The Board of the Fort Worth Regional Chapter of ONS met in August at our annual retreat. We wanted to provide you with a brief overview of that meeting and highlight some upcoming events.

Are you interested in getting more involved with our chapter? The following positions are available for 2018. Nominations are open, voting will be in November via a Survey Monkey, and announcements will be made at our December meeting.

**President-Elect:** This is a 2 year term, with the second year progressing to the Chapter President. IN this role, you will enjoy being part of a dedicated and dynamic team of nurses working hard to make our chapter great. During your year as President-Elect, you will be mentored by the entire board. You will be involved with many activities of our chapter, will be invited to attend a Leadership Weekend with the National ONS team in Pennsylvania and invited to attend the Regional Chapter Officers Meeting with other members of the board.

**Treasurer:** This is a 2 year term. This role’s primary responsibility is to balance our books monthly, and present a financial report to the Board quarterly. No experience required! Ashely Reese will be available to mentor you!

**Programs Chair:** This is an appointed position but ALL interested parties are encouraged to state their interest! This role is responsible for booking vendors to support our monthly meetings.

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
- **Meals on Wheels project:** we will tackle some yard work and some handyman projects for elderly Meals on Wheels clients on Saturday, September 16th. Details available from Sheryl.Compton@texashealth.org
- **October 28th:** We are going to serve breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House. We will need 2 crews: one for set up/cooking and serving and one to help with serving and clean up. Signup sheet coming soon!!
- **Coat and Blanket drive for our December meeting benefitting the Union Gospel Mission.** Start collecting new or gently used items to donate! Please consider putting out a box for collections in your office. Let’s fill up a truck or two!!!

**Charitable Donations, Scholarships and Memoriam**
- Donation of $100 was made in Memory of Dr. Ralph Anderson GYN/ONC to “Foundation For Women’s Cancer”
- Quarterly donations will be made to our 4 charities: Grace Pantry, Union Gospel, Cancer Care Services and Ronald McDonald. These donations are funded by your yearly dues collected at the meetings.
- 4 scholarships were awarded to chapter members to support their attendance at the ONS Congress in Denver this past May
- Additional scholarships have been awarded to several chapter members to attend conferences in their area of special interest
- In conjunction with THR, hosted an OCN review course Sept 8-9th, and had a registration of 47 nurses from various facilities in DFW, Abilene and Northwest Louisiana!
Oncology News

FREE OFFER
Do you need CE? 50+ FREE short CNE articles for contact hours for ONS members.

Go to www.ons.org/CNE to access the articles and accompanying CNE activities. Topics include Genetics Overview of ALL, Fertility Preservation, Chemotherapy Safe Handling and more!

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Safety Tips needed
Do you have a safe tip you would like to share? ONS has issued a chapter safety challenge. You could win a prize for telling us your safety story! Email Lori Krogman with your latest safety tip or idea: Lori-Krogman@texashealth.org

Local Chapter News

TIME TO PAY YOUR CHAPTER DUES
Our chapter dues are $5/month or $40/year. Please pay when you come to the meeting. This money goes to our charities that we support. In 2017 we support Cancer Care Services, Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth, Union Gospel Mission, and the NEAT program. We will vote for 2018 charities so look for a survey in your inbox soon.

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Fort Worth Regional Chapter of ONS Meeting:

“Establishing a Treatment Paradigm in Post-Gemcitabine Pancreatic Cancer”
Ann Collins-Hattery, RN MS AOCN APRN
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals

Monday, September 11, 2017
Registration: 6:00 pm
Dinner & Lecture: 6:30 PM
(cash bar)

Del Frisco Double Eagle Steakhouse
812 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

RSVP by September 78 to Stacey Brewer, 469-416-0567 or Stacey.brewer.ext@ipsen.com
Hosted by Ipsen

In accordance with the PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals. The PhRMA Code states that Inclusion of a Healthcare Professional’s spouse or guest at an educational program is not appropriate. Your support of these ethical Guidelines will help to ensure a high quality learning environment for all participating Healthcare Professionals. Thank you.
Our DNA is constantly damaged due to environmental factors and normal cellular processes and this damage must be repaired. Usually, we are in luck, as our body has several mechanisms in place to correct this DNA damage.

Today I want to shine the spotlight on PARP (poly-ADP ribose polymerase). PARP is an enzyme involved in DNA repair, specifically in response to single strand DNA damage (or nicks). If DNA nicks go unrepaired, double stranded breaks can form during DNA replication and double stranded breaks can mean trouble. But in terms of cancer treatment these double stranded breaks are a golden gate and the key is a PARP Inhibitor.

Several hereditary cancer genes code for proteins that are important for the repair of double stranded DNA breaks, including the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene. However, mutations in the BRCA genes can lead to errors in repair that increases the risk for certain cancers (i.e. breast, ovarian, prostate, pancreatic).

PARP inhibitors are a class of drugs that, as you probably guessed, inhibit PARP and therefore cause multiple double stranded breaks to form. Normal healthy cells with functioning BRCA genes repair these breaks and survive the inhibition of PARP. However, in cancers or tumors with BRCA mutations the DNA damage can’t be efficiently repaired leading to the death of cancer cells.

In 2014, the FDA granted accelerated approval to the PARP inhibitor, olaparib (Lynparza) as monotherapy for the treatment of patients with germline BRCA mutated advanced ovarian cancers, who had been previously treated with three or more lines of chemotherapy. Approval was based on an international randomized, double blind trial assessing maintenance treatment with olaparib in patients with advanced ovarian cancer and germline BRCA mutations, which showed significant improvement in progression free survival compared to the placebo patients (11.2 vs. 4.3 months).

In December 2016, the FDA granted accelerated approval to another PARP inhibitor, rucaparib, for the treatment of patients with deleterious BRCA mutation (germline and/or somatic) associated advanced ovarian cancer, who had been treated with two or more chemotherapies. At this time, Foundation Medicine’s FoundationFocus CDxBRCA test became the first FDA approved companion diagnostic test, identifying patients who may be eligible for treatment with rucaparib by detecting BRCA mutations in the tumor tissue of ovarian cancer patients.

With the approval of both olaparib and rucaparib the treatment options for patients with advanced ovarian cancer are increasing. Genetic testing in patients with ovarian cancer now poses the potential benefit of targeted treatment options. It’s not just germline genetic testing from saliva or blood, but somatic mutations identified through tumor testing expands the number of patients that benefit from this treatment. It has been estimated that approximately 6% to 7% of high-grade serous ovarian cancers harbor somatic tumor only mutations in BRCA1/2. Therefore, for those patients who do not have an underlying germline BRCA mutation, tumor genetic testing may reveal a somatic BRCA mutation, opening the door to an additional treatment option. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)
But what about the all other cancers associated with BRCA mutations?

A phase II trial of men with metastatic, castration-resistance prostate cancers with DNA repair defect demonstrated a high response rate to treatment with olaparib. Of the sixteen patients that had tumor aberrations in their DNA repair genes, 14 had a response to olaparib, including all 7 patients with BRCA2 loss and 4 of 5 with ATM mutations. The results of this trial suggested that a common subset of metastatic prostate cancer can be molecularly stratified for treatment. Approximately 25-30% of all sporadic castration resistant prostate cancers have defects in DNA repair genes.

In 2016, the FDA granted breakthrough therapy designation for olaparib for the monotherapy treatment of BRCA and ATM mutated metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer who have received prior taxane based chemotherapy and at least one newer hormonal agent.

It does not stop there! There are currently several clinical trials assessing treatment with PARP inhibitors for breast and pancreatic cancer with germline and/or somatic DNA repair gene mutations. Maybe we will find that this key fits many more locks, paving the way for advanced cancer care.

Feel free to contact our UTSW Cancer Genetics department with questions and referrals: 214-645-2563.

References:


Hennessy BTJ, et al. (2010) Somatic mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 could expand the number of patients that benefit from poly (ADP ribose) polymerase inhibitors in ovarian cancer. Journal of Clinical Oncology, 28 (22), 3570-3576.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. [https://www.fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov)
The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional association of more than 35,000 members committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness
- Gynecological Cancer Awareness
- Prostate Cancer Awareness
- National Yoga Awareness
- World Sepsis DAY 9-13
- Get Ready Day 9-20 (what is this??)
- Menopause Awareness Month