



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



Happy 2016! 16 years ago - likely to the day - I was interviewing for my first nursing job straight out of college. I only applied one place, because my heart was set on being a pediatric hematology/oncology nurse. Thankfully, I got that job and as they say . . . the rest is history. For 16 years, this has been the dream job that has captured my heart and mind. And for the last 5 years, I have been incredibly blessed to be a part of SCAPHON history, serving as your president. I still remember being a new nurse and hearing about the SCAPHON conference and reading through the SCOOP in the lounge; then attending my first quarterly, then conference . . . and then taking the leap to get involved. And now, I write my very last SCAPHON President letter, thankful for the blessing of opportunities and growth that this experience has given me . . . and still somewhat in awe of that it all even happened.

It's hard for me to capture what being involved in SCAPHON, and ultimately serving as president, has done for me as a **nurse, colleague, leader** and **friend**. It truly has shaped important parts of me in unique ways, and I know that the lessons I've learned along the way will stay with me forever. It's made me better in all those areas, and has developed skills that I wouldn't have acquired otherwise. I have a deeper understanding for the importance of networking and collaboration, needing relevant continuing education in our professional niche and working effectively with others to make those things happen. I've expanded my knowledge base clinically and organizationally. I've led the most amazing group of nursing peers, while having opportunities to now hopefully expand service at a national level. All of these things, while I've been stretched personally; refined by difficult decisions, striving to be the best for my job, SCAPHON and family and friends. It wasn't always an easy, glamorous road, but it was a road that I will be forever thankful I traveled.

We are heading into my favorite season in SCAPHON---our conference season. And I am certainly excited about the time we will spend together in Newport Beach in June. We have a wonderful agenda slated and our team is working together to bring you an event you will not want to miss! Please also do not miss the community service opportunities this spring; both in our large collection project associated with the conference and our simultaneous Ronald McDonald house service in March. At the conference, we will also take nominations for our available SCAPHON board positions; let me encourage you that now is the time to take that leap, invest in our local chapter and be open to the ways it will grow you as a **nurse, colleague, leader** and **friend**.

And although this will be the last time you will hear from me in this format, I promise that I am leaving you and this amazing organization in the most capable hands and that I am not going far. As long as I am in Southern California, SCAPHON will be home to me. I will now join the ranks of the past-presidents, each who have left their distinct mark on this organization, and I think each would attest that they walked away from this position better version of themselves. I know I'm better, and hopeful the contributions of my leadership have made SCAPHON better as well. I look forward to seeing many of you at our quarterly in March and conference in June where I will be able to thank you all for the privilege it has been to be your president. It's a part of me that I will always hold dear. Thank you for choosing pediatric hematology/oncology allowing me to be your colleague, leader and friend

Keep up the amazing, good work.
Scarlett Czarnecki

Opportunities for Professional Growth

APHON Pediatric Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Provider Course

13.75 Contact Hours
Pediatric Chemo/Biotherapy Provider Card

**Children's Hospital Los Angeles
April XX, XX, 2016**

\$150 CHLA employees
\$300 Non-CHLA employees

To register, contact Maria Velasco at (323)361-1677 or @
mvelasco@chla.usc.edu



APHON's 40th Annual Conference & Exhibit

**September 29-October 1, 2016
[Indiana Convention Center](#)**

[Indianapolis, IN](#)

CPHON®

Review Course

Friday November 20th, 2015

8am – 4:30pm @

CHLA

7th Floor Telemedicine Conference Room

8 CEUs Offered

Cost for non-CHLA employees: \$125

Lunch will be provided

**To register or for questions, please email Diane Altounji at
daltounji@chla.usc.edu**



Supported by SCAPHON

For testing information see:

<http://www.oncc.org/certifications/certified-pediatric-hematology-oncology-nurse-cphon>

SCAPHON Website On-Line!

Our website address is:



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!

***Email our Webmaster with changes to your
profile***

“Leading the Battle”

**SCAPHON's 30th Annual Conference
will be June 2nd and 3rd, 2016. We
had such a great time last year that
we will be returning to the Hyatt
Regency in Newport Beach. We have
more great speakers and a lot of fun
planned so be sure to save the date!
Hope to see you there!**

The SCAPHON SCOOP

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Southern California Chapter*

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Education Corner

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

Testing A Novel Humanized Monoclonal Antibody, Denosumab, to Treat Relapsed or Refractory Osteosarcoma

The 5-year and 10-year overall survival for patients with localized osteosarcoma is approximately 70% and 65%, respectively. Outcomes have not changed for the past 2 decades. These survival outcomes reflect that medical therapy has remained essentially unchanged during this period with no new therapies identified to compliment the activity of the standard therapy such as High Dose (HD) Methotrexate, Adriamycin and Cisplatin. So it is time to investigate novel therapy such as Denosumab to see if this targeted, precision-type of therapy will make a difference in Osteosarcoma therapy, and whether consideration should be given to adding it to the standard chemotherapy agents used to treat Osteosarcoma.

Denosumab (Xgeva) is a fully human monoclonal antibody to the receptor activator of nuclearfactor- κ B ligand (RANKL). Pre-clinical studies have shown that human osteosarcoma cell lines express the RANK and RANKL pathway. It is approved by the FDA for prevention of skeletal-related events in adults with solid tumor bone metastases, and in adults and skeletally mature adolescents with unresectable giant cell tumor of bone, or where surgical resection is likely to result in severe morbidity. It also approved for treatment of hypercalcemia of malignancy that is refractory to bisphosphonate therapy. Denosumab rapidly inhibits bone turnover and is utilized in patients with breast cancer and bone metastases.

How is the Drug Administered to the Patient?

Denosumab is given subcutaneously and has a long half-life. Patients receive 120 mg subcutaneously every 4 weeks. Two additional loading doses will be given on Days 8 and 15 of Cycle 1. Thus cycle 1 doses will be given on Days 1, 8, and 15. All subsequent cycles, Denosumab will be given on Day 1 of each cycle. Denosumab can

be administered at a single site with a maximum volume of 2 mL. Denosumab-associated toxicity is limited but the most common adverse effects are *hypocalcemia (observed particularly during the first 6 weeks of therapy) and hypophosphatemia*. Thus supplementation with **calcium and vitamin D** is required during the administration of this agent and begins prior to the first dose of Denosumab.

Common Side Effects of Drug:

- Hypocalcemia
- Hypophosphatemia
- Hypersensitivity, including anaphylactic reactions
- Musculoskeletal pain
- Back pain
- Fatigue
- Dyspnea
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Edema of limbs
- High cholesterol
- Cough; upper respiratory infection
- Osteonecrosis of the jaw (although described is usually rare)
- Potential for skeletal toxicity in skeletally immature patients

Special Considerations and Monitoring Required:

- Obtain baseline vital signs prior to administration and monitor patient for possible hypersensitivity reactions for 1-2 hours post administration. Be prepared to administer emergency medications/oxygen as ordered if patient experiences a severe anaphylactic reaction.
- Avoid invasive dental procedures during Denosumab treatment. In addition, administration of Denosumab will be withheld 30 days prior to any elective invasive oral/dental procedure and until documentation of complete mucosal healing following any invasive oral/dental procedure.
- Monitor for hypocalcemia and hypophosphatemia. It is required that the patient receive calcium and vitamin D supplementation: at least 500mg of calcium daily and 400 IU of Vitamin D daily while receiving Denosumab unless the patient has or develops hypercalcemia.
- Monitor for nausea and vomiting. To assist with this increased side effect risk, giving an anti-emetic such as Zofran prior to Denosumab administration is recommended.
- Monitor patient for increased jaw pain that may indicate possible osteonecrosis of the jaw as well as musculoskeletal pain.

From the SCAPHON Scholarship Chair . . .

Happy 2016 fellow SCAPHON members! Before you know it, our next conference will be upon us. The board is working hard to whip up another great event for all of us. I always look forward to our conference, the educational lectures, reconnecting with colleagues, the wine and cheese reception, and the raffles. One of my favorite parts of the conference is the presentation of the Kathy Ruccione award. Hearing about the achievements of the deserving recipient is so inspiring and heart-warming. But did you know we rely on nominations from our members to select our winner each year? That's right, I'm talking about you. Maybe you don't know Kathy Ruccione or what characteristics a person should possess to be nominated for this prestigious award. Allow me enlighten you.

Kathy Ruccione is the founding mother of SCAPHON. She created SCAPHON in 1982 and has been an active member of APHON for over 30 years, most recently serving as the current APHON president. Kathy is a pioneer in pediatric hematology-oncology, with her accomplishments and awards too numerous to list here. Basically, she is a living legend. This award was created to honor her pioneering efforts and celebrate her nurturing leadership style. We all work with a nurse worthy of receiving this award. You know them by the extra effort they consistently put forth when working with their families, or their exceptional team-work and leadership making the work place more enjoyable every day. I encourage you all to take a moment and think of that amazing co-worker so deserving of this accolade and **nominate them before April 15**. Applications can be downloaded from the SCAPHON website and sent directly to me, or contact me at krangan@chla.usc.edu and I will email the application to you.

It is also the right time to start thinking about 2016 Survivor Scholarships! Thanks to the generous donations and member support of the 2015 SCAPHON Conference raffle, we raised over \$5000 to help support six \$1,000 Survivor Scholarships. Please remember to encourage your patients and families to apply. Scholarship applications are available year-round on www.scaphon.org; please feel free to print these and hand them to your patients and families throughout the year. **The 2016 deadline for applications is April 1st**. The winners will be announced at the 2016 SCAPHON Conference, to be held at the Newport Beach Hyatt.



Kind Regards,

Kasey Rangan
SCAPHON Scholarship Chair

From the SCAPHON Community Service Chair . . .

Hello SCAPHON-

First, THANK YOU to everyone who brought food items to the December quarterly for our 3rd annual food bank collection. This year the food was given to the San Diego Food Bank.

Second, back by popular demand, we will be preparing breakfast for four Ronald McDonald houses on March 24th. We will need volunteers for the San Diego, Orange County, Loma Linda and Los Angeles houses. Please contact me by email dquiroz@chla.usc.edu to get more information and to get in touch with the house leader to sign up to volunteer.

Last, we will be collecting items for Bags4Kids for our annual collection. Please see the list below for suggested items to donate or go to their website (bags4kids.org) for more information. You can bring your donation items to the March quarterly or to our annual conference in June.

ITEMS FOR BABIES

Diaper bags
Diapers (any size)
Sipper cups
Baby bottles
Pacifiers
Baby socks and t-shirts (any size)
Baby formula
Baby hair brushes and combs
Small toys and stuffed animals
Photo albums

ITEMS FOR CHILDREN

Fabric tote bags
Backpacks
Duffle bags
Small tubes of toothpaste
Tooth brushes
Sample size lotions
Sample size deodorant
Sample size perfume
Sample size shampoo/conditioner
Hair brushes and combs
Spiral notebooks/books
Small photo albums
Boxes of writing pens
Small boxes of crayons

Coloring books
Bibles
Diaries/Journals
Small reading books
Stuffed animals/Beanie Babies
Disposable cameras

OLDER CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

Make-up/lip gloss/make-up bags
Nail polish
Dental floss
Deodorant/soap/perfume
Maze/puzzle books
Reading books
Address books
Small boxes of stationary
Postage stamps
Radios with headphones
Playing cards
Disposable cameras
Battery alarm clocks
AA batteries





**Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Southern California Chapter**

*Cordially invites you to attend our
Quarterly Dinner Meeting and Educational Forum*

**"An Overview of Hepatic Veno-Occlusive Disease (VOD)/Sinusoidal
Obstructive Syndrome (SOS) in Patients After Hematopoietic Stem
Cell Transplantation"**

By: George DiCarlo BSc, PharmD
Oncology Medical Science Liaison
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

**March 8th, 2016
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. Discuss the pathophysiology of VOD/SOS and the signs and symptoms to aid with the diagnosis.
2. Identify the patient and treatment-specific risk factors for VOD/SOS.

For more information, contact:
Shawna Esarey
Quarterly Program Planner
Esarey, Shawna
sesarey@rchsd.org

SCAPHON Quarterly Meeting Registration Form
Registration Deadline: March 3, 2016

Yes! I will be attending the SCAPHON Quarterly Dinner Meeting and Educational Forum
At 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 8th 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 March 3, 2016

Enclose registration fee of \$25 payable to SCAPHON (\$30 if postmarked after March 3, 2016)

Mail to:

Shawna Esarey RN, BSN, CPON
1578 Black Walnut Dr.
San Marcos, CA 92078





ASSOCIATION of PEDIATRIC
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSES

Anne Nord
2433 Bywood Drive
Glendale, CA 91206



SCAPHON

Southern California Association of
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses



SAVE THE DATE!

**SCAPHON'S 30th
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
June 2nd, 3rd, 2016**

**THE HYATT
REGENCY
NEWPORT BEACH**

**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 @ ANord@chla.usc.edu or mail notice to 2433 Bywood Drive, Glendale, CA 91206