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**A NEW LOOK**

Thanks to the valuable feedback of our members, the *OA Member News* is continuously growing and changing. As the *OA Member News* evolves, we felt it was necessary to give the cover of our magazine a fresh, new look to stay consistent with our regularly updated content. We hope you will enjoy the new cover as well as the exciting contents within.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Call or email us with your idea and we'll do everything we can to include your topic in the next magazine.



**WITH MEMBERS IN MIND**

**FAITH** ('fāth) *n.* 1. Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing. 2. Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence.

*When you lose someone you love, where does the strength come from to go on?*

*Is suffering always replaced by peace?*

*How can you be sure that life's circumstances will one-day change for the better?*

**FAITH.**

I have no other answer for these and many of life's other difficult questions. Its meaning is unique to each person, but **faith is universal** and it keeps the human race going.

This past year has been a powerful test for my family's beliefs as we have experienced a sense of great loss, multiple times. Souls have passed on to what we hope to be a better place than ever imaginable. When it seemed that it couldn't get worse, it did and yet counting your blessings never seemed more important to us. No one is untouched by cancer.

The events of this past year prompted me again to focus on the professionals that we serve as Oncology Associates. **How do you cope?** Cancer is hard, I have heard people say many times, but the men and women I have met, who treat cancer are not. I find you to be warm, vibrant and of course, caring. I marvel at the fact that your spirits stay high in the ever-changing terrain of life and death. It must be a strong faith that grounds you. How else could you as doctors and nurses continue to offer help day after day without the expectation that something good will come from your combined efforts with the patient?

**Science alone will not triumph.**

Measured doses, careful calculations and abstract data are only inventions we have created to represent the tangible actions that we carry out in hopeful pursuit of living. Survival is based on more powerful forces than the treatment plan you offer. It is your conviction to the task of empowering others to live, while they are alive, that demonstrates faith.

And you know no other way than to persist in your work because it is not always cancer that wins. Think of those many times that you have sat at a lonely desk and relied on all that can be done to make a difference and it has! How that energy carried you to new places of understanding in your profession as well as life outside the office. The sun seemed brighter and the trees danced in the wind when you stepped outside into the fresh air.

A matter of perspective you could say allows for the will to stay resilient. Even when failure seems imminent if you have believed that there is nothing that can stop you from succeeding, you have shown faith.

I need to say, "Thank you for your stamina and courage to do the job that you have chosen to do." Many healthcare professionals go unnamed to those who have relied on them for their very lives today. But by their **faith in you**, your presence has been felt in the most powerful way of all.

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](mailto:bevans@rcmed.com).

**ONCOLOGY ASSOCIATES**  
*Physician Network Services*

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**GlaxoSmithKline REBATE REMINDER**

Zofran rebate checks will be sent out November 24th. If you are a qualified member on the OA contract with GlaxoSmithKline, you should receive your rebate by December 1, 2003. If you do not, please contact OA at **888-732-7352**.

Oncology Associates would like to remind you of its contract with GlaxoSmithKline. Products on contract include: Hycamtin, Navelbine and

Zofran Injection 20 ml vials and 32 mg premixed bags.

Oncology Associates encourages each member to review the advantages and benefits outlined in the contract with their local GlaxoSmithKline representative.

To discuss any questions about the GlaxoSmithKline contract or rebates, please contact OA at **888-732-7352**.