



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



SCAPHON SCOOP

Hello SCAPHON!

I hope you are all doing well as we transition into fall and a new school year. As I transition into my presidential role, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I was born and raised in the countryside near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I spent my childhood on my family's horse farm where I spent my time showing my ponies and horses around the eastern seaboard. Once I graduated high school, I attended a Lynchburg College in Virginia. I graduated in 1994 with my BSN and eventually planned to obtain my MSN, NP but unsure my specialty.

I started my pediatric hematology-oncology nursing career in 1996 when I joined the hem-onc floor at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. I had recently moved to Los Angeles to join my future husband during his residency program. I soon realized I had found my calling and endeavored to make pediatric hematology-oncology my career. I never thought I would be spending my career and my life in Los Angeles!

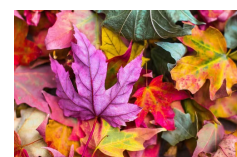
In 2003 I completed my master's program at UCLA, obtaining my Pediatric Nursing Practitioner Degree. I was fortunate to transition into my dream role as a NP in the LIFE Survivorship & Transition program at CHLA. I spent 12 years helping grow the survivorship program, becoming an expert in pediatric brain tumor survivors. It was a very fulfilling role but in 2015 the opportunity to transition to caring for on therapy brain tumor patients presented itself and I gladly switched my focus. The new role allowed me to take my knowledge of late effects and apply them to my practice caring for on therapy patients. I really love my team, the nurse practitioner role and caring for this incredibly complex and challenging specialty of oncology.

In 1998 I attended my first SCAPHON conference (fun fact you can see multiple pictures of a very young me in the photo archives that we display at our conference table) I so enjoyed our conferences, I found them to be the perfect combination of education, professional networking and fun! I've rarely missed a conference and in 2015 I decided I wanted to become more involved. I was so honored to be elected SCAPHON Scholarship Chair for 2 terms. It was such a gratifying role and introduced me to the satisfaction of being part of the wonderful team of peds hem-onc who volunteer their time to help educate their colleagues. I learned what goes into planning our quarterly dinners and the "crown jewel" our 2-day annual conference. I was honored to be elected your president in 2020 and have had quite an introduction to the role, trying to continue our stellar work during a global pandemic. Over the years I've watched the profession of pediatric hematology-oncology nursing bloom. We are advancing the practice from the bedside, to research, to advanced practice and I want our SCAPHON to highlight our talent and skills. I was so proud to be part of the team that was able to adapt our conference to a virtual offering. It was a big success and was such a wonderful testament to the determination and adaptability of the nursing profession. I want SCAPHON to keep that innovation and momentum to grow our chapter.

I look forward to leading the chapter over the next 2 years. I encourage you to reach out to me @SCAPHONPREZ.gmail.com if you have ideas, suggestions or just want to say "hi". I promise to work hard to make sure our chapter continues to be an example to other chapters around the county, inclusive and nursecentric!

When I am not at work you can find me on my peloton, hanging out with friends and family or cheering on my teenage boys at their speech and debate tournaments.

Kasey Rangan MSN, CPNP, CPHON
SCAPHON PRESIDENT



Opportunities for Professional Growth



**Association of
Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology Nurses
45th Annual Conference & Exhibit:**

**Salt Lake City, UT
In-person and Virtually**

October 27-30, 2021

<http://conference.aphon.org/>



Make sure you are up-to-date on trends and best practices to help your patients and their families.

- 10 CNE per year (Included in APHON Membership)
- Self-Paced Online Courses
- Online Journal Articles
- Live Events (Webinars, Virtual Conferences)
- Educational Activities
- Maintained Transcripts of All Learning Activities
- Exams and Evaluations to Earn CNE
- Catalog of Educational Content
- Quickly Access CNE Certificates
- One Convenient Location

**Visit APHON's ACE Center for
Continuing Education**

<https://aphon.org/education/pediatric-hematology-oncology-education>

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!

Contact:

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The SCAPHON SCOOP

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Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Southern California Chapter*

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

Utilizing a Novel Monoclonal Antibody, Gamifant, in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults for the Treatment of Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Gamifant is a monoclonal antibody that binds to soluble and receptor-bound forms of interferon gamma (IFN γ) to neutralize its activity, blocking its intracellular signaling to inhibit macrophage activation and downstream release of proinflammatory cytokines. Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) is a condition characterized by a pathological, unregulated cytokine-mediated hyperinflammation that results in life-threatening multiorgan dysfunction. The immediate treatment goal in primary HLH patients is to quickly bring the hyperinflammation under control. Gamifant uniquely targets IFN γ , a key player in the cytokine storm of primary HLH, as to limit overexpression and subdue the hyperinflammatory symptoms of this disease. While IFN γ is not the only cytokine that contributes to primary HLH, it does play a pivotal role in the pathophysiology of the disease. Gamifant is the only FDA-approved therapy for adult and pediatric patients with primary HLH with refractory, recurrent, or progressive disease or intolerance with conventional HLH therapy and has been proven to cause a rapid and sustained reduction in the plasma concentrations of CXCL9, a chemokine induced by IFN γ .

How is the Drug Administered to the Patient?

Gamifant is given as an IV infusion over 1 hour twice per week. The recommended starting dose is 1 mg/kg. This dose can be increased at the discretion of the physician to include 3 mg/kg, 6 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg if needed. Increasing the dose will be determined by CXCL9 levels drawn at strategic points during the therapy. An **important concomitant medication while a patient receives this agent is dexamethasone that is given orally BID and can then be tapered according to the judgment of the treating physician.** Dexamethasone Gamifant must be administered utilizing low sorb tubing with a low-protein binding 0.2 μ M in-line filter. It is extremely is important **not to shake the agent** thus **pharmacy needs to deliver the agent to the inpatient or outpatient setting and not transport via pneumatic tube system.** The agent is refrigerated once diluted and prepared by pharmacy. It is only stable for 4 hours from the time of the dilution. Additionally, it is important to allow the diluted solution to come to room temperature prior to administration to the patient.

Common Side Effects of Drug:

- **Mild to Moderate Infusion Reactions (seen in 27% of patients):** fever, chills, hypotension, tachycardia, headache, rash, excessive sweating. *Most of the infusion-related reactions occurred during the first infusion.* No infusion-related reactions led to premature withdrawal or were reported as serious in previous clinical trials.
- Infections (viral, bacterial, and fungal)
- Hypertension
- Fever
- Hypokalemia
- Constipation
- Rash
- Abdominal pain, Diarrhea
- Lymphocytosis (a high lymphocyte count)
- Cough
- Irritability
- Tachycardia
- Tachypnea
- CMV Infection

Special Considerations and Monitoring Required:

- Obtain baseline **vital signs** immediately **prior** to initiation of infusion, then **every 15 minutes during the one-hour infusion. Monitor patient for one hour post infusion for infusion-related reactions. Interrupt infusion for infusion-related reactions and provide appropriate medical management as well as slowing down the infusion rate.**
- During Gamifant treatment, patients should be monitored for TB, Adenovirus, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and CMV every 2 weeks and as clinically indicated.
- Do not administer live or live attenuated vaccines to patients receiving Gamifant and for at least 4 weeks after the last dose of Gamifant. The safety of immunization with live vaccines during or following Gamifant therapy has not been studied.
- Monitor CBC, CMP, DIC, Ferritin and HSV PCR.
- Monitor CXCL9 and Soluble IL2 Receptor levels which are drawn at key points during the patient's therapy. The levels will help the physician determine response and the need for increasing the dose.

From the SCAPHON 2021 Conference Planning Chair...
Alison Bell



Thank you to all who attended our very first virtual conference! Despite the change in format, the conference was a success! We had 343 attendees, 18 speakers, 17 exhibitors, and sold nearly 3,000 raffle tickets which enabled us to award several scholarships!

We hope to see you at next year's conference at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas in Rancho Mirage!

Alison Bennett – Conference Chair

Lynn Schubert – President

A special thank you to the SCAPHON Board Members and businesses for their generous donations to the Raffle. Your support made the Raffle a huge success this year!

**Diane Grade
Holly Reeb**

From the Scholarship Chair...
Barbara Buchbinder

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the SCAPHON Conference raffle in the past couple of years. Even though we did not have a conference last year and were unable to have a raffle, with all of your past support, we were still able to provide seven \$1000 Survivor Scholarships at this year's SCAPHON Conference.

We received a total of 21 applications this year from a variety of institutions.

The 2021 SCAPHON Scholarship winners are:

Anya Shah, City of Hope

Winner, Denisse Heard Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship

Adrian Marquez, CHOC

Winner, Amy Nishimura Memorial Education Scholarship

Lily Garcia, Kaiser Permanente Fontana

Winner, Gloria Velasquez Memorial Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship

Ben Elias Krueger, Rady Children's

Winner, Fight to Victory Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship

Jazmine Gomez Morales, CHLA

Winner, Eric-Stig Engblom Memorial Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship

Daniela Barker, City of Hope

Winner, The SCAPHON Childhood Hematology Survivor Scholarship

Jordynn Lassiter, CHLA

Winner, The SCAPHON Childhood Hematology Survivor Scholarship

Barbara Buchbinder, BSN, RN, CPON

Winner, Kathy Ruccione Award for Nursing Excellence

Nancy Jopes Scholarship Winners – selected at our quarterly meetings

October 2019– Katy Smith

October 2020 – Karen Redondo

December 2019 – Kathleen Corcoran

December 2020 – Jill Stites

March 2020– Gwen Kimball

March 2021 – Christen Hockenberry

Please remember to encourage your patients and families to apply. We have an electronic application process, scholarship applications can be submitted year-round on www.scaphon.org. Deadline for the application process will be announced at a later date. Winners will be announced at the 2022 SCAPHON conference to be held at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Palm Springs, CA.

And don't forget to nominate that exceptional coworker for the Kathy Ruccione Award!

Some of our fantastic kiddos were able to share a few words of thanks on our 2021 SCAPHON Scholarship flipgrid. You can view it at flipgrid.com and enter code 20ad7f81

Community Service Project 2021
Danielle Mucker, Chair



SCAPHON

Southern California Association of
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses



Thank you all for your participation in this year's annual conference community service project supporting The Bumble Bee Foundation. We were able to provide them with gift cards for their BEEday birthday packs and items from their BEEpacks. In addition to all of your wonderful donations, the board will also be making a donation on behalf of the organization. Their Amazon WishList remains active if you would like to continue to make donations.

Can you believe that it is already September? You can already get your PSL at Starbucks, there are Halloween costumes at Costco, and some stores even have their Christmas décor out! The Holiday Season will be here sooner than you thought and this year, we would like to continue our support of a nursing peer. We would like to select 1 – 2 nurses and their families to support by giving them needed items, gifts, and gift cards. These nurses do not need to be directly impacted by COVID-19 but can be nurses that we work with side-by-side each day who are experiencing difficult times due to other circumstances. We know that these nurses will not be easy to find, so we are looking for each you to nominate a nurse. All applications will be reviewed, and we will provide more information for the nurses selected in our next SCAPHON Scoop.

If you would like to nominate a nurse please send the information below in an email to

dmucker@choc.org by October 29, 2021.

Name of Nominator, hospital and contact information

Name of Nominee, hospital and contact information

Reason for nomination

Number of family members and age of each member

We will coordinate with the nominator to organize follow up with the selected nominees to get more information on the details or needed items that will then be listed on an Amazon wish list.

Thank you again for all of your help and stay tuned for more information via the SCAPHON SCOOP and the SCAPHON Instagram @socialaphon.



Association of Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology Nurses



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

**“The Treatment of Pediatric and Adolescent
Patients with MRD(+) CD19-Positive
Cell Precursor ALL”**

PRESENTED by:

Mitchell Cairo, MD

Chief, Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplant
Director, Children and Adolescent Cancer and Blood Diseases
Director, WMC Cancer Center
Medical and Scientific Director, WMC Cellular and Tissue Biology
Laboratory
Medical Director, WMC Hematotherapy Program
Associate Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, Pathology, Microbiology,
Immunology and Cell Biology & Anatomy
Maria Fareri Children's Hospital
Westchester Medical Center (WMC)
New York Medical College

with



**PRESENTED
IN-PERSON & VIRTUALLY**
October 12, 2021
6:30 PM Pacific

Spghettini's
3005 Old Ranch Parkway
Seal Beach, California 90740

Note: Those that register to attend virtually will be emailed a zoom link from nc-reply@zoom.us to join the meeting by October 11, 2021 as well as a reminder zoom link on October 12, 2021. Please log on 15 minutes prior to the event (6:15 PM).

IMPORTANT:

SCAPHON cares about the health and safety of all our members and non-members and are following the best practices recommended by the CDC.

Therefore, SCAPHON is requiring members and non-members attending in-person to affirm they have been or will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least two weeks prior to the event.

Approved by the California Board of Registered Health Care Providers
Provider Number 10530 for 1.0 Contact Hours

Learning Objectives:

1. The mechanism of action of Blinatumomab
2. The safety of Blinatumomab
3. The efficacy of Blinatumomab in eradicating MRD in B precursor ALL



For more information, contact:

Ashley Villalobos
Email: Ashley.Villalobos@choc.org
Phone: 714-813-8733 (cell)
714-509-7382 (work)
SCAPHON Quarterly Program Planning

Registration Deadline: October 5, 2021

SCAPHON 2019-2021 Members: FREE (in-person or virtual)
Non-SCAPHON Members Registration Fee: \$25.00 (in-person)
Non-SCAPHON Members Registration Fee: \$10.00 (virtual)

Register online at:

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