

The Genetic Nurse
Highlight



July 2023 Newsletter



Education Program Awards Offered for ISONG Members

Each year, ISONG recognizes the remarkable accomplishments of members whose work focuses on educating nurses in genomics. These awards are made possible because of the 2023 ISONG World Congress sponsorship. **Applications are due by July 17, 2023, 11:59 PM EDT.**

Please share this information with colleagues. Individuals applying for an award must be an active ISONG member. If your membership has lapsed or are new to ISONG and wish to join the organization, visit www.isong.org.

Please get in touch with the Education co-chairs if you have questions: [Ruth Lucas](#) or [Karen Whitt](#).

APPLY TODAY

CONTENT

- 2 Education Program Awards
- 2 ISONG World Congress Raffle Donations
- 3 2023 World Congress
- 4 Call for Nominations
- 5 Member Spotlight

ISONG World Congress Raffle Donations Accepted Now

Support the 2023 ISONG World Congress Raffle with a donation! The ISONG World Congress Raffle is a beloved tradition that helps raise funds for the organization. Members from around the globe participate, contributing unique items that make the raffle an exciting event. Plan and donate an item from your hometown, favorite travel destination, country, hospital, academic institution, or cultural donation. Please ensure your gift is easy to transport, lightweight, and compact enough to fit in a carry-on suitcase.

If you cannot attend this year's World Congress but would like to support the raffle, please consider making a monetary donation. ISONG staff will purchase items with financial contributions collected for the raffle.



Thank you in advance for your donation. Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2023 ISONG World Congress Raffle.



Genomic Nursing: Building & Strengthening Bridges Between Advances & Practice

Don't Miss the 2023 ISONG World Congress!

Early Bird Pricing Ends September 29, 2023

November 3-5, 2023
Graduate Providence
Providence, Rhode Island

This unique international event is designed so you can connect with diverse experts and colleagues, and foster collaborations while enjoying your time with professionals from all over the world. You will leave the event with strategies to integrate scientific and technological discoveries into your daily practice.

The program will feature pre-congress workshops, expert lectures, and several tracks of the peer-reviewed podium and poster presentations. You will have opportunities to share contemporary research findings and best practices that will shape the future of nursing and enhance the quality of care in genetics and genomic healthcare.

Last year's congress attracted more than 150 of your colleagues from seven countries. You won't want to miss this event.

Register Today

Explore Providence, Rhode Island

Attending the ISONG World Congress event this November? Be sure to take in the sites of Providence, Rhode Island, while you are there. Seamlessly blending the old and the new with historic attractions, museums, and theaters, Providence also offers a Riverwalk area, outdoor skating center, downtown mall, and acclaimed [restaurants](#).

When visiting Providence, you have access to many [attractions](#), [universities](#), shops, and sporting event venues. Home to several museums, Providence is home to the [RISD Museum](#), part of the Rhode Island School of Design; the [John Brown House Museum](#), a landmark from the 18th century; and the Governor [Henry Lippitt House Museum](#), an American National Historic Landmark, among them.

Learn more and plan your Providence adventure by visiting goprovidence.com/things-to-do/attractions/.

Pre-Congress

Graduate Providence (Providence, Rhode Island)
Thursday, November 2, 2023
12:00 - 6:00 pm

Workshop Topics Include:

- The GenoNurse Model as a Framework for Nursing Education: International Perspectives and Utilization of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice.
- Utilization of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities

Interested in becoming a sponsor or exhibitor for the 2023 World Congress click below to learn more.

LEARN MORE



Call for Nominations

It is time for ISONG Nominations to the Board of Directors. The positions open are President Elect, Secretary, Member at Large, and Student Representative.

President-Elect: Demonstrates active involvement in an ISONG board or committee leadership capacity and shows evidence of a successful ISONG project promotion. Candidates must be willing to serve in this leadership position for three years. As the organization's leader, candidates will be evaluated on their previous ISONG leadership and service positions and their genetic/genomic experiences encompassing education, research, or clinical practice. It is a three-year commitment. The first year consists of service as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the third year as President-Emeritus.

Secretary: Demonstrates active involvement in various ISONG committees, activities, and projects. Candidates must be able to oversee effectively, keep, maintain, and ensure the distribution of the Board minutes to the Board of Directors and summaries of the minutes to ISONG members; give all notices that are required to be provided by these Bylaws; attest all documents, the execution of which has been duly authorized by the members according to these Bylaws; and in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe. This position is a two-year term.

Member-at-Large: Demonstrates active involvement in various ISONG committees, activities, and projects. Candidates should be able to articulate

their willingness and ability to serve as the link between the general ISONG membership, the Board of Directors, and various ISONG committees. Candidates in this position should expect to work on member-wide projects, such as the annual needs assessment, serve as the board liaison to the Membership Committee, provide written articles initiating membership discussion and opinions for the newsletter and e-updates, and maintain a members-Only section on the website, among other assigned duties by the Board. This position is a two-year term.

Student Representative: shall provide a perspective of student membership to the Board of Directors; take particular responsibility for seeking opportunities to promote student membership and engagement with ISONG; work with the Membership committee on initiatives and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors as well as participate in meetings of the Board of Directors. Student Representative is defined as any student member who is pursuing full-time graduate education.

We hope you nominate a colleague or yourself for this wonderful opportunity to serve our organization. All nominees must be active members and dues-paying members of ISONG. Please complete the form below and submit it to swe100@pitt.edu by July 25, 2023.

NOMINATE TODAY

Member SPOTLIGHT



Meet

HEATHER HANNON

DNP, APRN-NP, OCN, CBCN, ACGN



My name is Heather Hannon. I am an oncology-certified APRN-NP specializing in hereditary cancer genetic counseling and risk assessment. I have a bachelor's degree from Tufts University and a master's degree in nursing from Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston. I obtained my DNP from Marymount University (Arlington, Virginia) in May of this year.

Throughout my nursing career, I have worked at multiple NCI-designated cancer centers and in the community setting always, with a focus on oncology. My background includes experience as an RN and NP in medical oncology and bone marrow transplant, gynecologic oncology, breast surgery, and oncology nurse navigation.

Interestingly, a role in cancer genetic counseling was never on my radar. However, in 2013, shortly after Angelina Jolie's famous NYT article about her BRCA diagnosis, the community cancer center where I worked decided to offer genetic testing services. APRNs have a long history of filling gaps in care, and I was tapped to provide genetic counseling as part of the center's new program.

I immediately fell in love with the role but recognized that I needed greater knowledge to provide high-quality care. In 2014, I began taking steps to advance my education and skillset in hereditary cancers, including specialized training from organizations such as the City of Hope,

Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and The Basser Institute. In 2020, I was proud to become credentialed as an Advanced Clinical Genomics Nurse.

I have provided genetic counseling and testing services to over 2,500 patients and families with hereditary forms of breast, ovarian, renal, prostate, and GI cancer syndromes in the Richmond community. Additionally, I recently helped establish a genetic workflow integrating updated NCCN guidelines for prostate cancer and genetic and genomic testing for the largest urology practice in the city.

Currently, I practice at Bon Secours Cancer Institute in Richmond, Virginia, as an Advanced Oncology Genetics Nurse Partitioner. I see affected and unaffected patients in the clinic four days a week, perform genetic counseling and testing, and provide hereditary cancer risk assessment and management recommendations. My referrals come from oncologists, PCPs, GI physicians, urologists, you name it! I participate in weekly tumor boards where I help identify and interpret NGS test results for informing cancer therapies. Although not as frequent, I also provide patient teaching about genomic testing for breast cancer (such as Oncotype Dx).

Member spotlight continued on page 6 →

Our program is new to the market, and a challenging (but rewarding) part of my role is developing best practices for navigating the rapid evolution of genomics in cancer care (including issues surrounding informed consent and point-of-care testing and the intersection of somatic and germline findings).

My passion is hereditary pancreatic cancer. I am especially interested in using genetic findings to guide pancreatic cancer treatment and identify at-risk individuals who can benefit from surveillance to prevent this awful disease. My DNP scholarly work examined strategies for increasing clinician adherence to genetic testing for pancreatic cancer. My dream is to have a poster at the ASCO Annual Conference someday. This year I came close. My abstract for my scholarly project was chosen for publication in the ASCO meeting program guideline.

This was my fourth year attending ASCO's annual event and my first time back in person since the pandemic. The number of presentations on genomics and cancer care continues to expand yearly. This year universal germline testing was a hot topic. One of the event's best parts is meeting genomic experts in person. I said hello and even talked a little shop with Dr. T.J. Slavin, Dr. Jeffrey Weitzel, and Dr. Steven Katz. I loved spending time at the poster sessions and meeting enthusiastic up-and-coming physician researchers too.

Precision medicine (utilizing genomics and genetics) is the future of cancer care, and APRNs are on the front lines of leading this change. I am excited to be an ISONG member and look forward to continuing to highlight and advocate for the role of the genomics APRN-NP. Additionally, I am particularly interested in identifying how to promote optimal collaboration between APRN-NPs and Certified Genetic Counselors (CGCs). My close colleague in my current role is a CGC. Together, we are working better to define our roles' unique perspectives and strengths to leverage this for best practices for cancer genomic care.

Not a Member? Join Today!

Join the International Society Of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) and be part of a diverse worldwide membership of registered nurses with an interest in genetics reflecting the broad needs of patients with genetic problems.

Association benefits include:

- Continuing education, mentoring, professional development, and networking
- Information on late-breaking genetics research, education, job opportunities, and research grant applications
- Access to members-only portal with directory and profiles
- Leadership opportunities on the Board of Directors and Committees
- Support for nursing students at all levels across disciplines to engage in genomic topics.

For more information visit isong.org/memberbenefits.

JOIN TODAY