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National Oncology Nursing Day Celebrates the Critical Role of

Canadian Oncology Nurses

Vancouver, BC (Tuesday, March 15 2011) — This April 5th, as communities across Canada celebrate National Oncology Nursing Day, not only will important members of every cancer care team be recognized, but all Canadians will be reminded of the critical role that oncology nurses play during all phases of cancer treatment and care.

The importance of specialization is well understood in the medical professions. Of course, this understanding also applies to the practice of oncology nursing, where specialization can make an incredible difference. This is certainly the case across our country and Canadian oncology nurses are often heralded as worldwide cancer care leaders, delivering levels of care that other countries aim to emulate.

This high level of care results from a combination of specialized additional knowledge, and cognitive and clinical skills. “Our association strives to ensure that oncology nurses have the tools necessary to maximize positive outcomes in oncology care and treatment, and play an integral role in keeping the healthcare system running smoothly,” says Jennifer Wiernikowski, President of CANO/ACIO. “Having specialized oncology nurses involved in the care of patients and families dealing with cancer elevates the work of the interdisciplinary team, enhances efficiency, safety and, most importantly, patient outcomes.”

It is safe to say that we would all would prefer to see a loved one affected by cancer receive treatment from a specialized oncology nurse. However, for many Canadians, this may not be the case. Cancer treatment centres across the country may not always have nurses with the extended training required to administer chemotherapy. Yet there is strong evidence to support that the number of Canadians who will require cancer treatment and care will continue to rise, underscoring the importance of investing in oncology nursing as a profession. In response, the programs and initiatives of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) are constructed and made available in order to augment the general nursing practice, and address this issue in a meaningful way.

With the programming that CANO/ACIO delivers, oncology nurses impact treatment plans in a profound manner. For a patient undergoing months of chemotherapy, one can only imagine the appreciation that exists for this level of treatment and care reinforcement. It is for this reason that on April 5th, communities across the country will acknowledge oncology nurses and be reminded of the very valuable role they play, not just in our cancer care system but in the lives of cancer patients and their treatment teams everywhere.

For further information on CANO/ACIO, and details concerning Oncology Nursing Day 2011, please visit http://www.cano-acio.ca/onc_nursing_day_day_1.

ABOUT CANO / ACIO

Established in 1984, CANO/ACIO is the national organization that supports Canadian nurses to promote and develop excellence in oncology nursing practice, education, research and leadership. CANO/ACIO's purpose is to promote prevention of cancer, to provide optimal care of individuals living with cancer, and to provide support for the nurses caring for them. CANO/ACIO represents about 1,000 nurses across Canada. Its members are nurses working in administration, universities, and research institutions, as well as acute and critical care inpatient units, outpatient clinics, palliative care and hospice.

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