practice, diversity, LGBT-affirmative practice, and technology-based social work services.

Dr. Colón holds a master’s degree in clinical social work from Smith College School for Social Work, a Ph.D. in clinical social work from New York University, and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University.
Julianne S. Oktay, MSW, PhD, FAOSW
Dr. Oktay received her MSW and PhD from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She served as a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Social Work from 1978 - 2013, retiring as a Professor Emeritus. She has done research on the experience of women with breast cancer (Breast Cancer in the Life Course, 1991; Breast Cancer; Daughters Tell Their Stories, 2005), family aspects of fatigue following breast cancer, and distress screening. Dr. Oktay recently served as Research Director for AOSW, and is currently a member of the Research Committee. Dr. Oktay has made numerous presentations to AOSW conferences. She is now Research Correspondent to the Navigator and helped develop the Oncology Social Work Intervention Index Practice Version (OSWii).

Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNAP, FAOSW
Shirley’s career is dedicated to enhancing excellence in the delivery of contextualized care to address the symptoms and stress of serious illness. Her education, research and consultation efforts have led her to become a sought-after speaker on quality-of-life, palliative care and transformational leadership. As Principal Investigator on studies with over $3.5 million in external funding, her work has been disseminated through more than 100 publications and 500 professional presentations. She is a California Health Care Foundation Leadership Fellow, a Fellow of both the Association of Oncology Social Work and National Academies of Practice and is a National Association of Social Workers Pioneer. Shirley was among the first to receive an international, interprofessional Master of Arts in Health Research/Palliative Care from Lancaster University in Great Britain, and is co-editor of the Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work.

Opening Keynote Address
Wednesday, June 10
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Vicki Kennedy, LCSW, FAOSW, FAPOS
Vicki Kennedy is Executive Director, Oncology Strategy and Patient Engagement for Cullari Communications Global. Her extensive clinical and research experience with a focus in distress screening, shared decision-making, program development and survivorship provides a foundation for transformational strategies that address value, improved quality of life and health outcomes. Previously, she served as Vice President of Program Development and Delivery for the Cancer Support Community. An oncology social worker for well over three decades, she is dedicated to ensuring that evidence-based psychosocial care is integral to the oncology eco-system. As Past-President of AOSW and Immediate Past-President of APOS, Vicki Kennedy was awarded AOSW’s Quality of Life in Cancer Award and recently inducted into AOSW and APOS Fellowship programs. A notable speaker and visionary, Vicki Kennedy is committed to inspiring psychosocial oncology professionals to be passionate leaders and change-agents in cancer care.
Lunch Panel Symposium: Medical Aid in Dying

Wednesday, June 10
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Featuring:
Death with Dignity: A Work in Progress
Leora Lowenthal, LICSW, OSW-C; Michelle Miscione, PhD, LCSW

Summary: In 1984, the year that the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) was founded, there was no place in the United States where one could legally request a physician’s aid in dying. Today, the following states and Washington, DC, have “death with dignity” statutes: California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawai’i, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. In many respects it is the dawning of a new age in medicine and yet, as the authors will demonstrate, access to a dignified death may still be out of reach for patients who meet all the qualifying criteria. One reason for this is financial; a dignified death may be legally available but prohibitively expensive. Another reason may be the physical abilities or limitations of the patient. As the availability of physician-assisted death impacts an ever-increasing number of cancer patients, it is essential for OSWs to have a thorough understanding of the statutes as well as the many practical obstacles patients may encounter. The authors will focus on the state of Colorado where on November 8, 2016, voters passed Proposition 106, the End of Life Options Act. The authors will provide an overview of the Act along with a review of the definitions provided for many of the terms specified. They will further provide case examples of patients who have successfully used this option along with examples of patients who wished to but could not. Finally they will offer recommendations of how to manage some of the most common practical and ethical quandaries.

Course Designations: Ethics
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life
Presentation Level: Intermediate

The Clinical Consultant: A Model for Increasing Patient Access to Aid in Dying
Rebecca LoMonaco, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Since Death with Dignity passed into law in Oregon in 1997, aid-in-dying has gained increasing availability with 22 percent of the population in the United States having legal access by October 2019 (Span, 2019). In Buchbinder’s (2018) study of the implementation of Vermont’s aid-in-dying legislation, two of the key barriers to accessing this end of life option were locating a participating physician, and finding accurate and comprehensive information for patients and physicians. The University of California, Los Angeles Health System thoughtfully created an implementation process and policy that includes psychologists and social workers serving as Clinical Consultants, or “experts,” on the process providing education on end of life care and advance care planning options including aid-in-dying, as well as psychosocial assessment and psychological support. For oncology social work, this is particularly impactful as in 2018 alone 68.8 percent of the patients who ingested an aid-in-dying drug under the Act had a cancer diagnosis (CDPH, 2018). In this field, our duty is not only to increase access and education, but also to work to improve the experience of end-of-life care and death. In a unique way, Clinical Consultants create space for important conversations about the dying individual’s wishes, communication with loved ones, legacy building, and bereavement that often ease the burden of grief. This discussion details the requirements and skills of Clinical Consultants as part of UCLA’s process as well as intended and unintended outcomes resulting from engaging in these highly meaningful conversations with patients, families and health care providers.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keyword: Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life
Presentation Level: Introductory
Opening Reception/Silent Auction/Poster Session

Wednesday, June 10
Exhibit Hall
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Join us in the Exhibit Hall to enjoy networking over light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar while your colleagues present their posters during in a collegial atmosphere. The top three posters will receive a cash award! Don’t miss this great networking and educational session.

Breakfast with the Exhibitors

Thursday, June 11
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Clinical Practice Intensive Sessions

Thursday, June 11
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (Part I)
10:30 a.m. – Noon (Part II)

AOSW Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, June 11
General Session Room
Noon – 12:30 p.m.

The 2020 Board of Directors invites all conference participants to attend the Annual Business Meeting to for an overview of AOSW’s major initiatives. This is an ideal opportunity for AOSW members to join with friends and colleagues and experience the collective power of our efforts and expertise. Don’t miss it!

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for choosing me to receive this scholarship to attend the 2019 AOSW Conference. I am the first and only social worker at Baptist Health Cancer Center in Lexington and I started the social work program from the ground up over the last two years. I have attended one of these conferences before and found it to be a very valuable opportunity to meet other social workers from across the country, as well as to brainstorm new programmatic ideas with them. I look so forward to the networking with other social workers who may be from a similar sized hospital to see what works for them. It is difficult being the only oncology social worker and I look forward to meeting new colleagues for this reason.”

Angie Pennington, MSW, CSW, OSW-C
AOSW’s Quality of Life in Cancer Care Award Ceremony & Lecture

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society
Thursday, June 11
General Session Room
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, this chosen awardee and speaker maintains an exemplary record of publication, presentation and direct service provision that reflects a commitment to quality of life for all cancer survivors, and has a demonstrated record of innovation/collaboration in enhancing quality of life for cancer patients and their families. This year AOSW has selected former AOSW President Penny Damaskos, as the 2020 AOSW Quality of Life in Cancer Care Award recipient.

ACS’ support and generosity have greatly impacted past award recipients and our entire organization. AOSW thanks American Cancer Society for their ongoing support!

Penny Damaskos, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW
Penny is the Director of Social Work and Chaplaincy at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Penny started her career at MSK and has served as an oncology social worker there and at other area hospitals for more than 25 years. She graduated with her master’s from New York University’s Silver School of Social Work and received her PhD degree from Yeshiva University. She was the recipient of an American Cancer Society Doctoral Training Grant to support her doctoral studies that focused on the presence of resilience in oncology social work. Penny co-authored several chapters in the Oxford Handbook of Oncology Social Work on cancer survivorship, supervision of oncology social workers and building programs for resilience in an institutional setting. Penny served as the president of the Association of Oncology Social Work and is the recipient of several awards: the Association of Oncology Social Work’s Leadership in Oncology Social Work as well as an AOSW Fellow, the Project of Death in America, (PDIA) Career Achievement Award and the Health Care Chaplaincy Network’s Wholeness of Life award.

Closing Keynote Address

Friday, June 12
11:00 a.m. – Noon

Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, BCD, FAOSW
Krista Nelson is an oncology social worker who received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington, and her master of social work from Portland State University. She has been a part of the Providence Health & Services oncology since 1997 providing psychosocial care to those with cancer and their families. She has specialized in many cancers over the years and is interested in the effect of cancer on the family. Krista is a past President of the AOSW Board of Directors and past invited Director of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS). She has been a speaker at local and national conferences on issues of survivorship, palliative care, breast and lung cancer, distress screening and children who have a parent with cancer. In 2015, Krista was named as a finalist in the Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver of the year award and received and Innovation Award from the Association of Community Cancer Centers and was elected to their Board of Trustees in 2016.
### Conference-at-a-Glance*

*Schedule subject to change  
**These sessions are ineligible for CEs

**Tuesday, June 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference Registration Open**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – Noon</td>
<td>Half-Day Pre-Conference Workshops (4.0 CE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ACS Doctoral Institute** (Invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Half-Day Pre-Conference Workshops (4.0 CE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AOSW First Time Attendee/New Member Reception**</td>
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**Wednesday, June 10**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference Registration Open**</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>SIG Leaders and State Reps Meeting**</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>First-Time Attendee/New Member Breakfast with AOSW Leaders &amp; Exhibitors**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Awards Ceremony**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>General Session: Opening Keynote Address (Vicki Kennedy, LCSW, FAOSW, FAPOS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Paper Session I (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Paper Session II (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch Panel I: Medical Aid in Dying</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Networking &amp; Presentations put on by the SIGs (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Networking &amp; Presentations by the SIGs (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Paper Session III (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Reception, Exhibits, Poster Session &amp; Silent Auction**</td>
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"This conference is a valuable opportunity to learn more about enhancing our amazing, dynamic work with cancer patients and families."

Courtney Vastine, LMSW, OSW-C Baylor College of Medicine
# Conference-at-a-Glance*

*Schedule subject to change  
**These sessions are ineligible for CEs

## Thursday, June 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference Registration Open**</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast &amp; Exhibits**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Posters Displayed in Exhibit Hall**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Clinical Practice Intensive Session Part I (6 concurrent sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. – Noon</td>
<td>Clinical Practice Intensive Session Part II (6 concurrent sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AOSW Business Meeting (General Session room, over lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ACS Quality of Life Award Ceremony &amp; Lecture (Penny Damaskos, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Learning Institute/Paper Symposia I (7 concurrent sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Learning Institute/Paper Symposia I (7 concurrent sessions)</td>
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## Friday, June 12

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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>AOSW Registration Open**</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Paper Session IV (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Paper Session V (5 concurrent sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Keynote Speaker (Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, BCD, FAOSW)</td>
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</table>
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**indicates session is ineligible for CEs

KEYWORDS:
LI = Learning Institute
PS = Paper Symposium
P = Paper
PO = Poster
S = SIG Presentation (CEs attached)
PI = Clinical Practice Intensive

Tuesday, June 9
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Registration Open**

Pre-Conference Workshops
8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)

The Art of Writing for Publication
Daniela Wittmann, PhD, LMSW; Karen Kayser, PhD, MSW

Summary: Publishing articles and reviewing manuscripts for journals are not only important professional activities for social workers but also shape the science that is published, disseminates evidence-based interventions into practice, and gives voice to research participants and patients. Most early-career professionals and doctoral students receive little training on how to write for journals and how to review for peer-reviewed journals. Even seasoned professionals may wonder about the publication process and what reviewers are looking for in a good manuscript. This workshop aims to address these obstacles to writing. This will take the participants through the publishing process, from initial writing of a manuscript, submission to a journal through the revise-and-resubmit phase on to publication. It will focus on 1) how to write a variety of articles (original research, case study, book review, or commentary) and 2) how to be a peer reviewer for a journal in psychosocial oncology. Participants will learn the specific things that editors look for in a good review. They will also learn how to write a good response to a revise and resubmit decision. Ethical considerations related to plagiarism and human subjects in research will be addressed. The intensive will be interactive with worksheets to assist participants in developing a writing project. Handouts of recommended readings, examples of reviews, and tip sheets will be given to participants.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Research, Education
Presentation Level: Advanced

OUTLINE:
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Overview of publishing process and types of articles, including original research, case-study, book review or commentary

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
1) How to be a peer reviewer for a journal in psychosocial oncology
   - Publication and dissemination of evidence-based practice in psychosocial oncology.
   - How social work practitioners and researchers to write for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
   - How social workers play an important role in writing and reviewing manuscripts by shaping the science that is published.

10:30 a.m. – Noon.
1) Critique and write a review of a manuscript, using a validated checklist, in AOSW’s Journal of Psychosocial Oncology.
   - How the articles relate to direct services to clients, individuals, families, and groups.

8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)
Advance Care Planning: Implementing an Educational Program to Improve ACP Discussion with Oncology Patients and Families
Annabelle Bitter, MSW, LCSW; Teresa van Oort, MHA, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Mark Anderson, JD, LMSW

Summary: The Social Work Department at MD Anderson has created a staff-training curriculum designed to enhance overall understanding of the process of Advance Care Planning, the documents involved in the process and legacy planning discussions. We will explore what Advance Care Planning encompasses, the documents often involved in these conversations, how legacy planning plays a role in the process, and how to
engage staff in a daylong training curriculum. Trainees will learn to better address advance care planning needs and how to have a richer more comprehensive conversation with their patients about these very important issues. Presenters have many years of experience addressing advance care planning with patients, teaching these skills to their colleagues, and supervising other social workers as they learn to better address these needs. Target audience will be any social workers and/or supervisors who work with oncology patients in a health care setting.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**OUTLINE:**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- How to engage patients and families in Advance Care Planning through exploring patient’s readiness to discuss advance care planning, education around the various aspects of advance care planning

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Participants will gain a better understanding of the Advance Care Planning process throughout the oncology patient’s disease cycle (new diagnosis, disease progression, remission, end of life and legacy planning).

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Participants will gain knowledge through education and interactive discussion regarding their beliefs about Advance Care Planning, and ethical implications when teaching others Advance Care Planning techniques.

11:00 a.m. – Noon.
- Participants will learn how to design a similar Advance Care Planning educational program for their departments.

8:00 a.m. – Noon (4.0 CE)
**An Overview of Veterans in Cancer Care, From Diagnosis to End-of-Life**  
*Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, LCSW, FAOSW; Louisa Daratsos, PhD, LCSW; Alba Lopez, DSW, LCSW*

**Summary:** Many oncology social workers do not assess for military history and are not aware of a patient’s veteran identity. While there is literature about negative outcomes of military service such as PTSD, homelessness, suicide risk, and substance abuse, less discussed is the impact military service and veteran’s identity may have on how one experiences a cancer. Becoming aware of veterans and the service-related exposures that put veterans at risk for certain cancers is an essential part of an oncology social worker’s competence. Further there is a need to develop skills to enhance the quality of life for veterans who may bring more than just a cancer diagnosis to the treatment center. This Pre-Conference Workshop will review the latest research on veteran identity and help participants apply the findings to oncology social work practice. The Workshop will enhance skills specific to conducting assessments with veterans as well as how access the myriad of resources, including mental health, PTSD, substance abuse and suicide prevention. When social workers appreciate why there is an emphasis on the veteran population, their efforts to bring veteran centered care into their practice will improve.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Veterans, Special Populations  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**OUTLINE:**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- The foundations of working with veterans and the resources available to them. Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of specific populations.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Address mental health, PTSD, homelessness and suicide risk as these challenges relate to veterans. Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental, emotional or behavioral disorder, condition and/or addictions

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Importance of including veteran status in the psychosocial oncology assessment

11:00 a.m. – Noon.
- Identify resources and interventions to facilitate connecting veterans to potentially eligible veteran services; formulate a veteran-centered treatment plan.
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
American Cancer Society Doctoral Institute Emerging Scholars Program (invitation-only)**
Each year the Society receives approximately 1,500 grant requests. All undergo rigorous, independent peer review to identify the most meritorious projects for funding. The Society offers extramural support for research and training. ACS awardees meet annually at the ACS Social Work Doctoral Institute, which in 2020 will be hosted for the first time at the AOSW Conference. This event is invitation only and does not have CE attached to it. For more information, please contact Stella Jones at stella.jones@cancer.org.

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Circles of Hope: A Large Group Model of Social Work Intervention
Nancy Cincotta, LCSW, MPhil

Summary: The goal of the workshop would be to enhance the participants comfort in engaging in the use of a large group model and will provide participants with a realistic understanding and portrayal of the group work process, its utility and how to work within the framework of large population-based models. The differences and similarities between small group and large group models will be part of the dialogue and existing literature in these areas will be reviewed. Particular skills and technique of this unique model of practice will be identified and explored. In defining “large” as group numbers ranging from 20-100 participants in the process, the large group’s unique value, its clinical strengths, and its value in oncology social work will be components of the framework of this presentation. The model’s impact in building and sustaining communities, and the many benefits which occur when such communities form will also be explored with examples in communities of families impacted by childhood cancer, bone marrow failure diseases and in bereaved communities. Reflections on the model, and perceptions of its utility will be portrayed through the voices of group participants.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate

OUTLINE:
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
➤ Understanding the dynamics of group work: The group work model will be explored for its utility in serving families at all different stages of oncology treatment.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
➤ Enhance skills and comfort in using a large group work modality in their practice. The model is used to help families facing the many issues they encounter in their oncology experience.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
➤ How to use this model effectively in oncology social work practice.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
➤ How to manage difficult issues which emerge in this group work modality.

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sexual Health and the Oncology Social Worker’s Role: Lifespan, Ethical and Clinical Considerations
Jillian Bissar, LCSW-S

Summary: This presentation will define the social work role when addressing sexuality with clients. We will utilize evidence based practices to discuss the importance of self-awareness and the ethical considerations social workers need to be cognizant of when working with clients across the lifespan with various disabilities, religions, cultural backgrounds and sexual identities. Building upon that foundation we will explore tools that will assist social workers with interacting with clients to address human sexuality. Social workers will be equipped to address human sexuality with various clientele. Attendees will be provided tools to assist them with incorporating discussions on sexuality into their practice. Through skill building activities they will practice these skills and become more comfortable with the terminology and techniques. This is a four-hour presentation that targets mental health providers who work with clients.
who have sex (or clients who don’t). This will be a didactic interaction that will include PowerPoint, small group interactions and large group debrief to address questions. The presentation will be facilitated by a Social Worker who has been working with clients and addressing sexual health needs and relational needs in the community for over 10 years.

**Course Designation:** Ethics  
**Keywords:** Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**OUTLINE:**

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
▷ A didactic skill building interaction on the importance of self-awareness, clinical and ethical considerations across the lifespan. Attendees will learn to address human sexuality and relational needs with a diverse clientele in an oncology care setting.  
  - Define social work role when addressing human sexuality and relational needs with clients.  
  - Explore key factors in addressing sexuality and relational needs across the lifespan.  
  - Develop skills for addressing sexual health with clients including cultural considerations.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
▷ Social work values and ethics will be addressed through small group exercises examining case scenarios and utilizing an ethical decision making to address the issues. Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental, emotional or behavioral disorder, condition and or/ addictions will be addressed through discussion on tools and theories relating to sexual health/sexuality and relationship issues. Participants will be exposed to assessment tools and also the latest interventions and knowledge about sexual health dysfunction, and treatment as well as relational stresses and therapeutic interventions.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
▷ Participants will be asked to examine their own views and biases regarding the subject matter and will be exposed to inclusive, sex positive ways to approach clinical work with clients around sexual health and relational needs. Participants will be exposed to screening and assessment tools that assist in identifying sexual health and relational stresses. They will practice utilizing tools for conducting assessment with clients and will also be exposed to evidenced based theories of practice to address client needs with dysfunction and or coping relating to sexuality/sexual health and relationships.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
▷ Participants will be asked to look at ethical considerations surrounding this subject matter with clients and examine the systems in which we practice and how these systems either enhance or hinder addressing client sexual health and relational needs. They will be asked to consider ways they can advocate or influence systems to better address client needs surrounding sexual health and relationships.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**First-Time Attendee/New Member Social**  
**BYOB (Buy Your Own Beverage) Informal Networking Event**

Join AOSW leaders at **Rye Bar**, the Raleigh Marriott’s signature bar. Indulge in a perfectly poured cocktail, craft beer or fine wine. Meet with friends and make new ones in our casually cool restaurant with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday.
Wednesday, June 10
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Conference registration Open**

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
SIG Leaders and State Reps Meeting**

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
First-Time Attendee/New Member Breakfast with AOSW Leaders & Exhibitors**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Posters displayed in the Exhibit Hall**

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
General Session: Welcome and Awards/Fellows Ceremony**

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
General Session: Opening Keynote Address
Oncology Social Work: A Flight of Transcendence in New Era of Cancer Care
Vicki Kennedy, LCSW, FAOSW, FAPOS
Summary: The advent of precision medicine and the ensuing lightning-fast evolution of treatment comes at a time when our healthcare eco-system is in crisis. A diminishing workforce and the overwhelming influx of patients and survivors is testing the limits of our professional skills and institutional resources. And yet, we continue to do what we’ve always done in delivering psychosocial care including being frustrated that it never seems enough or valued as essential.

As a new decade of cancer care takes flight, how will we as oncology social workers step forward to shape quality cancer care? What can we learn from the science of flying to pilot our work with rational, yet aspirational determination to make the 2020s a decade of transcendence for people impacted by cancer and for our profession? While flying takes us up, over and beyond our present, we will explore a game-changing flight plan that will fill us with excitement, exhilaration and fear. The proverbial idea that the journey is more important than the destination only works if we find meaning, wonder and awe along the way. Welcome aboard and fasten your seatbelts. Turbulence and new possibilities lie ahead!

Course Designation: Clinical

Keywords: Professional Issues
Presentation Level: Intermediate

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Paper Session I (5 concurrent sessions)

P101 Forgiveness: Exploring Its Power and Complexities
Debra Mattison, LMSW, OSW-C
Summary: The diagnosis of a life-threatening illness such as cancer impacts the wholeness of one’s being and often triggers a deep reflection of one’s lived-life, both past and present. Many explore regrettable choices made and opportunities not taken, leaving them with a sense of remorse and self-blame. Others may find themselves pondering wrongs done to them as well as injuries they have caused others which have been carried with great costs for many years. Still others may seek to “make it right” and find closure as they face progressive disease and eventual death. Forgiveness has emerged in the current literature as a complex concept which can both support health and well-being and also result in further injury for those who are unable to achieve the reconciliation for which they hoped. As oncology social workers, we need to demonstrate awareness of the emerging literature regarding the impact of forgiveness on total health. We must also be able to demonstrate practice skills in assisting patients in navigating the complexities of both seeking to receive and offer forgiveness to self and others. This Spirituality SIG session will explore definitions of forgiveness and its relevance to our patients as they seek to address complex emotions intertwined with forgiveness such as profound grief, deep hate, debilitating self-blame, oppression in feeling forced to forgive and moral injury in evaluating one’s lived-life. Practical forgiveness-focused interventions will also be presented. We will also explore our own potential need to give or receive forgiveness in our professional lives.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate
**P102**

How We Built This: Utilizing Clinical and Administrative Social Work to Build a Comprehensive AYA Program  
Wendy Griffith, LCSW, OSW-C

**Summary:** Organizations interested in building AYA programming (as well as the patients whom the programming is for) benefit most from engaging strong oncology social workers who can effectively utilize both their clinical and administrative skill sets. In a purely clinical role, oncology social workers are critical multidisciplinary team members. They have the knowledge and skills required to build rapport with AYA patients (and caregivers) and identify needs that often are not verbalized by this age group. They also have the counseling, advance care planning, and resource linkage skills necessary to address AYA patient needs in a meaningful way. From an administrative perspective, many oncology social workers also have the communication, problem-solving and organizational skills needed to be successful program managers. Assuming this role, we can effectively unite multidisciplinary teams under a common goal, advocate for the needs of AYA patients on larger systems levels, and lead the programming necessary to improve the lives of AYA patients and caregivers. This presentation will outline the structure and organization of a large comprehensive AYA Program (which includes a support group, young adult advisory council, young adult conference, annual scholarship program, annual young adult retreat, and an AYA Clinic staffed by medical and psychosocial providers), discuss the role of an oncology social worker as the program manager (including development, reporting, outreach, marketing, etc.), explore lessons learned, and briefly review national AYA resources that are helpful for clinicians and patients.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Adolescent and Young Adult, Leadership/Administration  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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**P103**

AOSW Leadership Creates Quality Improvement in Advance Care Planning  
Jane Dabney, LISW-S, OSW-C

**Summary:** “Advanced care planning (ACP) in hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (HSCT) is challenging, given the potential for cure despite increased morbidity and mortality risk.” (Wang, W. S. et al, 2017). As primary providers of psychosocial care in oncology, social workers are poised to lead the care team in establishing training and provision of Advanced Care Planning discussions. A multidisciplinary committee, led and developed by social work, was created to address improving quality of care provided to patients and families in regards to advance care planning. Three main strategic areas of focus were identified to meet this goal. 1) Creating and implementing a needs assessment (survey) 2) training to improve the quality and comfort level of team members with ACP and GOC discussions and 3) Creation of formal workflow, structure and timing of family meetings. A confidential, fourteen question survey was created and administered with the clinical team which elicited feedback about perceptions of our approach to ACP, the comfort level of discussing goals of care, prognosis, and code status. Also assessed were current knowledge base and prior training of the respondent. The importance of holding proactive family meetings rather than reactive family meetings and triggers to indicate a need for a family meeting were identified. The committee model, survey creation and content, training program, and ACP meeting trigger workflow will be shared with participants in an effort increase access to strategies that can be easily replicated to provide compassionate discussions around advance care planning and goals of care with patients and families.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Interdisciplinary Care, Leadership/Administration  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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**P104**

If You Build It, They Will Come: The Process Improvement Project in Developing a Caregivers Support Group  
Nicole Peeke, MSW, LCSW, ACHP-SW; Michelle Rouse, MSW, LCSW; Emma Wolfe, MPH, CHES; Alejandra Muro, MSW, LCSW; Christine Rodriguez, MSW, ASW

**Summary:** Using a continuous improvement model, Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA), and psychological flexibility in program development, we have developed a support group informed by rigorous qualitative and qualitative methods and a post-group debrief. The PDSA model has been a successful tool to aid in the program
development process and provides a mechanism to evaluate mixed methods data. Just as caregiver roles often change requiring flexibility, the types of support indicated may fluctuate. Social workers by nature must remain open and psychologically flexible to the ever-changing needs of informal cancer caregivers (ICC’s). The group facilitators have come to rely on one concept: change is constant and groups change over time (Zastrow, 2009). It has always been the desire of the group’s founders to be of service to the social work community; ergo, the model has been documented and scripted for use by other clinicians with a desire to host a support group for caregivers. Borrowing from the NASW code of ethics, competence, we hope that other social workers can take our evidence-based model and use this to support caregivers in their facilities and community.

**Course Designation:** Cultural Competency  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Special Populations  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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**P105**  
**Achieving Patient-Centered Care: Updates in Policy, Practice and Research**  
*Brad Zebrack, PhD, MSW, MPH, FAOSW; Krista Nelson, LCSW, OSW-C, BCD FAOSW; Lisa Capparella, MSS, LCSW, OSW-C; Angela Williams, LCSW*

**Summary:** Efforts to develop and evaluate strategies that overcome barriers to the successful adoption and implementation of evidence-based interventions and changes in practice patterns has been recommended as an important means of promoting greater integration of psychosocial care into routine cancer care. Collaborative efforts are needed, not only across disciplines but also among social workers involved in clinical practice, research, and policy to ensure that psychosocial care becomes a consistent and universal reality for all persons affected by cancer. This presentation will include an update on Commission on Cancer guidelines for patient-centered care, with a focus on distress screening and survivorship care planning. It will highlight the important role that social workers can play to influence the uptake of psychosocial care at their own cancer centers. Presenters will provide concrete examples of strategies they have considered to improve uptake and implementation of psychosocial care services. The session will conclude with a discussion of prior efforts and new opportunities for oncology social workers to influence successful implementation of psychosocial care through an integration of research, practice, and policy.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Professional Issues, Distress/CoC  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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**P201**  
**Patient-Reported Lung Cancer Stigma Has Increased. Empathic Provider Communication Training May Help**  
*Maureen Rigney, MSW; Jennifer King, PhD*

**Summary:** Lung cancer stigma can result in multiple negative outcomes. In 2008, 200 lung cancer patients, 200 oncologists and 1000 members of the general public were surveyed about their attitudes towards lung cancer. Replicated in 2018, significant increases in patient-reported stigma, including from interactions with health care professionals, were found. A significant increase in patient belief that there is a stigma associated with having lung cancer and that lung cancer patients receive differential treatment by society compared to people with other types of cancer. One in three indicated experiencing differential treatment by medical staff compared to those with other types of cancer, up significantly from 2008. Cited as the biggest indicator was lack of sympathy. Can improving the empathic communication skills of health care professionals decrease patient-reported stigma experiences? To find out, the *Empathic Communication Skills Training Module to Reduce Lung Cancer Stigma in Patients Undergoing Treatment for Lung Cancer* was developed. With the aim of decreasing patient distress and enhancing effective provider communications, the two-hour training module includes a didactic presentation with video demonstrations and experiential role-play exercises with standardized patients. Participants learn specific
communication skills like providing a rationale for tobacco use discussions; normalizing, acknowledging and preparing patients for recurring smoking questions; and encouraging expression of feelings. Thus far, 28 physicians and advance practice clinicians have taken the training and given favorable ratings, reporting significantly increased self-efficacy in empathic communication skills. Patient outcomes are pending. Preliminary results indicate this promising empathic training module may be worthy of replication to other settings.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Disease Type (ovarian, lung, GYN, etc.), Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Introductory

P202
Services to Institution: Creating an Intentional Staff Support Program to Improve Patient Care and Staff Well-being
Billie Ferguson, LCSW-C; Nancy Piccicuto, LCSW-C

Summary: Oncology is a high-burnout specialty, with high rates of turnover and burnout in all levels of staff (Poulsen, Asaduzzaman, Poulsen, Khan, & Poulsen, 2016). Low work engagement, staff burnout and oncology provider turnover lower overall patient experience satisfaction and can compromise care, while higher levels of employee job satisfaction increases the patients’ positive perception of care (Bergman, Dellve, & Skagert, 2016; LeBlanc, Hox, Schaufeli, Taris, & Peeters, 2007; Paiva, Martins, & B., 2018; Wu, Singh-Carlson, Odell, Reynolds, & Yuhua, 2016). Factors that mitigate burnout and job dissatisfaction are: working in a supportive team environment; quality peer and supervisor support; work engagement, and effective communication (LeBlanc, Hox, Schaufeli, Taris, & Peeters, 2007; Poulsen, Asaduzzaman, Poulsen, Khan, & Poulsen, 2016; Wu, Singh-Carlson, Odell, Reynolds, & Yuhua, 2016). Oncology social workers can address the changing face of health care by investing in the health care team, creating programs to enhance mentorship and peer-support, improving cohesion in teams, and managing conflict. MedStar Health Cancer Network created a Staff Support Program Initiative, developed by Oncology Social Workers in conjunction with Administration. The program includes interventions and education based on management, leadership, social work, and psychology theories. The program has three main pillars: The Nursing Self-Care Series; Intentional Rounding; and a Network-Wide Team-Building Initiative. The presentation will discuss the rationale and background for the program, provide an overview of the programs’ contents, and discuss feedback, challenges, and successes we experienced as a network while implementing the program. Interactive and experiential activities drawn from our program will be conducted.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Leadership/Administration
Presentation Level: Intermediate

P203
Integrating Survivorship into the Oncology Social Work Practice Using Practical Evidence Based Tools
Kendolyn Shankle, LCSW; Teresa van Oort, MHA, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: This presentation will explore ways to enhance confidence in oncology social workers by learning how to integrate survivorship assessment, counseling and problem solving into daily practice. MD Anderson’s Social Work Department structure provides this opportunity to interact with patients in survivorship as part of an ongoing practice structure. Through open discussion, case studies, discussion of evidence-based tools and role-play this presentation will open a dialogue and provide necessary skills for oncology social workers to add to their practice.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Survivorship, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate

P204
Working with Refugees in the Cancer Setting: What Oncology Social Workers Need to Know
Nicole Herbst, MSSA, LSW

Summary: Given the current political climate regarding immigration, oncology social work practice with refugees resettled in the U.S. demands attention. Over the past three years, over 90,000 refugees were resettled in the United States due to conflict, violence and/or oppression. Cancer is a significant health
concern for refugees due to environmental, systemic, and cultural factors. Given their history of trauma, refugees are at high risk for anxiety, mood disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These comorbid mental health issues can easily be exacerbated by a cancer diagnosis. There is scant research available on the burden of cancer population among this population. Additionally, very little literature exists on social work practice with refugees in the oncology setting. Interest in learning more about social work practice with refugees in the oncology setting arose from recent challenges experienced while working with resettled refugees in an urban hospital-based community cancer center. A literature review was conducted to broaden knowledge of this subject. Although the refugee population is a diverse population in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational background and country of origin, they share some similarities that can help oncology social workers address not only health disparities but also the unique psychosocial concerns of this vulnerable minority population. A case study will be presented followed by a discussion that includes barriers to accessing cancer care among refugees, importance of addressing not only practical but mental health concerns of this group, and how social workers can use this new information to advocate for change.

**Course Designation:** Cultural Competency  
**Keywords:** Special Populations, Advocacy  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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**Expanding on the Ecotone: Navigating and Claiming the Messy, Beautiful and Sometimes Inconclusive Aspects of Our Work**  
*Lorelei Bonet, MSW, OSW-C*

**Summary:** The word “ecotone” is borrowed from biology and refers to a transitional area between two distinct and differing communities. An ecotone is a new environment born of the merging of two known environments, or spaces. It is rich in ecological variation, and it is totally unique. Patients, families, and institutions often shape the world as dichotomous—sick or healthy, discharged or admitted, interventions that are useful or useless. When I first became aware of the concept of an ecotone, even in biology, it reminded me very much of the work that we do, the forming of connections, the creation of new spaces of understanding and healing and what is possible when so many things feel impossible. I believe the future of social work does not lie in conforming to the dichotomy of the organization, but rather in cultivating a nuanced understanding of ambiguity and the richness that is necessary in the work we do. Healing cannot happen in the presence of rigidity, expectation or demands. In cancer, there is no win or lose, fail or succeed. There is only helping someone to live the best life they know how and trying to heal and make meaning as we walk with them. Let’s all learn to navigate this ecotone, tolerate uncertainty, enrich our work, and redefine who we are as professionals.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Self Care  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch Session I: Medical Aid in Dying Lunch Panel**

**FEATURING:**  
*Death with Dignity: A Work in Progress*  
*Leora Lowenthal, LICSW, OSW-C; Michelle Miscione, PhD, LCSW*

**Summary:** In 1984, the year that the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) was founded, there was no place in the United States where one could legally request a physician's aid in dying. Today, the following states and Washington, DC have “death with dignity” statutes: California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawai‘i, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. In many respects it is the dawning of a new age in medicine and yet, as the authors will demonstrate, access to a dignified death may still be out of reach for patients who meet all the qualifying criteria. One reason for this is financial; a dignified death may be legally available but prohibitively expensive. Another reason may be the physical abilities or limitations of the patient. As the availability of physician-assisted death impacts an ever-increasing number of cancer patients, it is essential for OSWs to have a thorough understanding of the statutes as well as the many practical obstacles patients may encounter. The authors will focus on the state of Colorado where on November 8, 2016, voters passed Proposition 106, the End of Life Options Act. The authors will provide an overview of the Act along with a review of the definitions
provided for many of the terms specified. They will further provide case examples of patients who have successfully used this option along with examples of patients who wished to but could not. Finally they will offer recommendations of how to manage some of the most common practical and ethical quandaries.

**Course Designations:** Ethics  
**Keywords:** Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

### The Clinical Consultant: A Model for Increasing Patient Access to Aid in Dying  
**Rebecca LoMonaco, LCSW, OSW-C**

**Summary:** Since Death with Dignity passed into law in Oregon in 1997, aid-in-dying has gained increasing availability with 22 percent of the population in the United States having legal access by October 2019 (Span, 2019). In Buchbinder’s (2018) study of the implementation of Vermont’s aid-in-dying legislation, two of the key barriers to accessing this end of life option were locating a participating physician, and finding accurate and comprehensive information for patients and physicians. The University of California, Los Angeles Health System thoughtfully created an implementation process and policy that includes psychologists and social workers serving as Clinical Consultants, or “experts,” on the process providing education on end of life care and advance care planning options including aid-in-dying, as well as psychosocial assessment and psychological support. For oncology social work, this is particularly impactful as in 2018 alone 68.8 percent of the patients who ingested an aid-in-dying drug under the Act had a cancer diagnosis (CDPH, 2018). In this field, our duty is not only to increase access and education, but also to work to improve the experience of end of life care and death. In a unique way, Clinical Consultants create space for important conversations about the dying individual’s wishes, communication with loved ones, legacy building, and bereavement that often ease the burden of grief. This discussion details the requirements and skills of Clinical Consultants as part of UCLA’s process as well as intended and unintended outcomes resulting from engaging in these highly meaningful conversations with patients, families, and health care providers.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keyword:** Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
**Networking & Presentations from AOSW SIGs**  
(5 concurrent sessions)

### S101  
**Ethics SIG Presentation**

**When a Member of the Health Care Team Becomes a Patient: Navigating the Complexity of Dual Relationships in Cancer Care**  
**Christina Bach, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Bryan Miller, LCSW, OSW-C; Katie Tremel, LCSW, OSW-C; Christina Ensinger, LSW**

**Summary:** One of the core values of social work practice is the importance of human relationships. When providing care to patients and their families, our work is centered around connection, sharing, trust, vulnerability and honesty. These relationships enhance the well-being of those we work with. Maintaining clarity about the nature, functions and goals of the relationship is fundamental to ethically sound social work practice. Our Code of Ethics provides an essential framework to guide these relationships and avoid boundary and role violations that can cloud the work and the relationship. When a member of our health care team—a part of our “work family”—is the patient, the relationship is automatically dual in nature. This duality is necessary and unavoidable. Duality in a relationship exists on a continuum. It can have positive aspects and, it also can provoke tension. Unanticipated challenges can arise. When providing care to a member of our team, we must be keenly aware of our sense of and use of self. We need to be aware of our own abilities, functions, and biases to provide optimal psycho-oncology support to our patients and our teams. This presentation will focus on four key areas: (1) clinical and interprofessional team practice skills, (2) policy development and administrative management, (3) navigating ethical gray space and (4) self-preservation/self-care. Through the use of case presentations, personal experiences, and theoretical examination we will attempt to navigate these stormy waters with an ethical lens. Our goal: improving delivery of care to all patients and supporting our interprofessional teams.

**Course Designation:** Ethics  
**Keywords:** Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
$102
Integrative Oncology SIG Presentation
Implementing and Evaluating a Complementary Massage and Reiki Clinic in a Supportive Oncology Setting
Lisa Capparella, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Symptom burden related to cancer treatment including, pain, fatigue, anxiety and depression can often lead to poorer outcomes for cancer patients. Integrative oncology seeks to improve the mind, body and spirit through providing non-pharmacologic, non-invasive, and non-surgical symptom relief. Integrative therapies including Reiki and oncology massage were implemented and evaluated to ease physical and emotional cancer symptoms in an urban cancer support center for patients and caregivers at a large NCI-designated hospital. Data from the study shows a significant decline in pain and anxiety after one session of mixed Reiki and oncology massage using a pre and post assessment tool and qualitative data collection.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Research, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Introductory

$103
Adolescent & Young Adult SIG Presentation
Supporting Young Adults with Metastatic Cancer: The Unique Role of Oncology Social Work
Lauren Broschak, MSW, LCSW; Erin Price, MSW, LGSW; Julia Leavitt, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: In recent years, awareness has been raised regarding the unique physical and psychosocial needs of young adult (YA) cancer patients (Knox et al. 2017). While more focus has been on the YA population, little research or clinical focus has been on YAs with advanced disease (Knox et al., 2017). Young adults with advanced cancers continue to describe feeling alone and forgotten, and with unmet and unrecognized needs (Lundquist & Berry, 2019). Even though many YAs experience disruption of developmental milestones, those diagnosed with metastatic cancer are faced with the reality that they may never attain these milestones (Zebrack & Isaacs, as cited in Lundquist & Berry, 2012), and grief adds a unique challenge to their cancer journey compared to other YAs (Lundquist & Berry, 2019). As a young adult, accepting the reality of a metastatic diagnosis is very difficult; “having a supportive space to process these challenges...allow(s) them to further explore their experience and come to terms with their personal reality” (Paul, 2018). As oncology social workers we are perfectly suited to recognize, address and educate other providers regarding the unique needs of this niche population of cancer patients. In this presentation, we will review how the needs of YAs with advanced disease differ from those without advanced cancers; the distress that providers tend to feel about young adults with metastatic disease; and how we can help these young patients process such a heavy diagnosis, including addressing mental health needs, relationships, developmental milestones, grief, legacy building and end of life.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Adolescent and Young Adult, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Intermediate

$104
Spirituality SIG Presentation
Listen Well: Integrating Spirituality in Psychosocial Cancer Care
Marie Lavigne, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Cancer can bring a lightning bolt of changes, including spiritual distress or awakening. Yet are we, as oncology social workers, ready to listen well to the how spirituality impacts patients? AOSW’s Spirituality SIG offers this session to engage attendees in defining spirituality, exploring opportunities for spiritual growth while alleviating existential angst. Through a series of clinical case studies across religions and spiritual beliefs, attendees will explore examples of meaning-centered interventions across the lifespan. Assessing for spirituality may involve formal tools or carefully selected questions and authentic presence to offer an invitation and turning points in meaning for patients and caregivers.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Interdisciplinary Care
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Sexuality SIG Presentation
Advancing Sexual Health Support for Oncology Patients Through Research: Developing and Testing Conceptual Frameworks for Sexual Recovery after Cancer Treatment.
Daniela Wittmann, PhD, LMSW

Summary: Sexual health continues to be a largely overlooked aspect of oncology care although its importance to patients has been demonstrated empirically. However, the process of sexual recovery after cancer treatment has remained somewhat mysterious. Interventions that have been developed and tested have not focused on how patients and partners move from experiencing sexual dysfunction to having satisfactory sex lives despite those dysfunctions. This presentation will showcase the interplay between clinical wisdom and research which formed a journey towards the development of a theory based, empirically tested intervention supporting couples sexual recovery after prostate cancer treatment. A module of the intervention will be demonstrated. Emphasis will be placed on choosing a conceptual framework for developing interventions and on practical issues that enable or hinder the pursuit of research activities. Similarly, the need to have multidisciplinary collaboration will be highlighted as a necessary component of an oncology social worker’s ability to succeed in the implementation of sexual health support for cancer patients in clinical practice.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Research, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Introductory

BMT SIG Presentation
Improving Goals of Care Conversations Between Patients and Providers Using the Serious Illness Communication Guide
Melissa Sommers, MSW, LCSW

Summary: Physician training program led by members of the psychosocial oncology team (social workers and psychologists) designed to improve communication around goals of care conversations between providers and blood cancer patients. Our center wanted to focus on improving communication so that patients could make better informed decisions regarding their treatment plan. We also wanted to improve access to palliative care and hospice when appropriate. The psychosocial team facilitated a training using the Serious Illness Communication Guide developed by Ariadne Labs. We introduced the concepts in the guide and then broke into small groups to allow role playing between pairs. We then had a group of standardized patients join the group so that providers could practice the skill set using real case examples. At the conclusion we reconvened to debrief and discuss next steps. Since the training we developed criteria to initiate family meetings to review the goals of care. The criteria include: hospitalization greater than 30 days, unplanned readmission, change of disease status, initiation of new intervention, and at the request of patients and families. Providers report that they have increased confidence in leading goals of care conversations and using the serious illness guide in discussing treatment options. We also created a preferred partnership with an outpatient palliative care program so that our patients have easier access to palliative care.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Interdisciplinary Care
Presentation Level: Introductory
**Brain Tumor SIG Presentation**

**Before It’s Too Late: Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Individuals Affected by Brain Tumors**  
**Ashley Varner, PhD, MSW, MBA**

**Summary:** Despite recent advances in the diagnosis, classification and treatment of primary malignant brain tumors (PMBTs), individuals with PMBTs continue to experience a grim prognosis. Given the physical, emotional, social, and often spiritual sequelae of PMBTs, palliative care can play an important role for patients and their families. With intention and guidance, those affected by PMBTs, both patients and informal caregivers, can maintain an acceptable quality of life. In recent qualitative research with patients diagnosed with PMBTs (Vierhout et al., 2017) and their informal caregivers (Varner, 2019), participants voiced a desire to participate in palliative care in conjunction with tumor-directed treatment. This presentation will begin with brief overviews of both the lived experience of families coping with PMBTs as well as of palliative care, particularly the role of social work in palliative care. The bulk of the presentation time will be given to learning about common physical, emotional, and social challenges patients with PMBTs and their loved ones experience near the end of life and concrete clinical strategies to address or avoid these difficulties (Jacobs, 2019; Varner, 2019). Special attention will be paid to the clinical leadership opportunities oncology social workers have when working with families affected by PMBTs. Audience participation will be encouraged.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Specialized Needs, Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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**Youth, Families & Cancer SIG Presentation**

**Custody Planning in Palliative Oncology: An Out-of-the-Box Collaboration Between an Adoption and Oncology Social Worker**  
**Michelle Bailiff, LCSW, OSW-C**

**Summary:** The leading cause of death for women in 2015, between the ages of 25-54, was cancer (Park et al., 2016). Many of these women were raising children at the time of their deaths. Coping with an advanced cancer diagnosis and single parenthood brings about complex challenges and uniquely specialized needs. It is particularly complex for single parents with dependent children, inadequate support systems and life-limiting illness, who confront complicated legal, pragmatic, emotional, financial and/or spiritual/existential issues when making decisions about who will care for their children upon their death. These decisions must be made hurriedly while enduring intense physical, emotional and/or existential suffering. Historically, health professionals have not consistently addressed parenting concerns as part of end of life care (Park et al., 2016), nor have best practices been established. As the disease burden intensifies, the family unit is at a heightened risk for destabilization, which could lead to a traumatic death and long-term psychological consequences for the child. The foundation of this paper presentation is a case study involving a 53-year-old single female who was diagnosed with a life-limiting gynecological cancer. The patient needed to complete custody planning on behalf of her 10-year-old daughter who had previously experienced several foster care placements before being permanently placed with the patient. The presentation will include intervention strategies focused on the implementation of an interprofessional team approach which was enhanced by a partnership between the palliative care team and an outside adoption agency.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Specialized Needs  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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**Pain, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life SIG Presentation**

**Recognizing the Value of Early Neuro-Palliative Care Interventions: An Opportunity for Patient Education, Team Collaboration, and Advocacy**  
**Eden Mock, MSW**

**Summary:** Although underutilized in the past, the practice of neuro-palliative care is on the rise, especially in European countries, corresponding with an escalating number of trained facilitators (Vierhout, et. al, 2017). We know that palliative care, in general, is especially effective when introduced early to patients and their caregivers. Due to the depth of care needs—this is even truer for those individuals who have been diagnosed...
with a primary brain tumor. As an oncology social worker with the Brain Tumor Network, a national nonprofit organization which is dedicated to providing navigational services, free of cost, to patients and caregivers across the United States—I field many requests for patient education specific to helping families understand and overcome misperceptions regarding palliative care. A common theme which has arisen within these conversations is lack of early education regarding the value of neuro-palliative care, as well as how palliative care services can be received in conjunction with active treatment. Recognizing that the integration of these services early on may feel like a careful dance between hope and the realities of a brain tumor diagnosis; there is an opportunity for team collaboration to make that careful dance more of a steady walk together. Paying attention to what our teams, patients, and caregivers are not saying can be just as important as what we are saying. This presentation will focus on current research, education, and advocacy dedicated to early neuro-palliative interventions for patients and caregivers impacted by a brain tumor.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Disease Type (ovarian, lung, GYN, etc.), Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life
Presentation Level: Introductory

Research SIG Presentation
Implementation of Oncology Social Work Intervention
Index Practice Version: Issues Faced, Barriers Overcome, Benefits Experienced after a Year in Practice.
Julianne Oktay, PhD, MSW; Alison Snow, PhD, LCSW; Brittany Lawton, MSW

Summary: As primary providers of psychosocial care, oncology social workers can benefit from a tracking system that monitors the services they provide. In January 2019, the Mount Sinai Downtown Oncology Social Workers began implementing the OSWiiPV. This presentation will describe the experience of one oncology social work department (five distinct locations) which has used the OSWiiPV for over a year. The presentation covers our decision-making about implementation, adapting the instrument to the setting, problems experienced and barriers overcome. We also describe how we used the data, and the benefits to the department from doing so. Finally, the next steps for broader implementation, research, and comparison of results with other departments are discussed.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Research, Leadership/Administration
Presentation Level: Intermediate
A 20/20 View of Genetics and Genomics: The Future of Precision Medicine and the Role of Social Work
Meredith Barnhart, LCSW-R, OSW-C, Ph.D. Candidate

Summary: Social workers are integral members of the health care team and must remain up-to-date on the changing health care system including advancements in genetics and genomics, also referred to as precision or personalized medicine. Despite these guidelines, social workers often lack the knowledge and expertise of precision medicine and are not well equipped to provide the necessary psychosocial support. Social workers are skilled at connecting families, yet are unsure when to refer to a genetic counselor, or to provide insurance coverage/financial resources. As advancements continue in precision medicine, families struggle with the psychosocial implications including symptoms of: anxiety and depression, uncertainty or worryment, unresolved grief, family conflict, guilt and emotional distress. Moreover, social workers often must address deep seeded health beliefs and behaviors associated with an individual’s perceived risk of developing a hereditary form of cancer and cultural beliefs/barriers. This presentation will provide a high level overview of genetics and genomics, including testing and implications for treatment, bridging the gap between the rapid health care advancements in precision medicine and the psychosocial implications of advancements, and focusing on the necessary skills and practice knowledge of the 21st century social worker. Psychosocial implications will be addressed in depth, including anxiety, communication with family members and the health care team, treatment implications and ethical considerations. The role of the social worker in addressing health disparities, equitable access and social justice will be examined. A novel model in genomics health care will be shared. Opportunities for interactive discussion will be included throughout the session.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Patient Navigation, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Introductory

Advance Care Planning Among African Americans Diagnosed with Cancer and other Serious Illnesses: A Cultural Competency Model
Karen Bullock, PhD, LCSW; Gloria Anderson, PhD

Summary: African Americans diagnosed with cancer have the highest death rate and the poorest survival outcomes among all race/ethnic groups in the United States. Moreover, elderly African Americans experiencing advanced stage of a cancer disease or nearing the end of life may experience barriers to effective communication, a lack of culturally competent options to meet their care needs and emotional distress related to these challenges. Members of the social support network, in a caregiver role, may experience similar outcomes that emerge during cancer treatment period. This study aims to elucidate how advance care planning can be used as a mechanism for educating individuals, families and communities about palliative care, while simultaneously creating understanding about the barriers to optimal psychosocial care through a cultural competence lens that goes beyond health literacy and incorporates a faith-based framework.

Course Designation: Cultural Competency
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate

The Utilization of Technological Tools to Enhance, Streamline and Validate the Oncology Social Work Role
Sarah Handsman, LMSW; Alison Snow, PhD, LCSW-R, OSW-C; Brittany Lawton, MSW, MA

Summary: As technology becomes more a part of our society and our patient’s lives, we must adapt and widen our knowledge base. Extending our use of technology can help us better engage, connect with, and expand our clinical capabilities. Mount Sinai Downtown Cancer Supportive Services team will review ways that they utilized technology to enhance their work. The presentation will review marketing strategies, social media, electronic distress screening, social work encounter tracking, and provider feedback. The presentation will cover the benefits and challenges when adapting to new technology. This presentation will provide an in-depth review of the technological
tools that we have considered and implemented with recommendations for maintaining pace with our ever-advancing digital world to improve administrative and clinical social work practice.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Leadership/Administration  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

### Using Platicas (Heart-to-Heart Talks) in the Oncology Setting with Latino Monolingual Couples Coping with Cancer

**Jenny Rodriguez, LCSW; Claudia Cuevas, MSW; Courtney Bitz, LCSW; Kimberly Romig, LCSW; Ellen Polamero, LCSW; Matthew Loscalzo, LCSW**

**Summary:** To date, very few culturally tailored psychosocial interventions to help Latina monolingual breast cancer patients and their partners cope with cancer have been implemented or reported. Superando Cancer Juntos Como Pareja Program is a linguistically and culturally appropriate comprehensive, psychoeducational, couples based intervention. Overall, the goal of the program is to improve Latino couples satisfaction and coping and to reduce barriers to accessing psychosocial services. The psychosocial intervention begins with a Platica (heart to heart) talk. A platica is described as an expressive cultural form shaped by listening, inquiry, storytelling, that is similar to a conversation or dialogue (11). A platica is performed in Spanish, the couple’s primary language with cultural competency and sensitivity that feels natural, respectful and validating. During the intervention, the couple is provided with a safe space to speak openly about their emotional reactions to cancer. The program provides multiple culturally competent intervention modalities including education on gender strengths and differences in stress and coping styles, identifying and reducing gender-role conflict, teaching problem solving skills for more effective medical management, empowering the couple to be active members of the medical team, and developing, practicing, bonding and positive role modeling behaviors for their family. When engaged in platica, the clinician needs to learn to pay attention to the story, to the form of the story, to the environment surrounding the story, to any questions, fears or concerns that arise, and to the context.

When the climate is created, the platica brings the relationship and issues to life.

**Course Designation:** Cultural Competency  
**Keywords:** Special Populations, Specialized Needs  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
 Opening Reception, Exhibits, Poster Session & Silent Auction**

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I am one of only 3 full-time social workers in the rural hospital system in which I work. Because I live and work away from the “big city,” I sometimes feel isolated and lacking in the support, education, and answers needed to provide the best care for my patients and families. AOSW has been key in providing the resources that I need. I know that attending the annual conference will add to that knowledge base immensely."

*Angela M. Smith, MSW, LSW, OSW-C*

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After each conference I’ve left with a sense of excitement about new tools, interventions, and best practices that I can incorporate into my work. Networking with colleagues reinforces a sense of community that I need to feel supported and engaged in my practice."

*Carissa Hodgson, LCSW, OSW-C, Gilda’s Club Madison*
POSTERS

Poster Session

Wednesday, June 10

PO1 Difficulties in Providing Palliative Care in Rural India (West Bengal) – Experience of an NGO
Aditya Manna, Palliative care

PO2 Steps Through OC: Pathway from Pilot and Evaluation to Mainstream Integration
Marina Baroff, FACHE

PO3 High Tech Navigation: Utilizing Digital Platforms and Developing Content in a Survivorship Navigation Program
Katie Narvarte, LMSW, OSW-C, OPN-CG; Jordan Henderson, BSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG

PO4 Interdisciplinary Program Development and Evaluation of HCT Discharge Class for Caregivers
Ranee Kang, ACM-SW, ACHP-SW, OSW-C; Gabriela Flores, MSW; Dhruti Ramchandani, MPH, MCHES; Jackelene Valdez, BSN, RN, CPHON; Artis Rivera, MHA; Kathleen Kelly, RN, BSN, OCN; Mona Shroff, RN, BSN, PHN; Laura Dorr-Uyemura, RDN; Amandeep Salhotra, M.D.

PO5 Advance Care Planning and Psychosocial Support Needs of Caregivers Navigating Life-limiting Illness: A Qualitative Study
Kalen Fletcher, MSW, LICSW, MPH; Nancy Borstelmann, MSW, MPH, PhD, LICSW; Nancy Thorler, LICSW

PO6 Advance Care Planning and End-of-Life Issues in Head and Neck Cancer: The Oncology Social Worker’s Roles and Responsibilities
Kelly Adams, LCSW, OSW-C

PO7 Preparing Faculty to Develop Interprofessional Education in Palliative Oncology: The Interprofessional Educational Exchange (iPEX) Program
Tara Schapmire, PhD, GSW, CCM, OSW-C, FAOSW; Barbara Head, PhD; Mark Pfeifer, MD

PO8 Eating for Cancer Prevention: Step One – Focus on Your Colleagues
Shari Sitron, LICSW, MPH, OSW-C

PO9 Where Cancer Meets a Sentence: Treating Patients in Prison Settings
Wardeh Hattab, LCSW

PO10 HPV Literacy in Adult Minnesotans: Informing Targeted Intervention Strategies to Promote HPV-Associated Cancer Equity
Jessica Neese, BSW; Hee Yun Lee, PhD, LICSW; Yan Luo, MSW; Dolan Lee, BA; Casey Daniel, PhD, MPH

PO11 Is HPV Vaccine Awareness Associated with HPV Knowledge Level?: Findings from HINTs Data
Hee Yun Lee, PhD, LICSW; Yan Luo, MSW, BA; Kun Wang, BA; Carin Ikenberg, BA, MSW
PO12  Is Pap Test Awareness Critical to Pap Test Uptake? Findings from Vietnamese Women in Rural Vietnam  
Kun Wang; Hee Lee, LICSW; Qingyi Li; Yan Luo; Sara Hendrix; Jongwook Lee; Sangchul Yoon; Nguyen Huy

PO13  Creating a Competency-Based Education Model: Suicide Assessment with Oncology Patients  
Jessica Rivera, LCSW, OSW-C; Erin Gibson, LCSW, OSW-C; Logan Prince, LCSW; Amy Horyna, LCSW, OSW-C; Emily Rousseau, LCSW; Virginia Wilson, LCSW, OSW-C; Victoria Holmes, LCSW; Jennifer Mijangos, LCSW. OSW-C

PO14  Breaking the Transportation Barrier: Enhancing Access to Cancer Treatment Through Navigation, Technology and Philanthropy  
Rebecca Cammy, MSW, LCSW; Stephanie Chapman, BA; Jodi Sandos, MSW, LCSW

PO15  Building an Innovative Supportive Care Program in Collaboration with a Cancer Institute’s Patient and Family Advisory Council  
Susan Garland, LICSW, OSW-C; Lynn Shaw, RN BSN; Diane Passantino, LICSW; Carol Massey; Dana Del Bonis

PO16  Destressing the Staff: Initiation of Debriefing Sessions After Difficult ICU Cases, a Quality Initiative  
Laura Walther-Broussard, LCSW, OSW-C; Annabelle Bitter, LCSW

PO17  Oncology Caregiver Support: Build It and They Will Come  
Nancy Tharler, LICSW; Suzanne O’Regan, MSW, LICSW; Nancy Borstelmann, PhD, MPH, LICSW; Ruth Cope, PhD, LICSW

PO18  Lived Experiences of Young Adults who had a Sibling with Cancer in Childhood  
Brittany Lawton, ASW

PO19  Under the Microscope: A Closer Look at In-Person Lung Cancer Support Groups  
Miranda Goff, LICSW; Maureen Rigney, LICSW; Kevin Stein, PhD, FAPOS

PO20  Maintaining Resilience Through the Turbulent Reality of Compassion Fatigue Among Oncology Social Workers  
Lindsey Weaver, MSSW, LCSW

PO21  Psychosocial Factors Affecting Minority Patient Adherence with Treatment  
Rosemary Nagy, MSS, LSW, OSW-C

PO22  The Experience of Financial Toxicity Among Advanced Melanoma Patients Treated with Immunotherapy  
Bridgette Thom, PhD

PO23  Barriers and Coping Strategies to Mammography Use in Korean American Immigrant Women  
Mi Hwa Lee, PhD, MSW, MA; Abby Schwartz, PhD, MSW, MGS
PO24
“It Won’t Happen to Me”: Perceived Breast Cancer Risk and Preventive Behaviors Among Korean American Immigrant Women
Mi Hwa Lee, PhD, MSW, MA; Deeonna Farr, DrPH, MPH, CHES

PO25
Developing Educational Materials for Patients Entering CAR T Cell Therapy and their Caregivers
Claire Saxton, MBA; Susan Ash-Lee, MSW, LCSW; Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW; Maria Gonzalez, MS; Jenny Karubian, MA; Alex Swales, LMSW; Alexandra Zaleta, PhD

PO26
Expanding Our Therapeutic Tool Kit: Utilizing Horticultural Therapy to Promote Coping and Resilience Throughout the Cancer Trajectory
Sheila Felice, LCSW-R, AOSW-C

PO27
After a Parent with Cancer Dies: An Exploratory Assessment of Bereavement and Needs of Widowed Parents Attending a Support Group
Savannah Bowers, BS; Diane Bensley, MSW; Justin Yopp, PhD; Donald Rosenstein, MD; Eliza Park, MD

PO28
Therapeutic Gardening: What’s Cancer Got to do with It? Utilizing a “Fresh Approach” to Improve Cancer Survivors’ Well-Being
Lori Simpson, MSW, OSW-C; Rissy Smith, MSW, OSW-C

PO29
Patient Orientation Regarding Late Side Effects of Radiation Therapy for Cervical Cancer
Mariana Lourens, MASW

PO30
Flying Into New Territory: Bridging the Gap between Animal Assisted Activities and Animal Assisted Therapy in Cancer Care
Heather DeRousse, LCSW, OSW-C; Victoria Harms, LMSW

PO31
Being More Present in Life Now: How Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Affects the Relationship with Pain for Cancer Patients
Ann-Marie Bowman, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

PO32
Improving Engagement in Community-Based Breast Cancer Support Organizations: A Guide to Understanding Predictors of Participation
Adina Fleischmann, LSW; Elana Silber, MBA; Kathryn Rehberg, MA; Kenneth Tercyak, PhD

PO33
The Benefits of Massage Therapy with BMT Patients: Impact on Anxiety, Depression and Pain Symptoms
Jennie Entgelmeier, MSW, LICSW; Abbie Diehl, MSW, LGSW; Nicole Ullman, MSW, LICSW; Eleanor Leary, MSW, LICSW

PO34
Using Psychosocial Technology as Innovative Method of Streamlining Social Work Response to Distress Screening and Reporting While Improving Patient Experience
Alison Snow, PhD, LCSW-R, OSW-C; Cate O’Reilly, MSW

PO34
Making Meaning: Volunteer Advocacy Programs and Quality of Life for People with Breast Cancer
Becky Mastin, MPH; Arin Hanson, MPH; Catherine Ormerod, MSS, MLSP; Linda Houser, MSW, PhD; Margo Campbell, PhD, MSS, MLSP
Thursday, June 6
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Conference Registration Open**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast & Exhibits**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Posters Displayed in Exhibit Hall**

8:30 a.m. – Noon
Practice Intensives (6 concurrent sessions)
  8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
    Part I
    10:30 a.m. – Noon
    Part II

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**

PI101 & PI201
Oncology Social Work 101: Preparing to Launch and Flying Through the First Years
Catherine Credeur, LMSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Dinah Foster, LCSW, OSW-C; Faren Frederick, LMSW

Summary: This skill building, two-part practice intensive is an orientation to the field of psychosocial oncology and oncology social work career development. The target audience for this session are oncology social workers with three years or less in this niche field. Participants may be new graduates or practitioners shifting from another area of social work. The goals for this session are to provide a brief introduction to current trends and significant tasks in oncology social work, connect with oncology social workers in similar areas of practice for ongoing networking, and identify opportunities for self-care and career growth. Special attention will be given to working with underserved populations and the transference of prior experience and skills into oncology social work.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Self Care
Presentation Level: Introductory

PI102 & PI202
Staying Grounded in the Midst of Turbulence: In-person and Online Contemplative Psychotherapy Approaches in Cancer Care
Thomas Pier, LCSW, OSW-C, CMF; Kerry Irish, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Psychosocial and existential concerns in cancer care are nearly universal. Contemplative approaches addressing these concerns are rapidly growing in implementation. Contemplative approaches have the potential for mitigating existential distress, cultivating prognostic awareness, and fostering spiritual approaches to grieving and coping with advanced cancer (Blinderman & Schapiro, 2016). In light of this growing understanding, this presentation will explore contemplative approaches and interventions that enhance the client’s sense of meaning, purpose and hope as well as resilience when facing the challenges of living with life-limiting illness. Since these concerns are not treatment location specific, oncology social workers are increasingly offering, and being encouraged to offer, contemplative approaches in cancer counseling using telehealth thereby increasing access considering distance and geography, mobility concerns, treatment demands, stigma, immediacy of need, lack of access for those in rural locations and the needs of other underserved populations. Competency and legal, ethical and HIPAA compliance in offering contemplative approaches, including use of online technologies, are critical to professional growth and clinical development. This clinical practice intensive centralizes the importance of bringing contemplative approaches into cancer care spaces and the community including specifically using online technologies. Benefits, efficacy, pros and cons, obstacles, legal, ethical and HIPAA compliance, platforms, methods, and practical considerations for integrating contemplative practice approaches into in-person and online cancer counseling services will be provided. Practical considerations such as needed equipment, engagement techniques, effective utilization, costs and platforms, training and practice, client assistance using online technologies, accurate documentation and other aspects of online therapy will be discussed.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Advanced
PI103 & PI203

Mind the Gap: Building Advocacy Skills to Cross the Line Between Clinical and Policy Practice
Sarah Conning, LCSW, OSW-C; Michael Grignon, LMSW, CCM, MBA; Elizabeth Franklin, LGSW, ACSW; Maureen Rigney, LICSW; Katie Tremel, LCSW, OSW-C; Sean Powell, LCSW, CCM, OSW-C; Leena Nehru, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: The imperative to promote social justice is a defining feature of the social work profession. Viewing individuals within the context of their social environment and supporting them with interventions that span micro, meso and macro levels is both the genius of social work and a sorely needed corrective in our health care system. Yet strong forces within our training, employment and professional development create a divide between clinical and policy practice. Recognizing that the 2020 AOSW Annual Conference will take place during a presidential election season in which health and social welfare policies are likely to be widely debated, this panel presentation will include a health policy briefing and overview of current focus issues identified by major cancer advocacy organizations. Participants will review and practice advocacy skills that can be used right away, including identifying policy implications of individual cases, helping patients tell their stories, communicating with decisionmakers, and engaging with advocacy coalitions. We will critically examine the “gap” that persists between clinical and policy practice in order to identify barriers and opportunities to better fulfill our advocacy mission, both individually and collectively. Participants in this session will help to inform and shape AOSW’s advocacy agenda by engaging in critical analysis and discussion, together with members of the Advocacy Committee, of this crucial dimension of our profession.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Advocacy
Presentation Level: Introductory

PI104 & PI204

Raising Your Ethical Antennae: An Interactive Crash Course in Identifying and Understanding Ethical Problems in Patient Care
Jennifer Ballentine, MA; Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNASW

Summary: Oncology social workers are uniquely positioned to uncover and help resolve ethical problems in patient care—but they often lack the necessary ethical theory, vocabulary, framework and practical tools to handle matters that just feel “icky.” While hospitals and some cancer care centers have ethics committees to undertake formal deliberations, many ethical issues arise in hallway conversations, at the bedside or on timeframes not conducive to formal processes. Having a comprehensible and easily recalled framework for recognizing, naming and understanding ethical issues as they arise are valuable skills for social workers in the oncology care setting, especially with respect to diverse and underserved patient populations. Specifically, attendees will learn how to define and identify “ethical” problems and distinguish them from other types of problems (clinical, administrative, legal, etc.); use ethical principles to identify the core conflict in the ethical problem; discern and include cultural considerations; frame the “ethical question,” apply a basic understanding of major ethical frameworks to begin to develop a position; refer the issue to a supervisor, the interdisciplinary team, or ethics committee as appropriate. This workshop will provide early career and experienced social workers with an overview of health care ethics, applications for quality curative and palliative care, and useful tools for recognizing and defining ethical problems for the attention of the interdisciplinary team or ethics committee. Teaching methods include didactic presentation, flip-chart and worksheet-facilitated interactive exercises, presenter-facilitated large-group discussion, small group work and report-out, patient narratives, and practice sessions.

Course Designation: Ethics
Keywords: Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Introductory

PI105 & PI205

The State of Pain: Reducing Barriers and Increasing Access to Effective Evidence-Informed Cancer Pain Management
Yvette Colón, PhD, ACSW, BCD, FNAP, LMSW; Terry Attilio, MSW, ACSW, LCSW; Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNASW (not presenting)

Summary: Pain is a common occurrence in cancer, affected by a variety of biological, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural factors. Most oncology social workers work with patients and families whose lives have been touched by pain and may not have
training and skills to provide effective psychosocial interventions to reduce the multidimensional impacts of pain. This workshop is designed to help oncology social workers identify historical and current barriers to managing pain and relieving suffering, including the racial and gender disparities that continue to impact care. Managing pain in collaboration with interprofessional colleagues requires an understanding of ethical challenges and the current political and public policy landscape surrounding pain management and opioid use. This landscape makes access more complex, demanding expert assessment and treatment plans to maximize effectiveness, with attention to structures to enhance safe prescribing. Participants will gain an awareness of available evidence-informed psychological interventions for cancer pain management, including interactive guided imagery and relaxation. Tools such as journals and diaries will be introduced, both to inform assessment and enrich therapeutic outcomes. Participants will review demonstrations and key components of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) that can be used to help patients and families cope with and reduce pain. Information about basic and advanced training for these interventions, continuing education opportunities, and professional resources will be provided. Additionally, this workshop will reinforce pain management as an expected knowledge base in oncology social work.

**Course Designation:** Clinical

**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**CP106 & CP1206**

**Bringing Sex into the Conversation: Understanding and Overcoming Our Own Biases of Differing Sexual Behaviors**

Sage Bolte, Ph.D., LCSW, CST; Jennifer Bires, LICSW, OSW-C; Thomas Pier, LCSW, OSW-C, CMF

**Summary:** A Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR), often the cornerstone of sexual health trainings, use media, vignettes, and other information to begin examining and understanding the many layers of our sexual attitudes and beliefs. This mini SAR will allow participants to begin to explore their own sexual health value system. Sexual health is a critical aspect of quality of life. Cancer and its treatments have both acute and chronic impact on a patient’s and partner’s sexual health (Flynn et al., 2011), yet this critical assessment and conversation is all too often overlooked in medical assessments (Arora et al., 2013; Bdair & Constantino, 2017; Nusbaum & Hamilton, 2002). Barriers to more challenging conversations like sexual health can certainly be environmental including real time constraints, but many of the major barriers are our own internal barriers – perceptions, assumptions, discomfort, misinformation and fear (Bdair & Constantino, 2017). To do this, it requires a level of comfort in raising the questions of sexual health along with a level of comfort in being open to whatever information or additional questions may arise once the topic is broached. This interactive presentation using didactic and experiential teaching methods, grounded in research and evidenced based interventions, will explore our own perceived and real barriers along with the discomforts we may experience in doing sexual health assessments so that we can be fully present and the best advocates for our patients and their sexual health and lead by example within our teams.

**Course Designation:** Cultural Competency

**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs

**Presentation Level:** Advanced

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Coffee Break with the Exhibitors **

10:30 a.m. – Noon

**Clinical Practice Intensives Part II**

(6 concurrent sessions)

Noon – 12:30 p.m.**

**AOSW Business Meeting**

(General Session Room, over lunch)

The 2020 Board of Directors invites all conference participants to attend the Annual Business Meeting to for an overview of AOSW’s major initiatives. This is an ideal opportunity for AOSW members to join with friends and colleagues and experience the collective power of our efforts and expertise. Don’t miss it!
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
**AOSW’s Quality of Life in Cancer Care Award Ceremony, sponsored by the American Cancer Society

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
**AOSW’s Quality of Life in Cancer Care Lecture, sponsored by the American Cancer Society

Running Towards the Storm: Oncology Social Work Within a Time of Fragmentation and Social Challenges
Penny Damaskos, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW

Summary: These are unusual times. Each day seems to create another thread that assaults our sense of order and understanding of the world. The daily crises that happen across multiple areas in our lives that impact us in one or more areas of our lives: immigration, poverty, homelessness, mental instability, opioid crisis, gun violence and climate related displacement and racism are just a few areas that can intersect with the crisis of a cancer diagnosis and treatment. The negative impact of health care disparities and survival in oncology is well known and increasing in the changing socio-political climate with ever diminishing safety net (Wells et al; 2015) These issues are each overwhelming on their own, but we are increasingly asked as oncology social workers in our practice to address and “fix” one or several of these issues at once and immediately within the context of the crisis of cancer. The subjective experience for our patients can be one of fragmentation that can also lead to a sense of hopelessness and demoralization (Nathanson, 2019). However, the current chaos that we are collectively experiencing can lead to our own sense of hopelessness, demoralization and grief which reinforces a parallel process with our patients (Goldberg, 2019). Our work is inherently private, which can lead to invisibility and a diminished sense of self-worth. Continuing to do the work and “muscle through” without safe spaces for reflection and some action can lead to burnout and compassion fatigue. These times, while they undoubtedly present challenges, can propel us to create community across difference and can present opportunities for leadership as well as clinical and professional growth. In these times, using our voice can create a path to the development of resilience and a deeper connection to our work.

The focus of this talk will be to discuss the intersections of societal schisms and the cancer experience and its impact our patients and ourselves. Focus on the use of resilience-based clinical supervision, to help staff better work with the many stressors in patients’ lives as well as the counter-transferential issues that these bring up through our experiences of grief, micro aggressions witnessing poverty and increased violence in our clinical areas. The opportunities for creating healing communities within the work environment and across disciplines causing a re-examination of traditional venues of support such as psychoeducational support groups will be discussed. Augmentation of self-reflection practices to develop resilience will be discussed as will the use of self in the clinical practice as a foundation for the development of personal resilience.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Professional Issues
Presentation Level: Intermediate

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
**Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes I**
(7 concurrent sessions)

LI 101
Being There Through Changing Times: Oncology Social Work and the Growth of Medical Aid in Dying
Sarah Conning, LCSW, OSW-C; Susan Hedlund, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Christina Bach, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Lauren Kriegel, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Oncology social workers practicing today are witnessing rapid change in public perceptions and policies around the topic of medical aid in dying (MAID). Once taboo, the practice (variously referred to as physician assisted death, assisted suicide, death with dignity) has become a legal end-of-life option in nine states, home to more than 20% of Americans. During this time of rapid change, one constant is the steady, compassionate presence of oncology social workers with people facing the end of life. Exercising empathy and skillful listening, oncology social workers continue the professional act of “being there” with those who
are living and dying with cancer, helping them process choices and make decisions that align with their values. This presentation will draw on the practice experiences of oncology social workers in several states where aid in dying laws have been enacted, with a panel presentation tracing the growth of the practice from its start in Oregon to neighboring states and beyond. Data from the two decades of MAID experience in Oregon and other states will be shared, along with lessons gleaned from the implementation of MAID programs and institutional policies. Ethical challenges that can arise in the implementation of MAID laws will be discussed, as well as the principles and processes that guide us in resolving them. Participants will reflect on their experiences with patients interested in assisted death, prepare for changing practice environments, and recommit to meeting patients where they are.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Ethics
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Valued Living for Survivors: An Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Based Group Intervention
Jill Mitchell, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Joanna Arch, PhD
Summary: Although many cancer survivors adjust very well post-treatment, a significant number still experience fear of recurrence, anxiety and depression lasting for months or years (Yi & Syrjala, 2017). Survivorship distress decreases quality of life and increases risk for full-blown anxiety and depressive disorders. Distress may also be associated with inefficient utilization of medical care and negative health behaviors (Otto, Soriano, Siegel, LoSavio & Laurenceau, 2018; Fisher, Beeken, Heinrich, Williams & Wardle, 2016). To better serve distressed cancer survivors, we developed a group intervention, “Valued Living for Survivors”, based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). ACT is a therapeutic approach well-suited for people living in the shadow of cancer because it promotes acceptance, mindfulness, cognitive defusion, and value-based behavioral change, while at the same time allowing space for challenging thoughts and emotions reflective of the reality of survivors (Harris, 2008; Hayes & Smith, 2005). In a 2016 pilot study of 42 participants we compared participation in “Valued Living” to change in time alone and showed beneficial outcomes with regard to anxiety, depressive symptoms, fear of recurrence, vitality, and sense of life meaning (Arch & Mitchell, 2016). In 2019 we completed a larger, randomized controlled trial of the intervention with 139 anxious post-treatment survivors (Arch et al., 2019). This presentation will inform about key concepts in ACT and its relevance to work with cancer survivors. In addition, we will share the results of the recently completed Valued Living RCT, and will give an experiential overview of techniques used in the intervention.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Intermediate

From Doldrums to Delight: A Panel on Mid and Late Career Professional Growth and Development
Ashley Varner, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Penny Damaskos, PhD, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW; Leora Lowenthal, LICSW, OSW-C, MPA; Barbara Martin, MSSW-CSW, CHN, IIC, ESSE; Elizabeth Perlmutter, LCSW
Summary: From the start of our profession, oncology social workers have sought ways to sustain themselves “over the long haul” (Hill, 1989, p. 145). Secondary traumatic stress and compassion fatigue can both threaten job satisfaction, but even with exquisite self-care, mid-career oncology social workers (OSWs) may find themselves feeling less engaged than they once were. And yet, experienced OSWs are poised to grow and develop in a variety of directions – the key is to clarify where you want to go and what needs to happen to get there. This panel presentation will provide attendees with a road map to navigate mid-career doldrums and answer the question “What next?” Six mid and later career OSWs now working in a variety of settings will share their processes, lessons learned, and take questions. Attendees will leave with a list of questions they can ask themselves and actions they can take to progress through mid-career doldrums to the land of delight.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Leadership/Administration, Self Care
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Communicating Oncology Social Work: Refining Our Pitch to Interdisciplinary Colleagues

Iris Fineberg, PhD, MSW, ACSW, OSW-C, FNAP, FAOSW; Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FNAP

Summary: As oncology social workers, we embrace the breadth and depth of our contribution to the care of patients and families. However, colleagues may have had experiences that limit their knowledge about or receptivity to social work. In order for oncology social work presence and influence to strengthen and grow in oncology care, we need to refine our communication with colleagues about our roles. This learning institute will focus on crafting and refining our pitch to our interdisciplinary colleagues about what oncology social workers do. The session will discuss current professional contexts in which we practice, exploring challenges and opportunities. The session will be heavily interactive and experiential, drawing upon a crowdsourcing approach to engage session participants and create materials to utilize in our work settings.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Professional Issues, Interdisciplinary Care
Presentation Level: Introductory

More Than A Job: Understanding Cancer Survivors’ Personal Work-Identities as a Path to Improved Outcomes

Rachel Becker, LMSW; Rebecca Nellis, MPP

Summary: More than 70% of cancer diagnoses are made in adults between the ages of 20 and 74, a period of life that Tracy et al. (2018) define as “prime employment years.” Furthermore, the literature shows that continuing to work during and/or after treatment is often associated with positive psychosocial outcomes within this population. As such, it is critical when creating comprehensive care plans to identify a path forward for continuing work during all or part of treatment for patients who wish (or need) to do so. Oncology social workers are uniquely positioned to support their clients through this process by helping them to gather, evaluate and synthesize key pieces of practical and legal information. However, also critical to this process is understanding how the unique aspects of a patient’s identity inform the way they make decisions about balancing work and cancer. This session will examine the concept of personal work-identity, how it may be impacted by other aspects of identity that can emerge throughout the treatment trajectory, and the ways in which these factors may impact the how patients and survivors make their own unique employment-related decisions. Additionally, through discussion, group exercises and case studies we will explore how this enhanced awareness can inform oncology social workers’ collaborations with patients and/or survivors in the creation of actionable, individually tailored plans for navigating work and treatment that can help improve overall psychosocial outcomes.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Patient Navigation, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Rural Oncology Patient Population Panel Symposium
Moderated by Chelsea Kroll, MSW, LMSW, OSW-C

FEATURING:
Who Gets Help?: How Rurality and Distance to Treatment Impact Psychosocial Care Utilization
Angela Usher, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Janice Bell, MN, MPH, PhD; Jill Joseph, MD, PhD, MPH

Summary: Despite availability of evidence-based psychosocial care for patients newly diagnosed with cancer, many patients who may benefit from services do not receive them. Patients from rural areas and remote distances to treatment often experience significant barriers to oncology care and have greater psychosocial needs. This analysis examines associations of rurality and distance to treatment with psychosocial care utilization at an urban cancer treatment site, in models controlled for sociodemographic and clinical covariates. In this presentation we will discuss research findings and use these as a discussion on psychosocial care for rural and remote dwelling patients being treated in urban cancer centers and how oncology social workers can better anticipate needs and proactively engage patients in supportive services.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Special Populations, Distress/CoC
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Increasing the Quality of Post-Acute Care for Surgical Oncology Patients Residing in Rural Areas: Target Screening Interventions for Potential Barriers
Fese Elonge, LMSW, OSW-C; Cambrielle Sanders, LMSW

Summary: Oncology social workers in the acute hospital setting typically encounter patients post-operatively. Encountering patients after the completion of inpatient procedures creates barriers, as limited time is available to identify safe discharge plans. Furthermore, in the instance that barriers are present, it is often difficult to arrange services such as home health, outpatient clinic appointments or facility placement when psychosocial barriers are present. In addition, when surgical oncology providers set up the expectation during the pre-operative course that ideal outcomes for post-operative care are available accompanied by access to a variety of resources can further the complexity in the discharge planning process as patients expectations of a quick discharge may not be met. In the discharge planning process, an assessment to identify barriers focuses on primary factors such as patient discharge address, caregiver support with contact information, and insurance information. For populations that reside the rural areas, the barriers of locating health care providers for post-operative management increases. This paper will focus on patients that live in rural areas considered outside of urban areas and urban clusters, where the chances of accessible resources are limited. Patient support from primary care providers, family and friends to assist in locating quality post-operative resources for the continuum of care are challenging. The overall goal is to identify specific psychosocial barriers for high-risk populations, such as patients residing in rural areas and initiate pre and post-hospitalization care to increase patient quality of care and reduce recidivism rates.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Special Populations, Research
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Adolescent and Young Adult Panel Symposium
Moderated by Lisa Capparella, MSS, LCSW, OSW-C

FEATURING:
Contingent Hope: A Theoretical Framework for Interpreting the Psychosocial Behaviors Young Adults with Advanced Cancer Employ to Sustain Hope
Jennifer Currin-McCulloch, PhD, LMSW; Barbara Jones, PhD, MSW, FNAP

Summary: The diagnosis of an advanced cancer in young adulthood brings life to an abrupt halt, calling attention to the present moment and creating anguish about future unknowns. Young adults (YAs) seldom have physical endurance or time to focus on forward thinking and must relinquish social roles, relationships and dreams. As a result, young adults (YAs) with advanced cancer frequently encounter existential distress, despair, and question their life’s purpose. However, many YAs, as a product of their youth, have had limited time to develop coping skills to adapt to crises of this magnitude. Thus, placing them at risk for hopelessness, despair, social isolation and desire for hastened death. Although studies point to the role of hope in motivating behavior in mixed-age samples of adults with advanced cancer; no studies point to the role of hope in motivating YAs living with advanced cancers. To address these gaps in research, this study incorporates Glaser’s classic grounded theory methodology to explore how YAs with advanced cancer engage hope to cope with their life-limiting illness. The contingent hope theoretical framework describes the pattern of psychosocial behaviors YAs with advanced cancer employ to reconcile identities and endeavor to hope for a life of meaning. The contingent hope theoretical framework includes one core category, contingent hope, and five inter-related subcategories, navigating uncertainty, feeling “broken”, disorienting grief, finding bearings and identity reconciliation.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Adolescent and Young Adult, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Informational, Supportive and Practical Needs of Young Women with Breast Cancer and their Partners: Implications for Psychosocial Services
Chiara Acquati, PhD, MSW; Amy LaMaroa-Lyon, MSW, LCSW; Lynsay Gaines, LCSW-S; Kristin Cotter Mena, PhD, MA; Richard Wagner, MA, EdM

Summary: Breast cancer, the most common cancer in women younger than age 50, accounts for approximately 25% of new cases. Studies have consistently documented that young women experience greater psychological and physical morbidity after breast cancer than older women and healthy peers, including significant impairment in quality of life across the cancer care continuum and into survivorship. Partners and spouses have a protective role in the emotional well-being and quality of life of patients, providing practical and emotional support. However, young couples are vulnerable to cancer-related stress because of greater affected well-being, greater interdependence, and multiple competing responsibilities. Therefore, there is a critical need to support young couples’ adjustment to cancer and to offer psychosocial care tailored to their unique needs. To address gaps in clinical care, this presentation illustrates results of the Younger Couples Coping with Breast Cancer-Related Stress (YCBCS) project. Findings confirm the influential effect of breast cancer on the quality of life of young women with breast cancer and their partners. Additionally, the survey highlighted specific areas of needs and preferences for psychosocial care

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Adolescent and Young Adult, Research
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Understanding Depression and Anxiety Among Chinese Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Patients
Anao Zhang, Ph.D., LCSW

Summary: Globally, adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer diagnoses face significant psychosocial challenges and are vulnerable to psychological distress, like depression or anxiety. Unlike the growing attention to AYAs’ mental health in the United States, the understanding of depression and anxiety among Chinese AYA cancer populations remains scarce. Using a hermeneutic phenomenological paradigm, this study interviewed 15 Chinese AYA patients about their lived experiences of depression and anxiety. Results suggest a complex and recursive set of five themes of depression and anxiety among Chinese AYA patients.

Course Designation: Cultural Competency
Keywords: Adolescent and Young Adult, Distress/CoC
Presentation Level: Introductory

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Coffee Break with the Exhibitors**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Paper Symposia/Learning Institutes II
(7 concurrent sessions)

LI201
Taking the Lead: Oncology Social Workers and Advance Care Planning
Angela Usher, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C; Sarah Conning, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Do you want to take social work led advance care planning to the next level? Oncology social workers are uniquely positioned to provide comprehensive advance care planning services to cancer patients. In most clinical settings, these services are not systematically delivered nor equally accessible to patients. In this workshop, we will explore the elements of professional advance care planning and how to design, implement and evaluate an oncology social work led advance care planning clinic. Additionally, we will discuss the importance of using outcome measures to leverage resources and improve patient care. This workshop will provide tangible steps and strategies to help evolve and improve advance care planning in your clinical setting.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Leadership/Administration, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Expanding the Vision of Oncology Social Work: Unconventional Paths to Helping People with Cancer and their Loved Ones  
Maureen Rigney, LICSW

Summary: NASW has declared, “If you’re looking for a career with meaning, action, diversity, satisfaction and a variety of options, consider social work.” In keeping with this year’s theme, “Taking Flight: Creating a 2020 vision in Oncology Social Work,” this facilitated and thought-provoking panel will illuminate and educate on current and potential directions within the field. By sharing decades of collective experience in a variety of perhaps unexpected settings, five oncology social workers will discuss how they maintain their focus on the profession’s mission and values as they navigate less traditional oncology social work roles. Their compelling stories will explore the essential skills they developed, ways they have transformed traditional expectations, and how they engage with other oncology social workers to continue benefit those touched by cancer. Panelists will discuss topics including how they managed the transition from hospital-based settings; how clinic and other past experiences inform their current positions; and how they continue to contribute to the AOSW’s mission. Open dialogue about opportunity for collaboration and career advancement will also demonstrate how the varied roles within oncology social work can address occupational hazards of hospital-based work, including compassion fatigue, moral distress and burnout. Through highlighting ways OSWs have broken through barriers and shown a variety of organizations, for-profit businesses and the federal government the value of hiring social workers, we can open our minds to a new vision of our field, beyond the clinic and into the possibilities of the future.

Course Designation: Clinical  
Keywords: Professional Issues, Leadership/Administration  
Presentation Level: Introductory

Adapting Collaborative Care for People Affected by Cancer and Mental Illness: Building a Person-Centered Team  
Kelly Irwin, MD; Amy Corveley, MSW; Shukriyah Brown, Cancer Care Navigator

Summary: Individuals with serious mental illness are more likely to die from cancer and less likely to receive timely, high quality care. New team-based models are urgently needed to address barriers to cancer care, increase access to mental health care, and improve outcomes. In this learning institute, we will discuss how we have adapted the collaborative care model to the unique needs of people with SMI and cancer, discuss our randomized trial, and share best practices from our person-centered team to reach patients with mental illness and cancer. Participants will divide into small groups to examine a case from multiple perspective and design a treatment plan using the collaborative care model. This unique institute will allow participants to see how they can adapt this model to their own practice setting and take meaningful steps to ensure that mental illness is not a barrier to cancer care.

Course Designation: Clinical  
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Special Populations  
Presentation Level: Intermediate

The Circle of True Compassion: Integrating a Contemplative Framework into Cancer Care  
Alison Marcell, LMSW, MPH

Summary: How can we use a contemplative caregiving framework to broaden our perspective on compassion? In this experiential session, we will use mind-body exercises, conversational dyads, and written reflection to explore what it means to create a listening space that not only allows us to more authentically hear others, but also to truly hear ourselves. We will explore contemplative caregiving as a theoretical and practical framework and learn how to integrate this approach into our work through simple daily practices. Participants will nourish their connection to themselves and their work, and will leave with several contemplative techniques to bring home.

Course Designation: Clinical  
Keywords: Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life, Self Care  
Presentation Level: Introductory
LI205

Delivering Solution-Focused Brief Therapy for Cancer Patients: Bridging Theory and Clinical Practices
Anao Zhang, Ph.D., LCSW; Jennifer Currin-McCulloch, Ph.D., LMSW, OSW-C

Summary: Solution-focused brief therapy (SFBT) is a strength-based, future-oriented psychotherapeutic intervention that is ideal for cancer patients and survivors. SFBT explicitly uses positive emotions, like feeling hopeful about managing side effects tomorrow, as venues for positive therapeutic changes, which is a powerful therapeutic ingredient for cancer patients’ mental well-being. Despite its popularity in other medical settings, SFBT is under utilized with cancer patients and survivors. This learning institute provides an up-to-date review and discussion on the theoretical and empirical developments of SFBT especially with cancer patients, survivors, and family members. This workshop will focus on linking change theories of SFBT with SFBT techniques especially when working with cancer patients, survivors, and family members. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to share their practice experience and compare SFBT with other psychotherapies when working with cancer survivors and family members. Participants will be asked to intentionally think about how specific SFBT techniques are creating therapeutic changes among cancer survivors and their families through positive emotions, like feeling hopeful for the future.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Distress/CoC
Presentation Level: Intermediate

LI206

“Mind Over Matter:” Implementing a 5-week Evidence-based Group Intervention to Improve Emotional Coping for Cancer Patients & Survivors
Michelle Ferretti, LCSW, OSW-C; Rebecca McIntyre, LCSW

Summary: Up to half of patients with cancer will experience psychological distress, including anxiety and depression (Guan et al., 2016). Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) have shown promise in reducing the anxiety and stress associated with managing cancer (Abad, Bakhtiari, Kashani, & Habibi, 2016). ACT encourages psychological flexibility and CBT helps patients with cancer learn how to recognize and reframe maladaptive thoughts (Low et al., 2016). Mind-body techniques give participants another tool to increase self-efficacy as well as influence the physiological effects of the chronic stress response (Kwekkeboom, Cherwin, Lee & Wanta, 2010). This presentation offers the week-by-week agenda for the Mind Over Matter (MOM) intervention, as well as opportunities to participate in experiential exercises including meditation, leading diaphragmatic breath, and participating/leading small group processes geared to support attendees feeling empowered to offer MOM. This novel, 5-week, group intervention aims to increase emotional coping and reconnect the participant with a sense of control. MOM is based on the foundations of CBT, ACT, and introduces mind-body techniques. Results from a pilot study show a statistically significant decrease in anxiety symptoms and a decrease in depression symptoms following participation in the MOM program.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Survivorship
Presentation Level: Intermediate

PS201

Suicide Panel Symposium

FEATURING:

Suicide in the Oncology Setting
Lauren Kriegel, LCSW, OSW-C

Summary: Facing a cancer diagnosis goes hand in hand with facing your mortality. Oncology social workers play a crucial role in assessing and intervening when a patient has suicidal ideation. Oncology social workers need to feel confident and comfortable discussing end-of-life issues with patients, families, and health care providers. The topic of suicidal ideation in the oncology setting is broad and encompasses issues like locus of control, hopelessness, and quality of life. In this workshop participants will learn about the prevalence of suicidal ideation in the oncology population, learn assessment tools and strategies, and discuss the ethical issues that go along with suicidal ideation in the oncology setting.

Course Designation: Ethics
Keywords: Ethics, Clinical Practice/Skill Building
Presentation Level: Introductory
Understanding and Addressing Suicide in Patients Living with Cancer: An Evidence-Based Approach to Screening and Interventions Management
Christina Austin-Valere, MSW, PhD, LCSW

Summary: Current research has shown that the suicide rate in cancer survivors appear significantly higher than in the general population. Today the focus on suicide among cancer survivors is more pronounced than ever. This focus will only increase as The Joint Commission (TJC) that accredits many of our hospitals and hospital-based outpatient cancer centers continues to require that patients are screened for suicide risk utilizing an evidenced-base tool. Many patients present with pre-existing psychiatric disorders, experience psychiatric symptoms and/or emergencies related to their cancer diagnosis and/or treatment. The literature also shows that if left unaddressed these psychological conditions can present many barriers to care, poor treatment outcomes and/or lead to more serious repercussion such as suicide. It is important, therefore, for us to identify and screen patients with cancer, who are considered high risk for suicide and provide evidence-based intervention to prevent suicide. During this presentation, we will look at current prevalence of cancer, explore the research and its clinical implications for psych-oncology clinicians, suicide risk factors in this population, and the cutting-edge approach by a cancer institute to implement evidenced-based suicide screening and intervention measures to promote suicide prevention in the population it serves.

Course Designation: Clinical
Keywords: Patient Navigation,
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Friday, June 12
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Conference Registration Open**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**
Continental Breakfast & Exhibits

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Paper Session IV (5 concurrent sessions)

P401
A Vision for Working with Chinese-Speaking Cancer Patients: Strategies for Program Development and Clinical Work
Mi (Emma) Zhou, MSW, LCSW

Summary: Chinese Americans are one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the United States, and they have high rates of a variety of cancers. There is a growing need for culturally-tailored cancer support services for Chinese-speaking patients. However, this type of service is limited. In response to the needs of the Chinese-speaking cancer patients, oncology social workers at Mount Sinai The Blavatnik Family – Chelsea Medical Center started building a comprehensive cancer support program in February 2019. In this presentation, the development of the program will be reviewed, specifically, lessons learned and challenges overcome. The presentation will cover conducting biopsychosocial-cultural-spiritual assessment in a culturally sensitive way, identifying individual Chinese-speaking patients’ psychosocial needs and providing support throughout cancer treatment, initiating and maintaining discussion about advance care planning, strategies for outreach and recruitment, and program monitoring. Through patient encounter aggregate data collected, participants will better understand the needs and concerns of this patient population.

Course Designation: Cultural Competency
Keywords: Special Populations, Specialized Needs
Presentation Level: Introductory
P402

**Communicating Cancer-Related Concerns in Bladder Cancer Survivorship: The Role of Social Networks, Anxiety and Avoidant Coping Styles**

Chiara Acquati, PhD, MSW; David Latini, PhD, MSW; Heather Goltz, PhD, LMSW, MEd

**Summary:** Inadequate social support relationships have been extensively associated with poorer mental and physical health outcomes, including heightened risk for morbidity and mortality. In the context of cancer the relevance of supportive networks for the individual’s quality of life has been confirmed. Despite this evidence relatively little is known about the psychosocial impact of bladder cancer. The second most common urologic cancer, bladder cancer is highly recurrent (50-90%) and the costliest in terms of health care expenditures over the lifetime. Using the Social-Cognitive Processing (SCP) model as a theoretical framework, this study examined predictors of social constraint among nonmuscle-invasive bladder cancer survivors. In the present sample, difficulties in the ability to communicate cancer-related concerns were predicted for individuals reporting greater avoidant coping styles, limited social networks, and higher levels of anxiety. Bladder cancer survivors presenting limited social support systems, with greater utilization of avoidance coping, and reporting higher anxiety may be at risk of not disclosing illness-related concerns. Present results support the relevance of the availability of social networks on the ability to verbalize cancer-related concerns among bladder cancer survivors. Future research should focus on designing and implementing psychosocial interventions targeting this subgroup.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Survivorship, Research  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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P404

**Prevalence of Alcohol Use during Chemotherapy among Women in a Breast Cancer Registry**

Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, MSW, FAOSW; Samar Ahmad, BS; Rafiullah Khan, MD; Susan Pinney, PhD

**Summary:** It is well known that alcohol is a risk factor for eight cancers, and research is ongoing into other cancers and the actual mechanisms in which alcohol is a risk factor. In 2013 over 17 million adults reported being heavy alcohol users. Increases in alcohol use for the age groups 45 – 65 and 65 and older were 64% to 72% and 45% to 55%, respectively, between 2001 and 2012. In 2019 1.7 million people were expected to have been diagnosed with cancer, and in 2016 there were 15.5 million survivors of cancer. It is the authors perspective that there is an overlap of those who have cancer and those who drink. Little is known about the interaction of the psychosocial issues related to cancer and cancer treatment and the psychosocial issues related to alcohol use. This study was a secondary data analysis of data from a breast cancer registry. Of those in the sample, 28% reported drinking during chemotherapy. This is a striking finding. There is a need to get a clear understanding of the prevalence of alcohol use during treatment. Based on these findings oncology social work has a role in the research that follows to provide the best quality cancer care to patients who may be silently struggling.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Research, Specialized Needs  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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P403

**Making Technology Work for You: A Journey into the High Tech World and Learning to Ask for What You Need**

Teresa van Oort, MHA, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C

**Summary:** At MD Anderson, the Social Work Department has created a dynamic relationship between EPIC, our current electronic medical records vendor, in order to make ongoing changes/updates to the patient’s record, create more efficient ways of documenting and utilize robust reporting capabilities. Our staff receive regular training on these elements in order to provide the most comprehensive care for our patients and self-monitor their productivity metrics. This presentation will explore the history of technology in social work, the integration of technology into monitoring metrics and the role of inter-institutional advocacy has played in meeting the needs of the department.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Leadership/Administration, Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
**Paper Session V** (5 concurrent sessions)

### P501

**Focusing on the Couple Coping with Cancer**  
_Eunju Lee, LCSW; Angela Katrichis, MSW, LCSW_

**Summary:** Couple-based interventions have the potential to reduce marital and psychological distress, caregiver burden, and promote relational growth creating a stable foundation that couples can draw upon during the challenges of cancer (McLean et al, 2013). This presentation promotes the adoption of a dyadic view of couples by the oncology social worker when conducting clinical assessments and interventions in a medical setting. Borrowing from theories and concepts from both the cancer and couples therapy literature, we will examine the rationale for advancing the dyadic perspective; delineate critical aspects of the constituents of dyadic functioning as bases for assessment; review and discern effective approaches aimed at improving dyadic partnership; and propose ideas for short term clinical interventions. These interventions will be based on the practice of narrative therapy and Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT). Throughout, the presenters will incorporate case examples culled from the bedside of cancer patients and their partners.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Specialized Needs  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

### P502

**Hippocratic, What? Navigating Medical Futility as a Medical Social Worker.**  
_Christina Rothans, LCSW_

**Summary:** As social workers in an oncology setting, we often witness medical futility as our patients undergo third- and fourth-line therapies despite their poor prognosis and physicians’ oath to “do no harm” (Blanke & Fromme, 2015). This experience creates distress for all involved, including our patients whose quality of life is significantly impacted, and ourselves, as the moral distress associated with witnessing the non-beneficial care of our patients’ compounds overtime. This talk is a palliative care social worker’s attempt to unpack the myriad factors that influence patients’ non-beneficial care despite the evidence of its association with high mortality and aggressive end-of-life care (Vasconcellos, et al. 2019). This talk is an examination of this delicate conundrum as well as a proposal to shift the paradigm of medical futility by empowering oncology and palliative care social workers to advocate for more meaningful communication between patients and their oncologists about treatment goals and prognosis for the purpose of more goal-aligned care. Ultimately, this shift will enable us to better care for our patients, ourselves, and the well-intentioned oncologists who work so hard to prolong life in the face of advanced cancer.

**Course Designation:** Ethics  
**Keywords:** Clinical Practice/Skill Building, Pain, Palliative Care and End of Life  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

### P503

**Leveraging the Tides of Change: A Strategic Roadmap to Implement Billing for Oncology Social Work Services and Biopsychosocial Screening**  
_Courtney Bitz, OSW-C, ACHP-SW; Christina Cabanillas, ACHP-SW; Renee Joshi, OSW-C, ACHP-SW; Ruby Bañuelos Calhoun, ACHP-SW; Fan Ming (Terence) Hung, ACHP-SW; Amy Donner, ACHP-SW; Marinel Olivares, ACHP-SW; Matthew Loscalzo, APOS fellow_

**Summary:** Health care is in a time of unprecedented disruption. Times of disruption are robust opportunities for significant change in health care institutions. This includes opportunities for oncology social workers to contribute to health care institutions through generating revenue. Historically, oncology social workers have not billed for their clinical services due to institutional resistance and social work resistance fearing that patients will not have the financial resources to access services. Oncology social workers have a wide breadth of marketable skills necessary for psychological growth and to relieve unnecessary suffering in cancer patients and their families. This presentation will share how one clinical social work department initiated and successfully implemented billing for social work services and automated biopsychosocial screening. This was a challenging
process for which there was no road map; now there is. Leadership skills and operational processes needed to successfully implement oncology social work billing will be described. Leadership topics include relentless perseverance as the minimum required for institutional change, strategically using tides of change, managing expected emotions and how to stay forward thinking despite the pull to revisit the past. Operational processes will include strategies to engage stakeholders at multiple levels using the values-benefits-outcomes model, billing codes, compliance concerns and utilizing technology. The impact of billing on the social work team and patients/families as well as ethical issues will be discussed. Data collected from March 2019 to present will be shared. Participants will have a leadership and operational roadmap to implement social work billing in their own institutions.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Leadership/Administration, Interdisciplinary Care  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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Developing a Patient-Centered Intervention for Financial Navigation in Cancer Care: Providing “A Ray of Hope”  
**Julia Rodriguez-O’Donnell, LCSW**

**Summary:** In this pilot study, a multidisciplinary team comprised of oncology social workers and other disciplines, including cancer support program leadership and public health researchers, developed a patient-centered intervention for providing financial navigation to patients with cancer and their families. Cancer-specific financial distress screening, psychosocial assessment and ongoing check-ins formed the basis of this intervention, in which patients were assisted to apply to programs across the spectrum of government, non-profit organizations, local grant foundations, and in-hospital programs. Virtually all of the participants reported significant benefits in terms of feeling less overwhelmed and more supported in their search for financial assistance programs. For some, financial distress levels decreased significantly according to pre- and post-intervention assessments. Participants reported that the program had given them “peace of mind,” let them “know that doctors, nurses, social workers and everyone really cared,” enabled them to feel “less afraid of having cancer,” and ultimately became “a huge factor in treating my cancer.” Patients whose illness and/or financial situation deteriorated during their participation in the program still overwhelmingly reported the benefits of this model that involved frequent visits with social workers and that focused on their unique cancer treatment experience. We will discuss the skillset unique to social workers that facilitates the negotiation of complex, disjointed health care systems and financial assistance programs in the service of helping patients with cancer to proactively address the problem of financial toxicity, so that they can better adhere to treatment, experience higher quality of life and improved survival.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Financial Toxicity, Patient Navigation  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory

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Ensuring Successful Transplant Outcomes: A Clinical Pathway for Proactively Identifying, Communicating and Intervening with the Psychosocially High-Risk Pre-HCT Patients  
**Estella Barrios, ACHP-SW, OSW-C; Nicole Peeke, ACHP-SW; Marinel Olivasres, ACHP-SW; Rupinder Sidhu, LCSW; Terence Hung, LCSW, ACHP-SW; Ranee Kang, ACHP-SW; Michelle Roue, ACHP-SW; Gabriela Flores, MSW; Jennifer Drew, ACHP-SW, OSW-C**

**Summary:** This paper describes a clinical pathway that outlines a process of proactively identifying, communicating and intervening with the psychosocially high-risk hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) patients. Psychosocial high-risk criteria were also developed, which included lack of adequate caregiver support, lack of housing, active use of illicit substances, significant psychiatric issues and non-adherence to treatment. The clinical pathway was reviewed by Clinical Social Work Director and Manager for evaluation. It was then presented and discussed with senior hematology physician leaders for input, approval, and possible integration into HCT Standard of Operations (SOP). The finalized clinical pathway was presented to the HCT Quality Management Council which approved and incorporated it into the HCT SOP. Since the implementation of the clinical pathway at the authors’ institution, physicians have deferred transplant for
patients with high-risk psychosocial barriers, until such barriers have been managed. The clinical pathway can serve as a quality check for patients with significant psychosocial risk factors. There is potential that the clinical pathway can be translated in other institutions to further improve multidisciplinary communication, intervention, and psychosocial candidacy for pre-HCT patients.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Interdisciplinary Care, Leadership/Administration  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Closing Keynote**  
**Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, BCD, FAOSW**

Summary: Oncology social workers by nature are positioned to provide support and leadership to their care teams. Burnout is negatively impacting the quadruple aim of patient experience, provider well-being, outcomes and costs in healthcare. Krista will explore leadership opportunities for an enhanced vision for Oncology Social Work that focuses on supporting patients, colleagues and self. Participants will explore though stories how innovation, creativity and volunteer service can cultivate meaning and professional resilience in this work.

Krista will reflect on lessons learned, and the impact her experiences as an oncology social worker and how she has used these clinical skills in a broader scope in international work in Haiti and with Portland Street Medicine.

**Course Designation:** Clinical  
**Keywords:** Professional Issues  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

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"AOSW Annual Conference builds effective opportunities for attendees to visit exhibitors right into their schedule. It is one of reasons we attend every year - in addition to the fact that oncology social workers are the perfect audience for the CLIMB® Program."

_Denis M. Murray, Executive Director, The Children’s Treehouse Foundation_

"Whether social workers are new to oncology or seasoned professionals there is no place more important to building and supporting a career in oncology social work than AOSW. It has had a profound influence on my ability to grow, network and learn from colleagues in the field."

_Rick Dickens, CancerCare_  

"This conference has allowed me to increase my skill set at both a clinical and administrative level. Now I feel more confident in helping our program grow in the right direction!"

_Shelby Czarnick, LICSW, Columbus Community Hospital_
AOSW 2020 Conference Registration Form

First Name (As you would like it to appear on your badge)  Last Name

Institution

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Phone  Email

Emergency Contact   Emergency Contact Phone Number

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Registration Categories

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<th>After March 24 and until May 26</th>
<th>Onsite</th>
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One Day Registration:

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<td>Nonmember</td>
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Check Day:  ❑ Wednesday  ❑ Thursday  ❑ Friday

Continuing Education Units ☐ $35 USD

MORNING WORKSHOPS (8am – 12pm)

1. The Art of Writing for Publication
   Daniela Wittmann, PhD, LMSW; Karen Kayser, PhD, MSW  ☐ $50 USD

2. Advance Care Planning: Implementing an Educational Program to Improve ACP Discussion with Oncology Patients and Families
   Annabelle Bitter, MSW, LCSW; Teresa van Oort, MHA, MSSW, LCSW, OSW-C; Mark Anderson, JD, LMSW  ☐ $50 USD

3. An Overview of Veterans in Cancer Care, From Diagnosis to End-of-Life
   Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, PhD, LCSW, FAOSW; Louisa Daratsos, PhD, LCSW; Alba Lopez, DSW, LCSW  ☐ $50 USD

AFTERNOON SESSIONS (1 – 5pm)

1. Sexual Health and the Oncology Social Worker’s Role: Lifespan, Ethical and Clinical Considerations
   Jillian Bissar, LCSW-S  ☐ $50 USD

2. Circles of Hope: A Large Group Model of Social Work Intervention
   Nancy Cinocotta, LCSW, MPhil  ☐ $50 USD

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Total Charge: $ ________________

NOTE: No need to select individual sessions, you can attend any session you wish.

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To cancel your registration, you must submit notice in writing to AOSW headquarters by April 28, 2020. AOSW will charge a $75 USD cancellation fee for written cancellations that arrive at by April 28, 2020. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after April 28, 2020. Delegates may make substitutions at any time. Substitutions must be in writing and must be of the same membership status.

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Photography Acknowledgment
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