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5. Award descriptions and selection criteria
4. Some awards go unawarded simply be-
   cause no one submits an application for
   them.
3. The award winners are nationally known
   oncology nurses, and oncology nurses
   who contribute on local or regional lev-
   els do not stand a chance.
2. The nomination or application process is
   cumbersome and time-consuming.
1. Only a handful of awards, grants, and
   scholarships are awarded each year.

Is Complicated and Confusing? Read on.

How well informed are you about the various awards, grants, and scholarships
sponsored by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), ONS Foundation, and Oncology
Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) that recognize everyday heroes in oncology
nursing? Please take a minute or two to take this true-or-false quiz about these awards
and the award process.

Statement 1 is false. Many more than a handful of awards are offered each year; in
fact, more than 60 opportunities and $450,000 are available in awards, research
grants, and scholarships. Some of the awards are geared toward individuals, and others
are awarded to groups. For instance, ONS sponsors three $1,300 Chapter Excellence
Awards to recognize three ONS chapters that have excelled in promoting the mission
and goals of ONS. The ONS Foundation offers four $2,000 Josh Gottheil Memorial Bone
Marrow Transplant Career Development Awards to those who practice in bone mar-
row transplant nursing by providing financial assistance to attend continuing-education
programs or to supplement tuition in a bachelor’s or master’s educational program.
In 2002, the ONS Foundation was able to present 52 $1,000 Congress Scholarships
to nurses who applied them toward Congress registration and travel expenses. ONS antici-
pates being able to offer at least 50 Con-
gress Scholarships for the 2003 Congress in
Denver, CO. Twenty-nine research grants
and fellowships also are available from the
ONS Foundation.

Statement 2 is false. Although the nomi-
nation and application process does take
some time to complete, the time involved is
not overwhelming and the potential outcome,
winning an award, makes that time and ef-
fort well worthwhile. Recently, the nomi-
nation and application process was streamlined
for many of the awards. The instructions on
each award application are simple, clear, and
easy to follow. For instance, to nominate a
colleague for the $2,500 ONS Foundation
Connie Henke Yarbro Excellence in Cancer
Nursing Mentorship Award, nominees must
complete a half-page nomination form, at-
tach their curriculum vitae or resume, and
submit three letters of support. Some award
applications include questions, such as the
$2,500 ONS Foundation Pat McCue/New
Orleans Chapter End-of-Life Care Nursing
Career Development Award. To be consid-
ered for this award, nominees submit a re-
sume, obtain one recommendation for the
award from a colleague, supervisor, etc., and
briefly respond (answers do not exceed a
half-page) to six questions related to their
role and philosophy about end-of-life care.
Other award applications are structured in a
similar fashion; the forms and submission re-
quirements are designed to be completed
quickly and easily.

Statement 3 is false. Many opportuni-
ties exist for all oncology nurses to be rec-
ognized for their work and contributions to
oncology nursing. Some awards recognize
lifetime achievement and distinguished
contributions, some are targeted at devel-
oping nurses’ expertise, and others recog-
nize new and novice researchers. Many
times, award nominees feel honored and
humbled just to be nominated for an award.
Joyce Marrs, RN, BSN, OCN®, a staff nurse
at Medical Oncology/Hematology Associa-
tes in Dayton, OH, received the $2,000
ONS Excellence in Oncology Nursing Pri-
vate Practice Award. Many readers will not
recognize her name, but her contributions
were recognized by this award. Joyce felt
honored to be nominated by her supervisor
and was very surprised to win this presti-
gious award. She also noted that it came at
a time in her life when she was feeling a bit
burned out. The award and recognition asso-
ciated with the award recharged and re-
kindled her enthusiasm for her work and her
profession.

Statement 4 is true. Some awards go
unawarded simply because no one submits
an application. With so many awards and
recognition opportunities offered by ONS,
the ONS Foundation, and ONCC, it’s diffi-
cult to imagine that people do not (or will
not) take the time to nominate someone for
an award or apply themselves. The awards
offer so much to the recipients: recognition,
validation, and for the vast majority of the
awards, a monetary award. As mentioned
earlier, being nominated for an award has a
similar effect. For many nominees, just be-
ing nominated is an uplifting and validating
experience.

Statement 5 is true. The booklet “Every-
day Heroes in Oncology Nursing” lists the
purpose, description, selection criteria, and
application deadlines for the more than 60

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