



5th October, 2020

Dear Presidents, Chairs and National Cancer Nursing Society Leads,

I write to introduce myself as the elected EONS Young Cancer Nurse and invite the support of your society for the continued development and growth of the Young Cancer Nurses' Network throughout the WHO Europe Region.¹ Young cancer nurses face a variety of personal and professional challenges that are unique to their generation, as a result of changing political and economic environments globally.

The EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network aim to bring together young cancer nurses from across Europe to identify the common and unique challenges faced by this group. The Young Cancer Nurses' Network will work together with EONS and National Oncology Nursing Societies to build capacity and provide opportunities for young cancer nurses' personal and professional development.

My primary goals as the EONS Young Cancer Nurse are:

- 1) to expand the reach and representation of the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network, and
- 2) support young cancer nurses throughout Europe to engage meaningfully with EONS and benefit from opportunities for professional development.

At present, the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network has representation from thirteen European countries. Members of the Young Cancer Nurses Network are already active in advocacy and research issues which affect Young Cancer Nurses. We will launch a report of the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Study later this year and will be running a Nightingale Challenge in Autumn 2020, which responds to issues identified by our research with Young Cancer Nurses.

Over the coming years EONS aims to grow the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network and support National Oncology Nursing Societies to develop equivalent networks at national and regional levels. The goal of these networks is to support and communicate opportunities for networking, learning and professional development to young cancer nurses.

To support the development of these networks, I and the EONS Board invite each National to identify up to three Young Cancer Nurses to lead this initiative within their country. We encourage each Society to maintain a **lead Young Cancer Nurse** for their country, with **1-2 deputies** to support the role of the lead National Young Cancer Nurse. All lead and deputy Young Cancer Nurses will be eligible for membership of the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network, and will be expected to uphold the Young Cancer Nurse Network roles:

- 1) outline the concerns and challenges facing young cancer nurses in their countries,
- 2) collaborate with EONS and their National Society to identify strategies to address concerns and challenges of young cancer nurses within their countries,
- 3) begin to develop a National Young Cancer Nurse Network in his/her country,
- 4) be an ambassador for their country and EONS, raising the profile of young cancer nursing throughout Europe,

¹ <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries>

- 5) act as a point of contact between National Oncology Nursing Societies and EONS regarding the young cancer nursing agenda.

To be eligible, Young Cancer Nurses must be 1) 35 years of age or under; 2) Be a member of their National Oncology Nursing Society; 3) Work with cancer patients on a regular basis; 4) Have more than two years of professional experience; 5) Understand, speak and write English. As members of the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Network, members must commit to:

- Participating in at least 50% of all the network teleconferences and at least one of the group activities.
- Attending one face to face meeting per year at least
- Signing the EONS Conflict of Interest form on an annual basis.

As in previous calls for new members of the EONS Young Cancer Nurse Network, I emphasize that societies are free to identify how to choose their young cancer nurse. However, we encourage each society to consider providing the lead Young Cancer Nurse an opportunity to become a board member of the society, as an observer or full member with voting rights. EONS believe that providing this opportunity to a young cancer nurse is an endorsement of the commitment to supporting the development of the next generation of cancer nursing leaders in Europe. Nevertheless, EONS recognise that decisions regarding eligibility for board membership remains the discretion of each national society.

In countries which do not benefit from a national oncology nursing society, EONS will run a recruitment campaign seeking independent expressions of interest from young cancer nurses who wish to join the EONS Young Cancer Nurse Network to represent their country. Where a national society has difficulty identifying a national representative, for whatever reason, EONS would be happy to support the society in identifying a Young Cancer Nurse through our recruitment campaign.

EONS believes that developing Young Cancer Nursing Networks in this manner represents an amazing opportunity for the personal and professional development of young cancer nurses in your country. To advance this agenda, a team of enthusiastic and motivated young people, are needed raise the profile of and opportunities for young cancer nurses and cancer nursing in their own country and across Europe.

I would appreciate if could send the name of your nominees no later than **07th December** 2020, to eons.secretariat@cancernurse.eu. Should you have any questions about this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at eons.secretariat@cancernurse.eu.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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Executive Board Member & Young Cancer Nurses Network Chair, European Oncology Nursing Society