



# The Oncology Nurse-APN/PA®

The Official Publication for the Hem/Onc Nurse & Advanced Practitioner

**CANCER CENTER PROFILE**

## Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

*A Nurse Practitioner Shares in Her Patients' Successes*



Nursing staff (and pharmacist, Sue Berg) at Children's Memorial Hospital: Jessica Rivera, Erin Downs, Sandy Van Leeuwen, Amy Kaplan, Allison Parise, Monica Newmark, Jacquie Toia, Terri Gleason, Sally Hageman, Tara Krosschell, Sue Berg, Kristi Waddell, and Jane Kilian.

**A**fter the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Chicago became one of the fastest growing cities in the world. But in this time of prosperity and growth, the prognosis for children born in the city was grim. A child had only a 50% chance of surviving to the age of 5 years, and those who survived were likely to be exposed to a host of diseases.

In 1882, Julia Foster Porter, a young widow who also lost a child to disease, took bold steps to transform the future of children's health in Chicago. Ms Porter renovated a modest home at the corner of Belden and Halsted Streets for \$13,000 and established Chicago's

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**THE WHOLE PATIENT**

## Josh and Friends: The Healing Power of the Human-Animal Bond

By Michael Levesque

**F**or the past 15 years, the Josh and Friends Project has been an enduring source of comfort to children aged between 2 and 9 years, who face anxieties related to medical procedures, surgery, chemotherapy, or other treatments arising from illness or injury. Founded by Knoxville, Tennessee, vet-

erinarian Randy Lange, the Josh and Friends Project captures the inimitable qualities of the human-animal bond to influence positively a child's psychological and physiologic outlook in anticipation of as well as throughout medical treatment and recovery. Child comfort and wellness are at this unique program.

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**CONFERENCE NEWS: ASCO**

## Survivorship Care: An Emerging Medical Need

*Cost-Effectiveness of Programs Questioned*

By Caroline Helwick

**CHICAGO**—The population of cancer survivors is growing rapidly. More than 12 million Americans are alive after a cancer diagnosis, with most living at least 5 years, and 16% living 20 years after their initial diagnosis.

This growing population of cancer survivors is at risk for many comorbid health

conditions, especially as they age. A study of 10,397 childhood cancer survivors found this group to be 8 times more likely to have a severe or life-threatening condition than their siblings (Oeffinger K, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2006;355:1572-1582).

Survivorship care, therefore, has become a topic of interest as oncologists aim

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**SURVIVORSHIP**

## Breastfeeding May Be Compromised, But Is Still Important in Survivors of Childhood Cancer

By Rosemary Frej, MSc

**A**lthough breastfeeding may be impaired in some survivors of childhood cancers as a result of treatments, such women who are able to successfully breastfeed should do so, because of the protective effects it can impart,<sup>1</sup> according to research led by Susan W. Ogg, RN, MSN, a research nurse

in the Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

"Some nurses work with women and assess their lactation potential throughout pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum," Ogg said. "When working with a mother who has survived childhood can-

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Your FAQs...

*Answered!*

Q: What are some treatment options for elderly patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia?

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Session participants in the Marbel Hall.

## Shared Decision Making in Healthcare: Results from the Salzburg Global Seminar

By Peg Ford

The setting is an 18th-century palace, Schloss Leopoldskron, and the adjoining Meierhof building. This is the home of the Salzburg Global Seminar, an international institution that challenges current and future leaders to develop creative ideas and innovative strategies for solving universal problems. Located on the outskirts of Salzburg, Austria, and dating back to 1740, the palace is situated on a spacious, private estate with a spectacular view of the Alps. It has a colorful history. Mozart played there under the sponsorship of one of the palace's owners, Count Laktanz. In 1918 it was acquired by Max Reinhardt, a cofounder of the Salzburg Festival of music and drama. The grounds and interiors of Schloss Leopoldskron served as inspiration for many scenes in the movie *The Sound of Music*, with the palace's Venetian Room, designed by Reinhardt, recreated in a studio to serve as the Von Trapp family ballroom.

Here, I was extremely fortunate to convene and participate with 58 people from 18 countries in December 2010 to discuss the role patients can and should play in healthcare decisions. This session, entitled "The Greatest Untapped Resource in Healthcare? Informing and Involving Patients in Decisions about Their Medical Care," was the second in a series of seminars focusing on health and healthcare. The session was organized in collaboration with the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making ([www.informedmedicaldecisions.org](http://www.informedmedicaldecisions.org)), a nonprofit organization based in the United States that works to ensure fully informed patients are active participants in decisions involving their healthcare. The seminar received support from the Wellcome Trust, Bupa,



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and Health Dialog.

The participants developed the Salzburg Statement on Shared Decision Making, which was released worldwide on February 7, 2011, in many languages, including English, German, Spanish, Hindi, Mandarin, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Cantonese, Greek, Albanian, Macedonian, Farsi, Serbian, and Bulgarian. The statement also was published in the *British Medical Journal*. The consensus statement (Sidebar) calls on patients and clinicians to work together to be coproducers of health. ●

The Salzburg Global Seminar is a nongovernmental organization that brings together experts and imaginative thinkers from diverse cultures, institutions, backgrounds, and experiences to address issues that present a global concern.

Last winter, Peg Ford, a patient advocate and one of our editorial board members, was invited to participate in a Salzburg Global Seminar to contemplate the importance of patients' involvement in healthcare decision making. Ms Ford was joined by a group of 57 other experts in healthcare. On behalf of all of us at *The Oncology Nurse-APN/PA*, congratulations to Ms Ford on this honor. It is our pleasure to present the following report from Ms Ford regarding this extraordinary experience.

## The Salzburg Statement on Shared Decision Making

**We call on clinicians to:**

- Recognize that they have an ethical imperative to share important decisions with patients
- Stimulate a two-way flow of information and encourage patients to ask questions, explain their circumstances, and express their personal preferences
- Provide accurate information about options and the uncertainties, benefits, and harms of treatment in line with best practice for risk communication
- Tailor information to individual patient needs and allow them sufficient time to consider their options
- Acknowledge that most decisions do not have to be taken immediately, and give patients and their families the resources and help to reach decisions.

**We call on clinicians, researchers, editors, journalists, and others to:**

- Ensure that the information they provide is clear, evidence-based, and up to date, and that conflicts of interest are declared.

**We call on patients to:**

- Speak up about their concerns, questions, and what's important to them
- Recognize that they have a right to be equal participants in their care
- Seek and use high-quality health information.

**We call on policymakers to:**

- Adopt policies that encourage shared decision making, including its measurement, as a stimulus for improvement
- Amend informed consent laws to support the development of skills and tools for shared decision making.

**Why?**

Much of the care patients receive is based on the ability and readiness of individual clinicians to provide it, rather than on widely agreed standards of best practice or patients' preferences for treatment.

Clinicians are often slow to recognize the extent to which patients wish to be involved in understanding their health problems, in knowing the options available to them, and in making decisions that take account of their personal preferences.

Many patients and their families find it difficult to take an active part in healthcare decisions. Some lack the confidence to question health professionals. Many have only a limited understanding about health and its determinants and do not know where to find information that is clear, trustworthy, and easy to understand.

**Salzburg Global Seminar: The Greatest Untapped Resource in Healthcare? Informing and Involving Patients in Decisions about Their Medical Care. 12-17 December 2010 (Session 477). Further details: [www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/477](http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/477).**