


**SCAPHON**

Southern California Association of

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



# SCAPHON SCOOP

Happy New Year SCAPHON!!! Here we are in a new year with a new COVID variant, and the pandemic seems never-ending! I'm sure, like me you are all exhausted. As I reflect upon this pandemic journey, my thoughts are always brought back to how important the nursing profession is to our society. As nurses we have such unique jobs. We have a responsibility to seamlessly blend evidence-based practice and family centered care. We interpret and explain so the family and patient can understand, we educate and advocate, we provide treatment and are an integral part of developing the plan of care. We are constantly viewed as one of the most trustworthy professions in the eyes of the public, but often our efforts and knowledge are overshadowed by others within the medical professions. When I decided to run for SCAPHON president my vision was to promote the nursing profession by highlighting the incredible talent found in the southern California pediatric hem-onc nurses. SCAPHON members are rich with expertise in every facet of the healthcare spectrum, from leadership to clinical practice, research and beyond. My vision and challenge was to have a conference given by all nurses. And while we are finalizing the details of our annual SCAPHON conference one thing you can be assured, that most of our speakers are nurses and those speakers who are not nurses were invited for their expertise and their support of the nursing profession.

As I continue my term, I want to expand the highlighting of our members, looking to include the opportunity for our SCAPHON members to present at our quarterly meetings as well as our yearly conference. If you happen to be a SCAPHON nurse with expertise in a particular topic and you want to share with your colleagues, keep your eyes peeled for the call to submit abstracts or topics. Soon, we will be sending our "save the dates" for the June conference and be watching for announcements as we finalize all the details in a constantly changing public health environment.

As always if you wish to contact me with ideas or feedback you can reach me at [scaphonpres@gmail.com](mailto:scaphonpres@gmail.com)

May you be healthy and well,

*Kasey*

Kasey Rangan MSN, CPNP, CPHON  
 SCAPHON PRESIDENT



## Opportunities for Professional Growth



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

**Palm Beach County Convention Center  
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!

#### **Contact:**

Sara Vang @ [website@SCAPHON.org](mailto:website@SCAPHON.org)

### **The SCAPHON SCOOP**

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Southern California Chapter*

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**Editor:** Kathryn Duvall

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

## Utilizing a Unique Small Molecule Inhibitor, Elimusertib, in Pediatric Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Solid Tumors-COG Study-PEPN2112

**Elimusertib** is a highly potent and selective ATR inhibitor, a promising class of new drugs that target the ATR (ataxia telangiectasia mutated and Rad3-related kinase), which is involved in DNA repair. The drug inhibits the growth of tumor cells by limiting their ability to repair damaged DNA. Dysregulation of the DNA damage response is both a hallmark of cancer and a potential targetable vulnerability. ATR is a very commonly activated pathway, so ATR inhibitors are being tested in multiple disease sites, mostly in early phase studies. Elimusertib has demonstrated in preclinical models to be quite potent and is inducing most tumor shrinkage across cancer types. Activation of the ATR pathway may be critical for survival in tumors harboring defects in DNA repair or DNA damage signaling pathways.

Many childhood solid tumors are driven by genomic alterations which may render them vulnerable to ATR inhibitors. There is a strong rationale for use in pediatric tumors and promising preclinical evidence to suggest it may be more effective than other ATR inhibitors. Elimusertib has specifically demonstrated promising preclinical activity in both Ewing Sarcoma and alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma as well as lymphoma.

There are currently no other pediatric studies published or in development utilizing Elimusertib. This agent is being supplied by Bayer for testing in the COG Phase I Study, PEPN2112.

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

**Elimusertib** is an oral agent administered twice daily for 3 days followed by 4 days without the drug being given each week. Thus, drug is given on Days 1-3, Days 8-10, Days 15-17, and Days 22-24. Each cycle is 28 days. A cycle may be repeated for a total of 26 cycles, up to a total duration of therapy of approximately 24 months if the patient doesn't have a dose

limiting toxicity and has stable disease. The starting dose for patients less than 18 years of age will be 24 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose BID (Dose Level 1). For patients greater than 18 years, the starting dose will be 40 mg BID. The drug is supplied as 10 mg and 20 mg oral film-coated tablets. **All patients must have the ability to swallow tablets intact.**

## Common Side Effects of Drug:

- Anemia
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Thrombocytopenia
- Neutropenia/leukopenia
- Photosensitization

## Special Considerations and Monitoring Required:

- Patients *must be able to swallow tablets* intact. On days when the agent is due to be given, it should be administered twice daily preferably at the same time of day each day. Elimusertib should be taken one (1) hour before or two (2) hours after a meal with plenty of water. If a patient vomits within 30 minutes after the dose of Elimusertib is administered, that dose should NOT be repeated.
- Due to the potential for photosensitization, patients must minimize UV light exposure (i.e., sunlight or tanning beds) for at least 48 hours after each dose. Apply sunscreen to sun-exposed skin, even on cloudy days. Additionally, apply sun-protective lip balm and wear sunglasses when in surrounding external light.
- Patients should avoid herbal supplements which may contain ingredients that could interact with study drug, Elimusertib.
- No grapefruit juice.
- Antacids should be used with caution.
- Patient or Caretaker must complete the medication diary with the date, time and number of agent tablets taken each day. The medication diary should be reviewed after completion of each treatment cycle and uploaded by the research team.
- Monitor CBC for potential anemia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia.



## CALL FOR 2022 NOMINATIONS

What would it be like to actively participate in SCAPHON, your local chapter of APHON? Member participation is vital in the growth and strength of our chapter. Making the commitment and connecting to your local APHON chapter through active participation can be both personally and professionally rewarding.

### GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER TO BE ON THE SCAPHON BOARD

Nominations/Applications will open online starting **March 8, 2022 - April 17, 2022**.  
Voting will start beginning early May of 2022.

Qualifications for office include **current SCAPHON membership** and a willingness to carry out the duties specified in the bylaws and assignments delegated by the SCAPHON Board and President. You will also be required to attend the monthly SCAPHON Board meetings held the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of each month.

For further information or to complete an electronic nominations form, please go to: [www.scaphon.org](http://www.scaphon.org) and click on the "**BOARD**" tab. For questions, please contact Erin Benekos at [erin.benekos@choc.org](mailto:erin.benekos@choc.org)

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### President Elect

The term is for 4 years (1 year as President elect, 2 years as acting President, 1 year as past President)

***Must have served at least one term on the SCAPHON Executive Board to apply for this position.***

The President Elect will shadow the current President for 1 year in anticipation of assuming all roles and responsibilities of presidency the following year. The President Elect will preside at the chapter meetings in the absence of the President.

### Treasurer

The term is for 2 years

***Must have served at least one term on the SCAPHON board to apply for this position. Previous service on the SCAPHON Executive Board preferred.***

The Treasurer will oversee all funds of the chapter, authorized to open bank accounts in the name of the chapter and perform other duties that may be required by the chapter. The treasurer is required to keep detailed financial records. The treasurer is required to submit an annual accounting and proposed budget to the chapter, and a financial report to the national organization (APHON).

### Quarterly Planning Chair

The term is for 2 years

***No previous experience required for this position.***

The Quarterly Planning Chair will coordinate 3 quarterly educational dinner per year and will facilitate selection of topics, recruit speakers and work with sponsors. Additionally, the Quarterly Planning Chair will perform other duties that may be required by the chapter.

### Community Service Chair

The term is for 2 years

***No previous experience required for this position.***

The Community Service Chair will coordinate 2 community services project per year. Additionally, the Community Service Chair will perform other duties that may be required by the chapter.

Community Service Project  
Danielle Mucker, Chair

Thank you!

Happy New Year and thank you all for your tremendous support of our Hem/Onc Nurse. She and her family received many items from their Amazon Wish List as well as gift cards. Your donations helped to ease the financial stress of the holiday season and brought much joy to her and her family. She is extremely grateful and was overwhelmed by the support from her nursing colleagues. Thank you all again for all of your support.

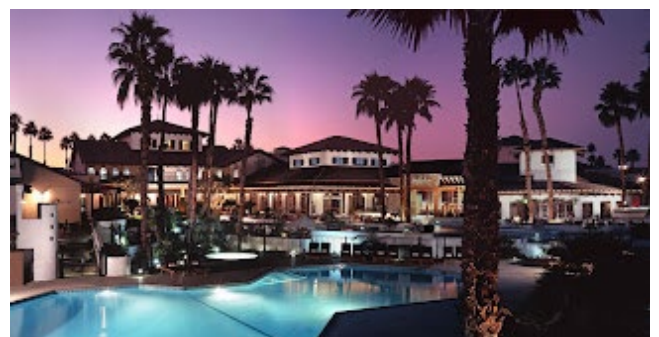
We are still on the search for an amazing community organization to support for our annual conference in June. We look forward to seeing you all in person again. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Danielle Mucker at [dmucker@choc.org](mailto:dmucker@choc.org). Keep your eye out for our selected organization in the SAPHON Annual Conference brochure, the SCAPHON Instagram and member emails.

From the SCAPHON 2022 Conference Planning Chair,  
Lauren Guidry



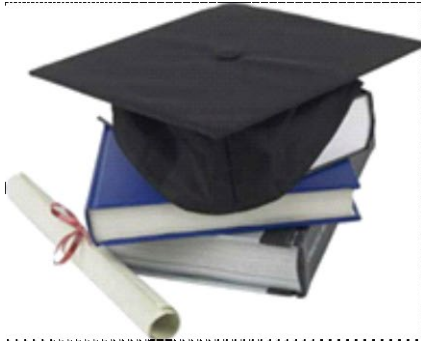
The SCAPHON conference planning committee is so excited to present our 2022 Conference “Everyday Heroes.”

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!*

As we welcome 2022, your board is working hard to put on another great annual conference for us all. Last year, SCAPHON successfully had its first virtual conference due to restrictions related to the current pandemic. We received a lot of positive feedback regarding the virtual conference and our hope and plan this year is to meet in person. Your support of SCAPHON and our raffles assisted us in being able to honor our young survivors in their future endeavors. We look forward to another great year of continuing to be able to support and give back to our patients.

Electronic submission of both our scholarship applications and the nominations for the Kathy Ruccione award can be completed on the SCAPHON website. It's super easy. Just go to [www.scaphon.org](http://www.scaphon.org) and click on ***scholarships & awards*** and the ability to submit scholarship application or upload a KR award nomination is all there on that page. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the process. Call me at 714-509-8702 or email me at [scholarships@scaphon.org](mailto:scholarships@scaphon.org).

Now is the time to spread the word to all your patients about the scholarships so they have plenty of time to submit applications. Application deadline is **April 15**. Also, please start thinking about your colleagues that should be nominated for the Kathy Ruccione award. If you are unsure of who should be nominated for the Kathy Ruccione award, below is a little about her and who should be nominated.

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. Kathy is a pioneer in pediatric hematology-oncology, with her accomplishments and awards too numerous to list here. This award was created to honor her pioneering efforts and celebrate her nurturing leadership style. We all work with a nurse(s) 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 that makes the work place more enjoyable. 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.

*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*



## Southern California Chapter



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

### “Clinical Management of Patients with Refractory or Relapsed high- risk Neuroblastoma”

PRESENTED by:

Rita Secola PhD, RN, CPON, NEA-BC, FAAN  
Clinical Services Director  
Cancer and Blood Disease Institute  
Vascular Access  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

with



#### PRESENTED IN-PERSON ONLY

March 8, 2022  
6:30 PM Pacific

Spaghettini'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 the Quarterly Meeting 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. Evaluate important considerations regarding the management of high-risk Neuroblastoma
2. Review the mechanism of action and design of Danyelza
3. Review the safety and efficacy of Danyelza
4. Learn about nurse preparation and administration of Danyelza



For more information, contact:

Ashley Villalobos

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Phone: 714-813-8733 (cell)

714-509-7382 (work)

SCAPHON Quarterly Program Planner

**Registration Deadline: March 1, 2022**

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

Register online at:

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