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We want to hear from you! Call or Email us with your important input and we'll do everything we can to include your topic in the next OA Member News.

ONCOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Physician Network Services

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Address all correspondence to:

Brent Evans, Editor,
Executive Vice President
& General Manager

Kelly Desatnik, Associate Editor,
Marketing Director

Oncology Associates
34675 Vokes Drive, Suite 105
Eastlake, OH 44095
888-732-7352
Fax: 440-942-7970
www.RCMED.com

WITH MEMBERS IN MIND

COMPASSION



So much attention is rightly paid to cancer patients and the valiant survivor stories that touch us all. However, it is easily forgotten who fights the battle day in and day out, side by side with the victims of cancer.

Recently, I was reminded *who the true brave hearts* of the oncology world are, the Oncology Nurses. Bombarded by more demands on their time than humans should ever endure, nurses get the job done with a smile. Oncology Nurses, more so than any other, act in multiple roles including; patient caregiver/confidant, dosing expert, office/business manager, purchasing agent, reimbursement specialist and clinical researcher. This only just begins the list of functions vital to the survival of the community based oncology practice and the tasks completed by Oncology Nurses not mentioned here could be labeled as - "not the most desirable in the medical field."

So what ingredient allows oncology nurses to endure the heartache of their patients' diagnosis and perform duties that never end? In my opinion this

quality is **compassion**: the deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it. Each of the OA member nurses that I met at the recent Head Nurse/ Practice Manager meeting in Clearwater,

Florida gave me a strong sense of concern for their patients and the lives they help to preserve.

It was a pleasure for me to meet these professionals with such diverse personalities and backgrounds from all over the country. The energetic input of each unique personality into the daily workplace is what endears patients to these nurses.

These people are not just a blank face in the medical

office, but authentic individuals who listen to patients and make the treatment experience a little more bearable.

As all of our lives have been touched by cancer in one way or another, I am sure that we are all thankful for the nurses who passionately commit their lives to a career most of us would find difficult to attempt for a day.

Compassion, it is what translates the care of the treatment specialist to the patient. And believe me, patients can tell when the feeling is real.

We are all thankful for the nurses who passionately commit their lives to a career most of us would find difficult to attempt for a day.

This column is written by Brent Evans, Editor of the OA Member News and OA's Executive Vice President & General Manager. Contact him with your comments at bevans@rcmed.com.

NEW NAVELBINE PRICING NOW AVAILABLE TO OA MEMBERS

GlaxoSmithKline has alerted Oncology Associates that on November 1, 2002 a **1% discount** has been issued for purchases of Navelbine. As a participating member on the OA contract with GlaxoSmithKline for Navelbine, you should have already received this important correspondence. The following is the discount notification:

NDC#	Product Description	Discount	Effective Date
00173-0656-01	NAVELBINE INJ 10 MG 1 ML	1.0%	11/01/2002
00173-0656-44	NAVELBINE INJ 50 MG 5 ML	1.0%	11/01/2002

To discuss any questions about this discount or if would like additional information, please contact OA at 1-888-732-7352. Thank you for supporting OA through your purchases of Navelbine, Zofran and Hycamtin.