



Oncology Nurse Mandi Webb Recognized for Blog Highlighting Her Innovative Care Kit for Head and Neck Cancer Patients

Foley, AL May 4, 2017—Oncology Nurse Mandi Webb, RN, BSN, a member of the radiation oncology care team at Gulf Coast Cancer Centers in Daphne, Alabama, recently won first place in a blog writing contest held by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). Her article, which was published in the ONS’s weekly update, described a special care kit she developed to help head and neck cancer patients prevent and control radiation side effects. Attendees from the ONS 41st Annual Congress were invited to write a blog post to share the innovative changes they implemented in their practices as a result of attending the Congress. Webb’s winning blog article earned her free registration to the ONS’s 2017 Congress.

“We are very proud of Mandi for the recognition she has received from her peers and the Oncology Nursing Society,” said Patrice Wilson, Regional Director of Nursing for The US Oncology Network. “Mandi is a dedicated, compassionate oncology nurse who saw a need for her patients and took the initiative to develop a special care kit with basic items that can be a great help to patients once they understand how and when to use them. We are pleased to congratulate Mandi for this achievement, especially during Oncology Nursing Month, as she demonstrates the endless compassion oncology nurses have for their patients and the strong commitment they put forth every day to improve their patients’ lives,” she added.

In some cases, head and neck cancer patients undergoing radiation can experience severe side effects which can affect quality of life if not properly managed. The special care kit developed by Webb enables patients to play a vital role in their own care by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to both prevent and treat common side effects that may occur with radiation. The kit includes a soft bristle toothbrush, gentle toothpaste containing fluoride and no abrasives, salivary substitutes, rinses to prevent gum and mouth sores, and easy-to-understand educational material about possible issues that may arise during treatment.

“My goal in developing the care kit was to be proactive with patients so they can prevent as many side effects as possible,” explained Webb. “By providing the kits on consult day before treatment even begins, patients get an understanding of the products they can use if side effects occur, as well as how to use them so they can intervene immediately on their own behalf. I also wanted to make the kit and educational material fairly basic, so patients would not feel overwhelmed using the kit at home on their own,” she explained.

The care kit has been well received by patients, and it will now be provided to every head and neck cancer patient receiving treatment at all Gulf Coast Cancer Centers throughout the South Alabama region. To read Webb’s award-winning article, titled “Implementing Nurse-Led Change in Radiation Oncology,” visit the Oncology Nursing Society’s website at <http://congress.ons.org/implementing-nurse-led-change-radiation-oncology>.

About Gulf Coast Cancer Centers

Gulf Coast Cancer Centers (GCCC) is a leading provider of high quality, evidence-based radiation oncology therapy in the Gulf Coast region. The practice is committed to providing patients easy access to the very latest treatment technologies so they can receive cutting-edge treatment close to home. GCCC was the first free standing cancer center in the area to provide IMRT (intensity-modulated radiation therapy) and IGRT (image-guided radiation therapy), and these advanced technologies are offered at Gulf Coast Cancer Centers' facilities in Brewton, Daphne, and Foley. In addition, the practice offers respiratory gating, full-body stereotactic radiosurgery, BrainLAB and PET/CT technology at its Foley treatment center.

GCCC is staffed by highly trained board-certified radiation oncologists, medical dosimetrists, a medical physicist, board-certified radiation therapists and compassionate, skilled staff dedicated to providing the highest level of personalized care and support to help patients and their loved ones have the best possible treatment experience and outcome. The practice partners with medical oncologists and other specialists to provide multidisciplinary team care for all types of cancer. GCCC is part of The US Oncology Network, a physician-led network of integrated, community-based oncology practices supported by McKesson Specialty Health. For more information about treatment procedures, call toll free 866-970-4222 (GCCC) or visit www.gccancercenter.com.

About The US Oncology Network

The US Oncology Network is one of the nation's largest networks of integrated, community-based oncology practices dedicated to advancing high-quality, evidence-based cancer care. A physician-led organization, The US Oncology Network unites like-minded physicians and clinicians around a common vision of improving patient outcomes and quality of life. Leveraging healthcare information technology, shared best practices, evidence-based guidelines and quality measurements, physicians within The US Oncology Network are pioneering new ways to achieve this vision. The US Oncology Network is committed to strengthening patient access to integrated care in local communities across the nation, including collaboration with a variety of payers, hospitals and academic institutions. The US Oncology Network is supported by McKesson Specialty Health, a division of McKesson Corporation focused on empowering a vibrant and sustainable community patient care delivery system. For more information, visit www.usoncology.com.

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