Standing Up Together

Nurses represent the heart, soul, and future of the movement to end cancer. We are the ultimate collaborators. We interact across the spectrum of healthcare professionals, and we know the patients better than anyone. As the first line in the inpatient setting and the primary contact in the outpatient world, we often are the first to identify and document patient responses and the first to realize that something is off for a patient or family member. We do all of this while our patients face some of the biggest crises of their lives.

Nurses have the responsibility to care for patients with cancer and to be involved in research programs that are creating new treatment options. To help nurses with these responsibilities, Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) funds cutting-edge, collaborative, translational research with the world’s leading healthcare providers and scientists.

At SU2C’s helm are a group of eight influential women from the entertainment and media industry—and a nurse. My day job may be as the president and CEO of SU2C, but I am first and foremost a nurse. Nursing informs every aspect of my work, from collaborating with scientists to engaging donors and the general public to fund research. Together, my colleagues are using their bully pulpit, and I am using my nursing education to make cancer the ulti-mate collaborators. We interact across the spectrum of healthcare professionals, and we know the patients better than anyone. As the first line in the inpatient setting and the primary contact in the outpatient world, we often are the first to identify and document patient responses and the first to realize that something is off for a patient or family member. We do all of this while our patients face some of the biggest crises of their lives.

In addition, our televised fundraising special will take place on September 7 (https://bit.ly/2zaRM5b), with the goal of supporting research and new cancer treatments. I encourage you and your patients to tune in and learn about the scientific advancements being made and the hope that they bring to all who are affected by cancer.

How are today’s oncology nurses helping to pioneer new treatments? You are the ones who make the system work for patients. Medical science needs your continuing help to demystify clinical trials so more patients participate. As treatments become more complex, oncology nurses are the key to ensuring patient safety and treating adverse events. Our discipline makes the strange and overwhelming process of cancer treatment bearable for patients and their families as we bring them the best possible medicines and support.

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