Radiation Oncology Nursing: An International Perspective

This presentation will focus on the development and delivery of a comprehensive educational program for an international audience of professional oncology nursing colleagues. Global aspects of radiation oncology clinical practice; education; research and role delineation will be discussed. Participants will be encouraged to partake in an interactive dialogue in order to share world-wide perspectives and experiences so that dimensions of a comprehensive model of best practice is identified.

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Full Disclosure:
Nothing to Disclose

Continuing Nursing Education: Participants will receive 1.0 continuing nursing education credits for successful completion of this session.*

At the end of this session participants will be able to:
2. Compare and contrast clinical, educational, administrative aspects of radiation oncology nursing world-wide.

Content Outline:
I. Identifying International Venues of Radiation Oncology Clinical Practice
   a. Preparing to dialogue with international colleagues
   b. Identifying available resources
      i. Defining clinical similarities
      ii. Embracing clinical differences
         1. Why dialogue across the seas?
         2. What is purpose of global reach?
II. Building Acquired Knowledge
   a. Identifying health care delivery systems (country specific)
   b. Educational preparation of oncology nurses
      i. What are the challenges?
      ii. What is the work ethic?
         1. Identify oncology nursing faculty
         2. Integration of nursing presence in clinical setting
III. Delivery of Radiation Oncology Care
   a. Technical/teaching roles/ancillary
   b. Collaborative roles
   c. Advanced practice roles
   d. Research
   e. Multidisciplinary team/support
IV. Patient Outcomes
   a. Nurse involved during entire trajectory of care
   b. Pre-treatment care/during treatment/follow-up
   c. Side-effect management
   d. Communication/teaching/competencies

* Indicates that the following is a sponsored session.
V. Evaluation
   a. Patient satisfaction
   b. Maintaining data base
   c. Documentation Systems
   d. Quality Assurance

* ONS is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation.
Radiation Oncology Global Climate
- Rise in cancer incidence developing world
- Limited resources/technology/equipment
- Shortages of qualified staff
- Urgent need to expand human resources
- Conservative acquisition of equipment
- Develop training programs relevant to country
- Qualifying centers of competence
  - equipment/staffing/training

International Arena
- Cancer treatment: context of prevention/early diagnosis/goals of treatment
- Role of the radiation oncology nurse
- Standards of care
- Standards of professional performance
- Evidence-based practice
- Clinical domain

The Trajectory of Events
- Initial contact
- Who made the request?
- How was the recommendation made?
- Validity
- Professional details
- Response with credentials

Establishing Time Line
- Confirm reliable source
  - identify “key” individuals
- Preliminary response
  - letter of interest/CV
- Formal invitation
  - professional commitment
  - accommodations/compensation
  - travel documents/passport/visa/work permit

Specific Questions
- Define target audience
- Teaching venue/format
- Involvement additional faculty
- Course content
- Additional host institutions

HMDP EXPERT
National Cancer Center Singapore
- Health Manpower Development Program (HMDP)
- National Cancer Center Singapore (NCCS)
- Competitive grant Ministry of Health
- NCCS prioritized radiation oncology specialty
- NCCS searched globally for expert
**Mutual Goals and Objectives**

- Negotiating relevant topics
- Identifying participant learning style
- Balancing “need to know” with “nice to know”
- Critical information about international hosts
- Philosophy of expert clinical practice

**Due Diligence**

- Extensive conversations
- Multidisciplinary oncology professionals
- Pivotal Institutional support broad disciplines
- Technical/Administrative/Clinical
- Local/Regional/National professional network
- Extensive academic preparation
- Pre-shipment hard copy/electronic material

**Know Your Host**

- Where are you going?
- What are the demographics?
- Population?
- How does the government function?
- Economics?
- Cultural make-up?
- Religion?
- Military?
- Official language?
- Education?
- Health care system?
- National pastime?
- Transportation?

**Upon Arrival**

**Early/Acclimate**

- Welcome
  - Own work space
  - Introductions/Orientation
  - It is a small familiar world
  - Surprise dignitary meetings

**Clinical Observation**

Framework for delivery of oncology care

Key aspects of radiation oncology care

- Educational preparation nurses
- Identifying “multidisciplinary” team
- Hierarchy structure
- Nurse/Physician dynamic

**Radiation Oncology Clinical Foundation**

- Patient acuity
- Available technology
- Trajectory of patient care
- Clinical focus
- Evidence based practice
- Research protocols
- Department blueprint
- Patient flow
International Radiation Oncology Specialty

- Professional tips for nurse expert
  - astute observer/superb listener
  - patient care focused
  - advocate for professional nursing presence
  - evidence based foundation
  - non-judgmental/work within system
  - flexible didactic approach

Articulate Challenges

- Diplomatic approach
- Provide written and verbal account
- Review experience of EXPERT program
- Professionalize nursing role
- Integrate clinical disciplines
- Collectively find “nursing voice”
- Empower nursing presence

Formulate Recommendations

- Review findings
- Remain positive/realistic
- Focus on professional nursing practice
- Prioritize positive patient care outcomes
- Promote nursing as integral to team function
- Support documentation of nursing care
- Characterize working relationships
- Nurse administrators as managers

Recommendations

- Integration of NCCS radiation oncology nurses
- Evaluation of educational preparation
- Technical/Advanced Nursing practice
- Nursing skill commensurate patient acuity
- Balance staff nurses with APNs
- Foster clinical cross-training
- Expansion of APN’s as faculty graduate study

Identification of Project Champion

- Direct impact professional development
- Champion: Blend administrative/clinical Multidisciplinary
- Common Goal: Enhanced professionalism Seamless patient care

Creating a Global Model of Professional Radiation Oncology Nursing Practice

- Broad-based approach
- Administrative/clinical support
- Working within cultural milieu
- Prioritizing trajectory of oncology care
- Creating accessible educational curriculums
- Documenting the course
- Quality assurance measurement
- Continuous evaluation
Continuous Dialogue

Final written report
- Strengths
- Challenges
- Recommendations
- Comment current state of practice
- Remain a professional resource
Radiation Oncology Nursing: An International Perspective Bibliography

JOURNAL ARTICLES


BOOKS


THESIS

WEBSITES
Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)
http://www.ons.org/

American Brachytherapy Society (ABS)
http://www.americanbrachytherapy.org/

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)
http://www.astro.org/

European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO)
http://www.estroweb.org/estro/index.cfm

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
http://www.iaea.org/

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
http://www.asco.org/

International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC)
http://www.isncc.org/

World Health Organization (WHO)
http://www.who.int/

Sigma Theta Tau
http://www.nursing.society.org/