



NACNS 2017 Annual Conference

Building your own: How to create new oncology-focused Adult/Gerontology CNSs
Melissa Craft, PhD APRN-CNS AOCN
March 9, 2017




The specialty in Clinical Nurse Specialist

- CNS serves as a model of expertness (Fulton, 2003)
- Historically CNS focused on improved clinical care and recognition occurred after master's preparation in a specialty-focused graduate nursing program (Fulton et al., 2016)
- Changes related to practice priorities within the three spheres (patient/client, nurses and nursing practice, organization/system) have occurred through the years.



Specialty in CNS

- Change in the operational definition of specialty focus occurred with the APRN consensus model. Curriculum adapted to embrace population foci for initial licensure/recognition to practice as a CNS.
 - Adult/Gerontology
 - Family/individual across the lifespan
 - Neonatal
 - Pediatrics
 - Women's health/gender related
 - Psychiatric-mental health



Specialty?

- How is specialty defined?
 - Oncology, critical care, cardiology, neurology
 - How about endocrinology, electrophysiology, wound care, perioperative, emergency, bariatrics, forensics..
- According to the Consensus model “In addition, specialties can provide depth in one’s practice within the established population foci” (AACN, 2008)
- “Education for a specialty can occur concurrently with APRN education required for licensure or through post-graduate education” (AACN, 2008)



NACNS Position on Achieving Specialty Competency for CNSs

- “Specialty practice is the principal element and the hallmark of this APRN role and must be maintained in the context of the new population-based licensure model articulated in the APRN consensus model” (NACNS, 2013)
- “Regardless of the academic option selected, the achievement of specialty competencies should be documented”. (NACNS, 2013)
- “For students with evidence of specialty expertise from practice, graduate learning experiences will integrate the required population and role competencies and allow students to apply their specialty knowledge at an advanced level while acquiring the required population and role competencies for licensure” (NACNS, 2013)



The Oncology Nursing Society Statement on “The role of the APRN in Oncology Care”

- “It is the position of ONS that: APRN practice in oncology includes CNSs, NPs, and dually prepared (CNS and NP) nurses who are prepared at the graduate level (i.e., master’s or doctorate) with a specialty focus in oncology practice”



Proposal to “Grow your own oncology focused Adult/Gero CNS”

- Timeline:
 - Summer, 2011: Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) Dedication (speaker: Siddhartha Mukherjee)
 - Spring 2012: Started talking to Dr. Robert Mannel, Medical Director for SCC about funding scholarships for CNS students who will focus on oncology specialty within the Adult/Gero CNS program
 - December 2012: Meeting between SCC leadership and CON leadership
 - Summer 2013: First scholarships awarded



SCC scholarships

- Four \$25,000 scholarships for CNS students
 - \$15,000 for tuition and fees
 - \$10,000 carved out to pay for two one-week intensive clinical experiences at an NCI-designated cancer center
 - Total travel costs for the student
 - \$2000/student honorarium for the preceptor at the NCI-designated cancer center
- Two scholarships were awarded to begin in Fall 2013. These two students graduated May 2016
- Two scholarships were awarded to begin Fall 2014. One student exited the scholarship after one semester. One will graduate May 2017.
- Last scholarship awarded Spring 2017.



Embedding specialty practice in Adult/Gero population focus CNS curriculum

- Adult/Gero CNS program at OUCN was revised from the Acute Care CNS program to conform to the Consensus model recommendations.
- AACN Essentials for Master’s program, Adult/Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Competencies, Criteria for the Evaluation of Clinical Nurse Specialist Master’s, Practice Doctorate, and Post-Graduate Certificate Educational Programs



Curriculum

- 40 credit hours, 6 semesters Full time or 8 semesters part time. 672 hours of practicum obtained during 4 different semesters.
- Practicum hours incorporate the CNS competencies in all three spheres, go from wellness to acute care and from foundational/general to specialty.
- Preceptors are mutually agreed on between student and faculty and vary from each semester.
- With launch of SCC scholarship we incorporated a comprehensive practicum experience at the SCC that included CNS in Clinical trials office, NP in supportive care, NPs in Radiation Oncology and NP in GYN Oncology.



Other oncology preceptors

- Approximately four other oncology specific preceptors in the metro that students spend hours with.
- NCI designated cancer center intensive experience:
Why do we need that?
 1. SCC applying to be an NCI-designated cancer center through a P30 grant.
 2. APRNs form a core workforce for quality, safety, efficient care in these facilities.



Creating the Practicum Intensive

- First two scholarship recipients were due to start first one-week intensive experience in Fall 2015.
- Clinical affiliation agreements can take up to 6 months to obtain.



Finding the clinical partner

- It's easy to identify all the NCI-designated cancer centers right?
- It's easy then to identify who to talk to at each center about APRNs right?
- CNS SIG at ONS!
- Peggy Burhenn MS CNS AOCNS in Geriatric Oncology at City of Hope



Intensive clinical experience

- One-week intensive clinical experience at City of Hope (COH)
- Peggy coordinated all activities after discussing goals and objectives of the experience.
- Fall and Spring semester of last two semesters
- Students were assigned pre-reading to prepare for a particular project.
- They spent time in various departments and with several different preceptors, and attended local oncology meetings.



Outcomes

- Two students graduated Spring 2016 and accepted positions at SCC
 - Phase One Clinical Trials
 - Infusion center
- Another graduate from this cohort offered position in Neuro-oncology
- One student who will graduate in Spring 2017
- Final scholarship student will graduate in Spring 2019
- Discussions with Medical Director re future pipeline for APRNs



Going forward...

- This can be replicated for any specialty in any location. All it takes is collaboration, support and time!
- Questions?



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