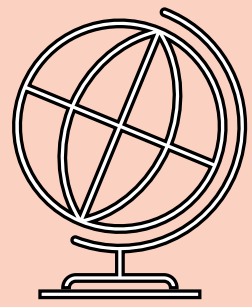


The Essential Role of Oncology Nursing Professional Organizations in Advancing Supportive Care

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO), International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), Global Power of Oncology Nursing (GPON), European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS), Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)

Background and Significance

A collaborative of six professional associations and networks, across the world, dedicated to oncology nursing was launched in June 2024 at the annual Multinational Association for Supportive Care (MASCC) conference. This collaboration, Global Oncology Nursing Excellence, established a mutual goal to create synergy in work efforts and globally amplify the voice of the oncology nurse. The collaborative made a decision to respond to the recently published MASCC Supportive Care 2030 Ambition Statements that outline the desired global state of supportive care by 2030 for those impacted by cancer, articulating the role and contribution that oncology nurses make in achieving it



Methods

Over two in-person meetings, and multiple virtual meetings, and email correspondence, the international efforts of the organizations in the collaborative were mapped, including existing collaboration efforts and opportunities for future collaborations. During the process of cross-mapping organizational work to the MASCC ambition statements, numerous universal themes emerged that superseded geographic location and healthcare models.

Results

Five commonalities were identified in how the leading organizations are addressing supportive care including: (1) workforce development, (2) policy and advocacy, (3) standards and education, (4) interprofessional collaboration, and (5) global citizenship to Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Each organization provided specific examples of projects and initiatives.

Table 1. Summary of Work Efforts Completed Across Organizations

Theme	Examples of Work Efforts
Workforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influencing undergraduate curriculum development• Establishing oncology-specific competencies for use in practice (general and sub-specialty)• Skill growth through volunteer and leadership opportunities
Policy & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing positions statements• Advocating for unique role of oncology nurses• Government-level advocacy for patients and nurses
Standards & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing education (courses, books, resources, etc.) for members on various clinical topics• Creating and disseminating patient-care guidelines and standards
Interprofessional Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating with multidisciplinary colleagues to create and disseminate resources such as psychosocial professionals, physicians, spiritual care, and pharmacy
Global Citizenship to LMICs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentorship and sharing of resources to individual nurses and oncology nursing organizations in LMICs• Discounted fees and increased access to educational opportunities

Conclusions

As the largest health discipline, oncology nurses are vital partners and leaders of the planning, coordination and implementation of supportive cancer care. Through advocacy, research, education, and collaboration, we aim to advance supportive cancer care, and improve the experience and outcomes for patients affected by cancer and their caregivers worldwide.



Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology
Association canadienne des infirmières en oncologie