


**SCAPHON**

 Southern California Association of  
 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Newsletter  
 Of the  
 Association of  
 Pediatric/Hematology Oncology Nurses  
 Southern California Chapter



*Friendsgiving is Defined as ...*

*Friends that have Become Family Gather Together to Give Thanks....*

As we approach the holiday season, I want to thank all of you, our SCAPHON membership, for all that you do for the organization and the patients that you care for in your professional practice. Patients continue to thrive under your exceptional nursing care.

It doesn't seem possible that we are approaching the holiday season once again! Summer is now a memory and we are entering my most favorite season, Fall. Although, the changing of the leaves and cool weather is not always constant in Southern California, there are some changes to take notice of as we progress to the winter season. This time of the year also reminds us that we should be thankful and recognize the importance of family who provide us with support and guidance; thus having a true presence in our lives. We should also be thankful for the friendships that we have established over time and can become family.

The changes of fall remind me of what hematology/oncology nurses experience every day in their practice caring for children and adolescents and young adults with cancer or a chronic blood disease. The discovery of novel treatments, especially targeted immunotherapy agents, continue to change the care being delivered to our patients and necessitates nurses to always be in the constant "learn more" mode. We should feel very fortunate to be in a field that provides us with such exciting knowledge opportunities.

I am very thankful to be serving as your SCAPHON President. I hope you have been fortunate to attend our many educational opportunities that we have offered in 2018! Between quarterly education presentations and of course, our annual two-day conference, our membership is provided with the most up to date and evidence-based information from known experts in the field of interest. Additionally, I hope you were able to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual APHON Conference: Creating Connections, Shaping Tomorrow, held in September at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia. Although attendance was challenged with the scare of Hurricane Florence, there were many interesting general session presentations and concurrent sessions to attend as well as the opportunity to network professionally. SCAPHON donated an APHON Membership Renewal for the conference raffle event which we do each year. As a reminder, please **save the date** for APHON's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibit- that will take place in San Jose, California on September 5-7, 2019.

I hope you will be able to join us at our **January** Quarterly Education Dinner meeting at the Claim Jumper Restaurant on January 8, 2019. We are so excited that Amgen will be sponsoring the education dinner and provide a talk on Blinatumomab. Our speaker will be Christine Rimkus, a clinical nurse specialist in the Center of Blood & Marrow3 Outpatient Transplant at SSM Health St. Louis University Hospital. As many of you know, Blinatumomab (Blinicyto), is an immunotherapy agent that is truly making a difference in the treatment of relapsed/refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

I would like to end by extending my sincere thanks to our SCAPHON Board as well as our membership for the remarkable work that all of you do for the organization and the extraordinary care that you provide to your patients and their families! Our success is measured by your continual dedication and contributions that you contribute to our local chapter.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Sincerely,  
 Sharon Bergeron,  
 President



# SCAPHON SCOOP

## Opportunities for Professional Growth



### **APHON Pediatric Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Provider Course**

13.75 Contact Hours  
Pediatric Chemo/Biotherapy Provider Card



### **Children's Hospital Los Angeles**

January 22 & 23, 2019  
April 3 & 4, 2019  
July 2 & 3, 2019  
October 2 & 3, 2019

\$150 CHLA employees / \$300 Non-CHLA employees  
To register, contact Maria Velasco at (323) 361-1677 or at  
[mvelasco@chla.usc.edu](mailto:mvelasco@chla.usc.edu)



### **Children's Hospital of Orange County**

late March, early April, 2019

To register or for any questions, please email:  
Casey Koerner at [ckoerner@choc.org](mailto:ckoerner@choc.org)

## **CPHON<sup>®</sup> Review Course**

*Coming Summer 2019*



**CHLA**  
8 CEUs Offered

To register or for any question, please email:  
Diane Atounji @ [daltounji@chla.usc.edu](mailto:daltounji@chla.usc.edu)

### **SCAPHON Website On-Line!**

Our website address is:  
[www.scaphon.org](http://www.scaphon.org)

### **The SCAPHON website features Information about:**

- ❖ Quarterly Meetings
- ❖ Conferences
- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ Board Members
- ❖ Downloadable copy of our newsletter
- ❖ Quarterly Dinner Meeting Flyer
- ❖ And now the conference brochure!

**Please visit our website often!**

*Contact:*

Anne Nord @ [website@SCAPHON.org](mailto:website@SCAPHON.org)



### **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibit**

September 5-7, 2019  
San Jose, CA

### **44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibit**

September 3-5, 2020  
New York, NY

**[See you there!](#)**

### **The SCAPHON SCOOP**

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**President:** Sharon Bergeron  
**Editor:** Kathryn Duvall

#### **Contributors:**

Sharon Bergeron    Barbara Buchbinder  
Sara Vang            Scarlett Czarnecki  
Kasey Rangan        Jill Stites



**Education Corner**  
**Sharon Bergeron, RN, BSN, CPON, Research Educator,**  
**Hyundai Cancer Institute, CHOC Children's Hospital**

*"Cancer Immunotherapy enhances the power of the immune system to fight cancer and represents the new and promising cancer treatment approach for pediatric cancer patients"*

**Utilizing a Novel Monoclonal Antibody, Keytruda, in Treating Children, Adolescents and Young Adults with Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma, Multiple Relapsed Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma and Primary Mediastinal Large B-cell Lymphoma**

**KEYTRUDA** is a humanized monoclonal antibody that blocks the interaction between PD-1 (programmed death receptor-1) and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2. Binding of the PD-1 ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, to the PD-1 receptor found on T cells, inhibits T cell proliferation and cytokine production. Essentially, **Keytruda**, is a type of immunotherapy that works by blocking the PD-1 pathway and to help prevent cancer cells from hiding. **Keytruda** helps the immune system do what it was meant to do which is detecting and fighting cancer cells. Upregulation (a process that makes cells more responsive to stimuli by increasing the number of receptors on the surface of the cell) of PD-1 ligands occurs in some tumors and signaling through this pathway can contribute to inhibition of active T-cell immune surveillance of tumors. **Keytruda** is specifically indicated for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. It also can be utilized in patients with disease progression following ipilimumab and works with the immune system to treat melanoma. **Keytruda** is also indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients with refractory or multiple relapsed classical Hodgkin Lymphoma and Primary Mediastinal Large B-cell Lymphoma (PMBCL).

**How is the Drug Administered to the Patient?**

**Keytruda** is supplied as a solution for intravenous infusion. The recommended dose is 2 mg/kg/dose administered as an intravenous infusion over 30 minutes every 3 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. **This agent is only compatible with normal saline.** The pharmacy should prepare the infusion bag that will be attached to IV tubing that is pre-primed with the agent (including an attached filter) so that it can be hooked directly to the patient's central line lumen.

### Common Side Effects of Drug:

- Fatigue- more common in children than adults receiving this agent.
- Cough
- Nausea and Vomiting; abdominal pain-more common in children than adults receiving this agent
- Increased levels of liver enzymes and decreased levels of sodium seen on chemistry panel-more common in children than adults receiving this agent.
- Pruritus (itching)
- Rash
- Decreased Appetite
- Constipation
- Pain in one or more joints, muscles and bones
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Shortness of Breath

*This agent has been associated with more serious side effects that can occur later and are associated with immune-mediated type of reactions such as immune-mediated pneumonitis (shortness of breath, chest pain, new or worse cough); immune-mediated colitis; immune-mediated hepatitis; hormone gland problems such as thyroid function where both hyper or hypothyroidism; and kidney problems such as nephritis.*

### Special Considerations and Monitoring Required:

- Obtain baseline vital signs immediately prior to initiation of infusion and at end of infusion then every 4 hours. Although no acute infusion reactions or hypersensitivity changes and/or flu-like symptoms are seen with this agent (i.e. fever, tachycardia or hypotension).
- Monitor Chemistry Panels for increased liver function tests and decreased sodium levels.
- Monitor patient for GI symptoms such as diarrhea and constipation. Nausea and vomiting is noted so administer Zofran prior to infusion.
- Monitor for skin changes such as rash and itching and notify physician as necessary to provide Benadryl.
- Monitor for joint pain and provide comfort measures as necessary.
- Monitor for immune-mediated side effects listed above and administer corticosteroids based on the severity of the reaction as determined by the physician.

From the SCAPHON 2019 Conference Planning Chair...  
Barbara Buchbinder

SAVE THE DATE!  
SCAPHON'S 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
May 9 and 10, 2019  
THE HYATT REGENCY  
Mission Bay, San Diego



September 18, 2018 - SCAPHON Fall Quarterly Dinner Meeting

**From the SCAPHON Scholarship Chair...**  
Kasey Ranqan

**To Apply On-Line:**

Scholarship applications may be submitted year-round on [www.scaphon.org](http://www.scaphon.org).  
Winners will be announced at the annual SCAPHON conference

<http://www.scaphon.org/scholarships-and-award-programs/>  
**Applications must be uploaded by March 1st of each year.**

Funding for SCAPHON's Scholarship and Awards Programs is made possible through the efforts of board members, the APHON/SCAPHON and general membership, and the generous financial support of our raffle sponsors and other donators.

**Scholarships/Awards Available to Members**

**Nancy Jopes Memorial SCAPHON Scholarship**

In memory of Nancy Jopes, SCAPHON awards three nursing scholarship opportunities to attend the annual SCAPHON Regional conference

**Kathy Ruccione Founders Award for Excellence in Pediatric Hematology / Oncology Nursing**

To honor a nurse from our local SCAPHON chapter who exemplifies excellence in pediatric hematology/oncology nursing





**Community Service Project 2018-2019**  
**Danielle Mucker, Chair**

*Thank you to Jill Stites for all of her amazing work as the previous community service chair!*

For our December Community Service Project, we will be supporting Six Points for Kids and the deputies of the Theo Lacy jail facility as they host their annual holiday party at the Orangewood Children's Holiday Party. Orangewood Children & Family Center (OCFC) is located next door to the Theo Lacy Jail and is a temporary shelter care facility owned and operated by the County or Orange Social Services Agency for children who are abused, abandoned, and/or neglected. OCFC provides care to an average of 62 children per day with monthly averages ranging up to 92 children from infants to teenagers.

The tentative date for this year's party is December 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be assisting in providing items from the wish list below and setup for this amazing event.

This year's December community service project supports Six Points for Kids

Six Points for Kids (SPFK) is a deputy-driven program of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD). SPFK was conceived and started by front-line deputies to give back to children and teens in our local community. SPFK achieves its mission by partnering with local charities and holding fund raising events. All OCSD personnel are encouraged to get involved. SPDK provides OCSD with opportunities to make an immediate, identifiable, positive impression in the lives of needy children in our community.

**Mission:** To equip kids for success.

**Six Points:** Each point on the Orange County Sheriff's Department Star represents a focus area: Clothing, food, community service, education, athletics and arts.

## WISH LIST

### Toys

- ❖ Action figures & Barbies
- ❖ Lego's boys and girls sets
- ❖ Board games and cards
- ❖ Infant/Toddler toys
- ❖ Dolls, play items: clothes and dishes

### Sports Equipment

- ❖ Basketballs
- ❖ Volleyballs
- ❖ Footballs
- ❖ Soccer balls

### Crafts

- ❖ Model and craft kits
- ❖ Art paper, bead kits, paint
- ❖ Glitter, play-doh, coloring books



### Electronics

- ❖ Battery operated boom box/portable stereos
- ❖ Leap frog
- ❖ DVD's

### Books

- ❖ Teen themed and comic books

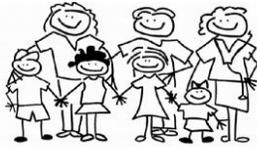
### Clothing

- ❖ Jeans, shirts and shorts
- ❖ Baby clothes
- ❖ Ankle/bootie socks

### Personal Care

- ❖ Hair styling products
- ❖ Make-up kits
- ❖ Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, lotion)
- ❖ Journals, backpacks

**Gift Cards/ Certificates:** Best Buy, Target, Walmart, Tilly's, Forever 21, H&M, Game Stop, Children's Place, Sporting goods stores, movie theaters and kid friendly restaurants.



**SCAPHON**

Southern California Association of  
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses

**Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Southern California Chapter**  
cordially invites you to attend our  
Quarterly Dinner Meeting and Educational Forum

**“A Deeper Response: MRD-Negativity Results  
for Pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Patients  
Receiving Blinatumomab”**

**By: Christine Rimkus CNS-BC, MSN AOCN**  
Center for Blood and Marrow Outpatient Transplant,  
SSM Health St. Louis University Hospital.

SPONSORED by



**January 8, 2019  
6:30 p.m.**

**Claim Jumper Restaurant  
Fountain Valley**

18050 Brookhurst St.  
Fountain Valley  
(714) 963-6711

**From the 405 Freeway:**

Exit Brookhurst and proceed south.  
Located just south of the 405 Freeway  
at the corner of Brookhurst and Talbert

**Parking is free and readily available**

Approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing  
Provider Number 10530, for 1.0 Contact Hour

*At the conclusion of this presentation, the learner will:*

1. Understand the use of Blinatumomab (Blinicyto) in the treatment of relapsed Pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.
2. Describe the mechanism of action, dosing and administration, and important side effects for Blinatumomab for safe monitoring of patients receiving this type of immunotherapy.
3. Discuss the patient/family education required to receive this agent in the outpatient setting.

**For more information, contact:  
Jill Stites: [jstites@choc.org](mailto:jstites@choc.org)  
Quarterly Program Planner**

**SCAPHON Quarterly Meeting Registration Form**  
**Registration Deadline: December 31, 2018**

Yes! I will be attending the SCAPHON Quarterly Dinner Meeting and Educational Forum  
At 6:30 pm on **Tuesday, January 8, 2019** at the Claim Jumper in Fountain Valley

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Menu selection: Vegetarian Meat Gluten Free

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ APHON Member: Yes No

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ RN License # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this registration form by December 31, 2018

Enclose registration fee of \$25 payable to SCAPHON (\$30 if postmarked after December 31, 2018)

Mail to:  
**Jill Stites**  
10942 Cherry Hill Drive  
Santa Ana, Ca 92705

OR

**Online Registration**

<http://www.scaphon.org/quarterly-lecture/>

**Upcoming Quarterly Dinner and Education Forums:**  
March 12, 2019



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SCAPHON'S 33rd  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
May 9 & 10, 2019**

**THE HYATT  
REGENCY Mission  
Bay, San Diego**

**SCAPHON now has a page on Facebook!  
"Like" us to get updates on the events of  
our local chapter!**

**Note:** If you no longer wish to receive the *SCAPHON Scoop* and wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Anne Nord @ [website@SCAPHON.org](mailto:website@SCAPHON.org)