

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2003

## EONS Award Lecture

1102

### **Creating a culture of compassion: developing supportive care for people with cancer.**

A. Richardson. *King's College London, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, London, United Kingdom*

Receiving the 2003 Distinguished Merit Award from the European Oncology Nursing Society is a great moment in my professional career. It is also a time for reflection. We can easily become immersed in the specifics of our work and forget the larger picture. An opportunity such as this allows me to step back, reflect and review what I have accomplished. It also challenges me to think about the totality of cancer nursing and cancer care, look at where we have been and about where we should be going. At the heart of this lies the concept of supportive care. I would like to consider three pertinent areas. First, I will define what I consider the domain of supportive care in cancer to be. Second, I will look at what is needed to further supportive care for people with cancer. This involves building the discipline of more rigorous symptom assessment and documentation; better management of the symptoms and concerns that confront people with cancer; moving beyond the traditional framework of treatment and care, embracing a more integrated approach; addressing quality whilst at the same expediting the delivery of supportive care services. Third, I would like to consider the challenges to reform that this presents for cancer nursing and cancer nurses. A road map for change will be presented which highlights both the necessity to promote a supportive care culture whilst simultaneously building a dedicated infrastructure of staff and services. Nurses must play a key role in supportive care. Because of our unique clinical and research base, we are primed to assume leadership roles in both these spheres. Mutual valuing, partnership and shared working are the only means of delivering enhanced cancer care. We should grasp opportunities, confident that together we have the skills and knowledge to move forward. Today is yesterday's tomorrow. We cannot do anything about yesterday, but we can do something about today to ensure tomorrow is how we want it to be. We can become what we dream, let us live that dream outside and really drive forward the care we provide for people with cancer and their families.

## Teaching Lecture

1103

### **Cancer across the lifespan**

J. Corner. *University of Southampton, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Southampton, United Kingdom*

This teaching lecture will present an overview of cancer incidence and patterns of the disease across the lifespan. The major challenges faced by people with cancer and their families and carers at different life stages (childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, old age) will be explored, as well as the extent to which we have sufficient information about the support needs of people affected by cancer that is age specific. The Concept of life stage will be considered from a number of theoretical standpoints; psychological, social and biological, and the relevance of these in relation to cancer illness and its aftermath explored as well as problematised. A critical examination of biological and developmental approaches to life stages will be offered. The usefulness of the concept of life stage in the context of cancer treatment and care will be explored from a number of perspectives. The lecture will draw on material from studies with children and older people that offer challenging insights into preconceived ideas of 'age appropriate' care and treatment.