



**SCAPHON**

Southern California Association of

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



# SCAPHON SCOOP

Hello SCAPHON! Here we are after another successful APHON conference and we are sliding into the Holiday Season.

The APHON conference, while virtual, was again wonderfully done. There were a variety of topics, round tables, and social events. And of course, SCAPHON received the “Chapter of Excellence Award”! I am so proud of our chapter and look forward to keeping the spirit of excellence going. Many of APHON’s lectures are available until December 31<sup>st</sup> so don’t forget to take advantage, get those PHON CEU’s!

I think we can all agree the past year and half has been incredibly challenging for a variety of reasons. And here we are approaching the holidays with COVID still very much looming. However, this year it’s different because many of us have been vaccinated. It’s possible for us to be together in person and engage in some of our usual holiday traditions. And while it seems things are slowly returning to a pre-COVID level there are still so many challenges and unknowns. During the APHON conference I noticed the concept of “resilience” to be a foundation of many lectures and round tables. It really made me think about not only the fact as nurses we have not only amazing resilience but are very skilled at adaptation. While resilience includes the ability to acquire new capabilities, perhaps emerging stronger from the struggle, adaptation entails preserving existing resources.

As nurses we are superior at adapting: don’t have the right equipment for the task – craft it with what you have on hand. Don’t have enough staffing – reconfigure assignments while caring for our patients as safely as possible. Nurses are the role models of adaptability and resilience even when fatigue is creeping in. It appears our lives will have to adapt to living with COVID. And while that thought is daunting, I try to focus on all the very good things that have happened because of COVID. I bet all of us can list many positives that have come out of the past year and half. The creative and unique ways we’ve learned to socialize on Zoom and WebEx. The benefits to altering our workflow, the value of quality time face to face. For me I really learned who the people are in my life that truly bring joy and who weren’t really that important and how that made me view how and with whom I share my energy. I know many of you did too. So, while this holiday season doesn’t look the same as last year, it isn’t really going to be “normal” in the sense of pre-COVID but I hope you can use your adaptation to find new traditions and joy while incorporating some of your old traditions. I hope you take some time to recharge and rest and enjoy what is special to you during the holidays.

The other exciting bit of news is that SCAPHON returned to our in person quarterly dinners at Spaghettini’s in Seal Beach. We had a very successful meeting in October and are planning our next event in December. So, don’t forget if you are a SCAPHON member your quarterly dinners are included with your membership, you just must be fully vaccinated and sign up. Your board is hard at work planning our 2 day conference in June. This year we wanted to try something different and give our members an opportunity to present at the conference. So, if you’ve ever thought “*hey I can do that!*” I encourage to plan on submitting an abstract. Keep an eye out for dates and deadlines

With Gratitude,  
Kasey Rangan MSN, CPNP, CPHON  
SCAPHON PRESIDENT



## Opportunities for Professional Growth



**Association of  
Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibit:**

**West Palm Beach, Florida**

**September 15-17, 2022**

<https://aphon.org/meetings/future-conferences>



**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](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!

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### **The SCAPHON SCOOP**

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

## Targeted Immunotherapy: The New Arsenal in the Treatment of Pediatric Cancers

- ▶ Chemo resistance and disease relapse have pushed investigators to develop more novel therapeutic strategies.
- ▶ Immunotherapy is designed to overcome resistance and prevent or treat relapse by targeting the cancer microenvironment and optimizing the patient's own immune system.

# Targeted Immunotherapy: Small Molecule Inhibitors in the Treatment of Pediatric Cancers

- ▶ Small Molecule Inhibitors are proteins that are small enough to cross cell membranes and get inside the cell where they can interact with proteins in signal transduction pathways.
- ▶ In malignant cells, alterations in signal transduction pathways result in uncontrolled growth and proliferation that is characteristic of cancer
- ▶ Many of these abnormal signaling proteins can be targeted by a specific small molecule inhibitor.
- ▶ Examples of Small Molecule Inhibitors often used in pediatric cancers:
  - ▶ Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors such as Imatinib and Dasatinib
  - ▶ ALK Pathway Inhibitor: Crizotinib
  - ▶ JAK Pathway Inhibitor: Ruxolitinib
  - ▶ mTOR Inhibitor: Everolimus
  - ▶ ***NTRK Mutation Inhibitor: Larotrectinib***

## Targeted Immunotherapy: Small Molecule Inhibitors - *Larotrectinib*

- ▶ Larotrectinib is a highly selective oral small molecule inhibitor of the TRK family of tyrosine kinases (TRKA, TRKB, TRKC) which are encoded by the neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase (NTRK) gene fusion.
- ▶ This agent, provided by Bayer Pharmaceuticals, has been approved by the FDA for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients with solid tumors that have a NTRK gene fusion without a known acquired resistance mutation.
- ▶ This agent is being evaluated in ADVL1823: Larotrectinib for Previously Untreated TRK Fusion Pediatric Solid Tumors and TRK Fusion Relapsed Pediatric Acute Leukemias
- ▶ Primary cohort will be patients with infantile fibrosarcoma.
- ▶ Other cohorts will be patients with TRK fusion solid tumors and patients with relapsed or refractory TRK fusion acute leukemias

### Dosing and Common Side Effects

- ▶ Drug is given oral (po).
- ▶ **Dose:** 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose given orally twice daily (BID) on a continuous dosing schedule (1 cycle=28 days)
- ▶ **Common Side Effects** include fatigue, neutropenia, anemia, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache, numbness, increased liver function tests, cough, constipation and diarrhea
- ▶ **Warnings and Precautions** include CNS Effects, skeletal fractures, hepatotoxicity, embryo-fetal toxicity (causing fetal harm).
- ▶ **Special Considerations:** monitor lab work-CBC with Diff and LFT's; drug can be given with or without food but administer consistently each day and drug is available in both capsules or oral solution for those patients unable to swallow pills or have NG tube placed

From the SCAPHON 2022 Conference Planning Chair...  
Lauren Guidry

The SCAPHON conference planning committee is so excited to present our 2022 Conference “Everyday Heroes.”

As of today, our IN-PERSON conference is scheduled for June 2-3, 2022 at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa in Palm Springs. We hope that you can join us for a time of learning, networking, and relaxation as we honor all of you- the everyday heroes that have worked tirelessly and diligently throughout this pandemic. Stay tuned for more updates.



From the Scholarship Chair...  
Barbara Buchbinder

*It's not too early to start thinking about  
2022 Survivor Scholarships!*

Thanks to the generous donations and member support of the 2021 SCAPHON Conference raffle, we raised enough money to support seven \$1,000 Survivor Scholarships. Please remember to encourage your patients and families to apply. Scholarship applications are available year-round on [www.scaphon.org](http://www.scaphon.org); please feel free to print these and hand them to your patients and families throughout the year. *The 2022 deadline for applications is April 15th*. The winners will be announced at the 2022 SCAPHON Conference, to be held at the Omni Rancho Los Palmas Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage.

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](http://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](http://flipgrid.com) and enter code 20ad7f81*

October Quarterly 2021  
Spaghetini's





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

## **"Intervene in Sickle Cell Disease Cascade"**

PRESENTED by:

**Susan Carson, MSN, RN, CPNP**  
Nurse Practitioner  
Thalassemia and Chronic Transfusion Program  
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

with



**PRESENTED IN-PERSON ONLY**

**December 14, 2021  
6:30 PM Pacific**

**Spaghetini's**  
3005 Old Ranch Parkway  
Seal Beach, California 90740

**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 Nursing  
Provider Number 10530 for 1.0 Contact Hour

Learning Objectives:

1. Mechanism of action of Oxbryta
2. Inhibition in polymerization of Sickle Cell Disease
3. Clinical findings of Oxbryta



For more information, contact:

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SCAPHON Quarterly Program Planner

**Registration Deadline: December 7, 2021**

SCAPHON Members: FREE  
Non-SCAPHON Members Registration Fee: \$25.00

Register online at:

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