

Joan O'Hanlon Curry, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN

BIOGRAPHY

Joan O'Hanlon Curry is the Project Director, Office of the CNO at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She received a BA in psychology from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio and a BSN from Pace University, Pleasantville, NY and her MS from Columbia University in New York, NY as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Dr. O'Hanlon Curry was a Samuel H. and Maria Miller Scholar in the DNP Nurse Executive Track, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, and graduated in May 2023. She was in the second cohort of the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship in the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy.

Dr. O'Hanlon Curry started her career at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 1993 as a staff nurse and began her advance practice career in 1998. In 2004, she joined The Children's Hospital at Montefiore in Bronx, NY as the nurse manager for the outpatient pediatric hematology/oncology program, along with the advanced practice providers, to assist in revitalizing the program. In 2018, Dr. O'Hanlon Curry joined the team at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as the Administrative Director, Pediatric Clinical Services Children's Cancer Hospital. She joined Mount Sinai in February 2023 as the Director of Nursing, Oncology and Palliative Care. She returned to MD Anderson in January 2024.

Dr. O'Hanlon has been an active member of the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (APHON) serving 2 terms as treasurer and is a past president of national APHON. Dr. O'Hanlon Curry is also a member of the Children's Oncology Group and has been the responsible Investigator Nurse at both The Children's Hospital at Montefiore and the Children's Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson along with being a nurse auditor. She is currently on the advocacy committee for APHON, and the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR). She is a member of the Nurse Leaders in Advocacy group with the American Organization for Nursing Leadership. She was the recipient of the Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse® of the year award from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in 2007, as well as the Dr. Patricia Green Leadership Award in 2008 from APHON. In 2023, she received the Dr. Casey Hooke Distinguished Service Award from APHON.

STATEMENTS

1. Statement describing the biggest issue facing AONL and potential strategies to address the issue.

I believe that one of the key challenges AONL is currently facing is engaging younger nursing leaders and equipping them with the necessary resources to learn, develop and succeed. Furthermore, it's crucial for us to play a more active role in assisting senior nursing leaders in crafting succession plans to ensure that organizational progress isn't impeded by departures or retirements. AONL has already taken steps to support frontline leaders, and it's essential that we uphold these efforts and involve younger leaders in impactful projects that are approachable and manageable for them. Another way we can address this, is to collaborate with larger institutions and bring education to them.

2. Please describe your actions to increase diversity, equity and inclusion within your organization or community.

During my time on the board of APHON, I realized the need to better acknowledge the nurses specializing in hematology care, especially those from diverse backgrounds. This led to renaming our nursing journal to incorporate hematology and conducting town halls to gather input on fostering

inclusivity. Furthermore, we took steps to expand the board to ensure representation from both younger nurses and those specializing in hematology. I believe one of my strengths lies in my ability to self-reflect, take ownership of issues, and work toward resolving them. For nursing to thrive it is crucial we have the involvement of a diverse group, so we must be routinely assessing ourselves.

3. Please describe the unique perspective or skills you would bring to the AONL Board.

In my role as treasurer for my subspecialty nursing organization, I have gained familiarity with the duties and expectations of the position. Additionally, I possess significant experience within professional organizations and understand the intricacies of board work and the level of dedication it requires. My involvement in various nursing associations provides a unique perspective that can greatly benefit the board and enhance our capabilities as nursing leaders. I am a passionate leader with the ability to effectively connect with a diverse range of individuals. Through my extensive network of connections, I can help expand AONL's outreach.

4. Please describe your actions to improve health outcomes through advocacy.

I'm actively engaged in the advocacy within various organizations. I am a part of NLIA and participated in Advocacy Academy and Day. Additionally, I serve on the advocacy committee for both APHON and FNINR. I strongly believe that nursing leaders play a vital role in enhancing health outcomes. It's crucial for us to take the lead and guide frontline nurses in becoming engaged. I also emphasize the importance of advocacy at the state and local levels, as well as the federal, and the need to identify comfortable avenues for people to participate. Furthermore, I advocate for thinking innovatively to improve health outcomes and focusing more on preventative measures for greater impact.