



Name: Hannah Churchill

Place of Work: Velindre Cancer Centre

Role: Education, Development and Recruitment Lead Nurse

1. How did you first get involved with UKONS, and what drew you to it?

I became a UKONS member shortly after I started working on a busy SACT day unit. There was so much to learn! One of my colleagues suggested I join UKONS for the education and support they provided. I joined the SACT MIG and immediately began to benefit from the knowledgeable community and the targeted education. When the SACT passport was launched I attended one of the roadshows and witnessed first-hand the excellent support and education provided by UKONS.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

After a number of years working with the SACT passport and guiding many nurses through completing it. I applied for the Subject Matter Expert role on the UKONS SACT Passport digitalisation project and was lucky enough to be given the job. Throughout the following year I had the opportunity to work closely with UKONS members around the country to develop the passport into a digital app and to review and update the content. This project pushed me out of my comfort zone in many ways. From chairing meetings with experienced SACT nurses around the country, to speaking at conferences and launch events and publishing my first journal article. Without UKONS none of this would have been possible and I will always be so grateful for the amazing experience this project has given me. The learning and confidence gained through this project has played a role in enabling me to progress in my career and I now work as the Lead nurse for Education in my cancer centre.

3. In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?

UKONS has given me a network of supportive professionals with invaluable advice and new perspectives. Hearing about the amazing work they do in their hospitals has inspired me to bring about change within my own organisation. The educational events have been vital for my own learning and that of my colleagues. Attending the conferences has been an inspiring experience and I always return with a renewed passion for oncology nursing.



Name: Katie Matthews

Place of Work: The Wellington Hospital, HCA Healthcare UK

Role: Cardiac & Medical Matron

1. How did you first get involved with UKONS, and what drew you to it?

When I first moved to the UK from Australia, I was looking for a professional society that could support me and help fill any knowledge gaps as I transitioned into Oncology nursing in a new country. I was immediately impressed by the projects UKONS had developed, especially the triage tool, which quickly became an essential resource for my patients. The practical, patient-focused approach of UKONS really resonated with me and made me want to get involved.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

UKONS has shown me just how much nurses can achieve when given the right tools and resources. We truly are masters of invention! Wanting to contribute, I became involved as a UKONS Champion. This role gave me the opportunity to support a national project with

Macmillan, developing a tool for staff caring for patients experiencing domestic violence. Being part of these initiatives has broadened my perspective and allowed me to make a tangible impact beyond my immediate workplace.

3. In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?

UKONS has provided a platform for me to share ideas and participate in projects that shape nursing practice and patient care. It is empowering to have a voice in a society where nurses are truly heard and valued. Through UKONS, I have been able to connect with like-minded professionals, stay updated on best practices and contribute to the ongoing improvement of cancer care.