Annual Rite of Spring

Some consider spring the start of a much-heralded and welcoming thaw from an isolating winter. Some consider spring the preparation for summer, a dress rehearsal for the primary season of high expectations to recharge. But spring for oncology nurses—prompted by a winter of abundant Congress flyers and announcements—means coming together at the annual Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Congress. Congress prompts anticipation and then delivers with a fervor, providing opportunities to step up our professional game.

I have been fortunate to be an enthusiastic Congress attendee for many years, thanks to strategy and financial support. I see Congress as a special time for ideas to take hold, blossom, and spread, often in unexpected ways. This year’s engaging Congress is the 43rd in the history of ONS and will take place in our nation’s capital, Washington, DC, from May 17–20, with about 4,000 attendees coming together to find inspiration.

However, as with any professional conference, colleagues who cannot attend Congress are in the majority; this is often related to the cost of attendance (Cook et al., 2011; Olen, 2016). Fortunately, Congress offers a wealth of energetic sessions and omnipresent networking can still influence your practice back home. If you are one of many who cannot attend Congress this year, here are a few ways to get that spring lift, compliments of the dedicated Congress planning team and ONS staff.

If you know a colleague who plans to attend Congress this year, take a look at the Congress website (https://congress.ons.org) before that colleague leaves for Washington, DC. Then, with a heads-up from you, your colleague can attend sessions you have tagged and bring back highlights and insights, and perhaps even have a conversation with session presenters on your behalf.

According to chairperson Lenise Taylor, MN, RN, AOCNS®, BMTCN®, representative of the Congress planning team and ONS staff.

Congress is a special time for oncology nurses, and I highly recommend attending. However, if you cannot attend, use some of the strategies presented in this article. From the vantage and advantage of your office or home easy chair, you will join your oncology nursing colleagues experiencing this special oncology nursing rite of spring.

"The abstracts are a gold mine of information, anchored by innovative strategies that can change practice."

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REFERENCES

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