

Renal Cell Cancer New Hope

Whether you're a patient living with renal cancer or a Urology nurse dealing with the disease, you know that the diagnosis can be frightening. Canadian Cancer Agencies predict that there will be 4900 new cases of Renal Cancer and 1650 will cause death. Smoking, obesity, high blood pressure and even some jobs increase the risks for kidney cancer. These are controllable risk factors.

Widespread use of body imaging tests such as ultrasound; computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging during workups for other conditions have allowed the discovery of increasing number of small renal tumors. Early detection also contributes to increasingly common diagnosis of localized disease, which contributes to better survival. The five-year survival of a patient with a low stage renal tumor is over 90 percent.

Renal cancer has the potential to be devastating if left untreated or not found in a timely manner. If the cancer is localized, treatments such as partial and total nephrectomy can be highly successful. As the kidney donor program can attest, it is possible to live a normal life with a single kidney.

The range of treatment options for patients with small tumors has expanded incredibly over the past five years. Because of advances in technology we can perform less invasive, kidney-sparing procedures as alternatives to the standard approaches of removing entire kidney. Even newer technologies that offer the promise of less-invasiveness and even non-invasiveness are being investigated for use as possible future treatments.

But, whether the tumor is small or large, patients should work with their urologist to determine the best treatment for both themselves and the tumor. Partial kidney removal has been shown to be just as successful as complete kidney removal in treating patients with a small tumor who have a normal opposite kidney. In those with a compromised opposite kidney (such as kidney stone disease), partial removal may be the best treatment, as it would be for patients with reduced function or only one kidney. As with any urologic disease, it is up to the Urologist to discuss quality of life issues and how treatment will impact daily activities. Several institutions are studying the impact of various kidney cancer

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The Pipeline is a publication of Urology Nurses of Canada.

The Pipeline is published each winter and summer for UNC members and sponsors and is also located at www.unc.org.

The Pipeline is looking for articles for publication about new initiatives in urology, latest technology, clinical research and evaluation, local chapter activities, patient and community resources.

Deadline for next issue:

Nov. 1, 2007

Contact the

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treatments on a patient's quality of life.

Renal cancer can spread locally to the lymph nodes adjacent to the kidney or to other parts of the body, most commonly the lungs, bones or liver. When this happens, most patients need aggressive treatments such as surgery to remove the cancer or systemic therapies that treat the entire body. Unfortunately, chemotherapy has not proven to be effective for most patients with advanced renal cancer. Over the past two decades, the most common treatment in this situation has been immunotherapy, using drugs that rev up the body's immune system, to fight off the remaining cancer. However the drugs used for this purpose, interleukin-2 and interferon-alpha, are only successful in about 20 percent of patients with advanced renal cancer. The overall cure rate with this approach has been disappointingly low.

Research over the past 10 years has now opened up a new way to treat advanced renal cancer. To understand this we have had to learn which growth factors were important for the growth of renal cancer. We have found that vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is a key growth factor for renal cancer, particularly the most common type, the clear cell or conventional form of kidney cancer. VEGF is secreted by renal cancer cells and binds to receptors on blood vessel cells thereby stimulating the growth of new blood vessels. This process, known as angiogenesis, provides the tumor with increased blood flow in and out. This, in turn, supports tumor growth by supplying much-needed nutrients and oxygen. In addition, it also promotes spread of the cancer by providing increased access to the blood stream, allowing the cancer to metastasize.

New drugs that can be taken by mouth have now been developed that can block the action of VEGF, making the blood vessel cells insensitive to its effects. The tumor then cannot stimulate new blood vessel formation – and in many cases the blood vessels around the tumor actually die. This effectively starves the tumor of nutrients and oxygen, which slows tumor growth and in some cases leads to tumor shrinkage. Two of these new drugs, Nexavar (sorafenib) and Sutent (sunitinib malate), are now approved by Health Canada for the treatment of patients with advanced kidney cancer.

In one recent study of patients with advanced kidney cancer, Nexavar delayed the time before tumor growth or progression was observed. Patients on placebo experienced cancer progression much earlier than patients on Nexavar therapy. In other studies, Sutent reduced or stabilized tumors in a high percentage of patients with advanced kidney cancer. The side effects of

these drugs can include high blood pressure and skin rashes, and like all medical treatments, they are not risk free. In addition, most patients do not achieve a total cure with these new treatments, but slowing the cancer down can be a major step forward for many patients with advanced kidney cancer.

The most exciting thing about these new drugs is that they give us a glimpse into the future of cancer treatments for advanced renal cell cancer and other malignancies. The use of special drugs that target certain molecules which are important for the growth of any given cancer is a very exciting new approach – it is now called Targeted Molecular Therapy. Newer generations of these drugs that may be even more powerful are now in development and may provide additional breakthroughs in the future. ■

By Brenda Bonde

No More AQIUU

After 15 years, the AQIUU is folding. They have had increasing difficulty with fundraising, finding volunteers to replace existing Executive, and help organize their annual meeting. Annie Taillefer, their President spoke with our Executive at our meeting in January, unfortunately our suggesting were not able to help change their situation. The AQIUU, a French speaking organization for Urology nurses in Quebec was formed by Annie and other Quebec nurses in 1992 to bring together and educate French speaking professionals. Each year, usually in November, they held a Conference in association with the AUQ (Association of Urologists of Quebec) which was well attended by about 140 nurses. We are sad to see the end of this hard working group of Urology Nurses and we will look at ways that we in the UNC can help them in the future. ■

CPCN MEETING, July 2006

Last July I attended the 3rd annual National Canadian Prostate Cancer Network Conference. The theme of the conference was "Winning the War Against Prostate Cancer" Operation Brainstorm dealt with creating awareness for Prostate Cancer in our communities and promoting awareness for the importance of early detection.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Larry Goldenberg Canadian urologist and author of one of the best books on prostate cancer and Dr. Stephen Strum one of the world's leading authorities and specialists in prostate cancer treatment.

It was a privilege to meet with individuals and their families and share their experiences. Thank you UNC.

Donalda Fisher R.N.
unit 71 urology
Rockyview Hospital
Calgary Alberta. ☐



ATTENTION!!!

Your UNC Pipeline is looking for articles!

If you are a Nurse working with Urology patients, you maybe able to write about your experiences, research, observations or perhaps a case study. If you are a UNC member, you can submit your newly published article for the Editorial Award. We are all interested in what we can learn from our colleagues.

More info or to send your papers

uncpipeline@yahoo.ca

The Calgary Chapter

Calgary chapter did a "show and tell" Feb.1st. OR room set up with equipment used to do RP's TURP's, urodynamics room set up, litho room, cysto room all manned by staff with posters and each group was walked through how these procedures were done. We had approx 30 people attend from many departments throughout hospital.☐

The Halifax Chapter

The Halifax chapter hosted a very successful overactive bladder workshop on April 16th. Guest speakers were Dr. Stephen Steel and Dr. Greg Baily. 50 nurses from across Nova Scotia participated in this educational event that was sponsored by 6 separate pharmaceutical companies.☐

~ Clothing ~
UNC

UNC is selling off all clothing in stock at cost. This will be your last chance to get your logo'd UNC scrubs, lab coats, vests, etc.

Contact Jill Jeffery
jjeffery@telus.net for a brochure

AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS

UNC AWARD OF MERIT

It is time to recognize that “special” UNC nurse in your group. The one who has done that “extra something” for your chapter, your workplace, or your community.

Each year UNC proudly and publicly recognizes an individual who has made significant contribution through education, research or clinical practice or has achieved distinction through excellence in UNC promotion, UNC mentoring or other enhancement of the UNC Mission.

Over the years many of our finest nurses have been honored with this award. We have some exceptional people within our ranks and they need to be recognized.

The Award of Merit will be presented at the Urological Excellence Conference in Victoria, British Columbia.

Urology Nurses of Canada needs your application for the annual awards that we are able to offer through the continued support of our corporate sponsors.

Awards available are:

Editorial Award

This award will be given to a UNC member who has written an article, paper or editorial that has been published in the past year and has not been previously published.

Research Award

This award is available to a UNC member proposing research related to urological nursing practice in one of the following sub-specialties: urodynamics, biofeedback, endourology, sexual health, uro-oncology or incontinence.

Scholarship Award

This award is available to a UNC member who

wishes to further his/her education as related to the practice of nursing.

This year \$1000 will be granted for each of the Editorial, Research and Scholarship awards. These awards are made available through unrestricted educational grants given via our Corporate sponsorship Program.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2007.☐

Urology Nurses of Canada

The Urology Nurses of Canada extends an invitation to all nurses and allied health interested in urologic nursing to join the association.

The Urology Nurses of Canada is a National Association whose mandate is to enhance the specialty of urologic nursing in Canada by promoting education, research and clinical practice.

The activities of the Urology Nurses of Canada are designed to enrich members’ professional growth and development.

The UNC hosts an annual conference each fall and convenes for an educational meeting at the Canadian Urological Association annual meeting each June.

Membership in the UNC now entitles you to receive 4 issues of Urological Nursing Journal, 2 issues of Pipeline, Annual Urological Excellence Conference information and discount on registration, UNC Membership Directory, UNC Constitution, UNC:

Standards of Urologic Nursing Practice and your personal access to UNC reports on the web.

For more information about UNC, contact:

UNC Info

UNC Representative 2006-2007

UNC Executive THE Urology Nurses of Canada is managed by an executive board composed of:

UNC Executive

President:	Susan Freed
Past President:	Sue Hammond
Vice-President West:	Laurel Mc Donough
Vice-President East:	Emmi Champion
Vice-President Central:	Fran Stewart
Membership:	Gina Porter
Sponsorship:	Sandra Rowan
Treasurer:	Lisa Lynch
Secretary:	Brenda Bonde
Promotions:	Jill Jeffery

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LAUREL MCDONOUGH (VP West)	Alberta:	Bev Christensen
	Saskatchewan:	Judy Pare
	Manitoba	Betty Kirk
	British Columbia	Jill Jeffery
FRAN STEWART (VP Central)	Ontario:	Nancy Bauer
	Ontario:	Sylvia Robb
	Quebec:	Raquel De Leon
	Quebec:	Carol-Anne Lee
EMMI CHAMPION (VP East)	New Brunswick:	Nancy Carson
	Nova Scotia:	Liette Connor
	Newfoundland and Labrador	Sue Walsh
	Prince Edward Island	Cathy Croken

Description of each position are available in the UNC Constitution. Information on UNC news, programs and reports can be located at www.unc.org

Local Chapter news info: www.unc.org

Victoria Info: Sandra Rowan Tel: (250) 381-3747

Edmonton Info: Liz Smitz Tel: (780) 407-6154

Calgary Info: Colleen Toothill (403) 943-3748

Kingston Info: Sylvia Robb Tel: (613) 549-6666 ex. 4778

Ottawa Info: Susan Freed Tel: (613) 721-4700 ex. 3900

Montreal Info: Carol-Ann Lee Tel: (514) 934-1934 ex. 35213

Halifax Info: Emmi Champion Tel: (902) 473-2570

New Brunswick Info: Gina Porter Tel: (506) 632-5720

New Foundland Info: Sue Hammond Tel: (709) 368-0101

How to form a local UNC Group

1. Contact nurses and allied health in your area interested in Urologic Nursing.
2. Pick a topic and a speaker (for initial meeting).
3. Book meeting room
4. Contact local sales rep for potential support of meeting.
5. Advertise meeting and distribute information about the UNC.
6. Create local executive e.g. chairperson, secretary, treasurer.
7. Organize educational meetings/events.
8. Contact UNC provincial representative regarding local business meetings.
9. Encourage submissions of articles and upcoming events to "Pipeline".

Help Wanted!

The UNC invites you to participate with some of the UNC initiatives including:
Authors of "Pipeline" Articles

Urology Nurses of Canada

We can often name that someone special...you know the one that puts out that "extra" for our UNC organization. This could be the individual that "keeps our local chapter going", or is "our inspiration". Well, the UNC has a way to publicly acknowledge those very special people! It's called the **Award of Merit**! UNC is looking for that "someone special". He/she may or may not be in the spotlight. She may be the quiet one that "gets things done" or he may be the central figure in your organization! He/she may be busy only at the local level or well known at the national level. What we are looking for is a UNC member who has made a significant contribution either in education, research, or clinical practice. Distinction may be through excellence in UNC promotion, UNC mentoring, or other enhancement of the UNC Mission. Someone come to mind? Well, don't be shy! All it takes is your nomination, (along with a second nominator that believes as strongly as you do), to get the ball rolling toward national UNC recognition of that exceptional person.☐

Are you attending the Canadian Urological Association Meeting in Québec City, June 24-27 2007?

If so, be sure to visit the Urology Nurses of Canada booth to meet the members of the executive and to find out more about the UNC.

You are also invited to join us for the meeting on Monday, June 25th, from 4 to 6 PM. We are pleased to have Dr. Dianne Heritz as our speaker on "Overactive Bladder". The meeting will take place in room 206 and is being sponsored by Triton. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.☐



Left to Right Susan Freed (President), Emmi Champion (VP East), Fran Stewart (VP Central), Dr. Dianne Heritz

The UNC executives and Provincial Reps have put together a booth to set up for conferences and meetings. At the booth you will find information on Registration, Meetings, Chapters and Upcoming Conferences. You will also get a chance to meet members of the Executive, Provincial Reps and other members. A great place to network with Urology Nurses from Coast to Coast.

See above photo showing the Booth in Montreal at the UEC last October.☐

Did you say NO to \$1000.00??

Each year the Urology Nurses of Canada have available \$3000.00 in AWARD money to present to UNC members who meet the criteria.

You must be a member in good standing to apply for the Award. The Awards are presented at the Urological Excellence Conference. [See page 4 for all the information on awards.](#)

WHAT DO ALL THESE ABBREVIATIONS MEAN????

- UNC** - Urology Nurses of Canada
- CUA** - Canadian Urologic Association
- UEC** - Urologic Excellence Conference
- CPCN** - Canadian Prostate Cancer Network
- NCA** - Nurse Continence Advisor

- AQIU** - Association Quebecoise des Infirmieres et Infemiers En Urologie
- SUNA** - Society of Urology Nurses of America
- AUA** - American Urologic Association

Coming Events

Canadian Urological Association

63rd Annual Meeting

June 24 – June 24, 2007

Centre de congres, Quebec City

website: www.cua.org

Urology Nurses of Canada at the CUA meeting

Monday, June 25, 2007

16.00 – 18.00 hrs

Centre de conges Room 206

Over Active Bladder-sponsored by Triton Pharma
with Dr. Dianne Heritz (Urologist and former nurse)

website: www.unc.org

20th Urological Excellence Conference

**TRICKLE INTO VICTORIA, We're not just tea &
crumpets**

September 27,28 & 29,2007

Delta Ocean Pointe Resort

Victoria, BC.

website: www.unc.org

Canadian Prostate Cancer Network

**“Prostate Cancer: A Decade of Promise-A Future
of Hope”**

4th Annual Meeting

July 27th -30th,2007

Westin Harbour Castle Hotel

Toronto ON

website: www.cpcn.org

29th Congress of the Societe Internationale d'Urologie

September 2-6, 2007

Paris, France

Tel.: +1 514 875 5665

Fax: +1 514 875 0205

E-Mail: central.office@siu-urology.org

website: www.siu-urology.org

Ics2007 (International Continence Society)

August 20-24,2007

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Event Organiser;

Patricia de Bont

Congress Consultants B.V.

P.O. Box 30016

68003 AA Arnhem

The Netherlands

Email: ICS2007@congressconsultants.com

website: www.ics2007.org

Society Of Urologic Nurses and Associates

2007 Annual Conference

October 12-16, 2007

Hyatt Regency

Phoenix, Arizona

E-mail: suna@ajj.com

website: www.suna.org

21st Annual Urologic Excellence Conference

October 2-4, 2008

“Go with the Flow to TO”

Toronto, Ontario

Holiday Inn on King

Details TBA

website: www.unc.org

Urology Nurses of Canada Corporate Sponsor for 2007

Each year Urology Nurses of Canada [UNC]
acknowledges and thanks our national
Corporate sponsor for their continued
support.

This years sponsor:



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