



Name: Debora Franchini

Place of Work: Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Role: Macmillan Lead Cancer CNS for Personalised Care & Co-Chair of YECCN MIG group

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

I have been working in cancer care and haematology since 2017 and I quickly realised the important role that the charity plays in developing and supporting the cancer workforce. As staff nurses on the haematology ward in a DGH, we were asked to cover the AO helpline out of hours. The UKONS triage tool was initially a lifeline for me, as it took me a while to develop my confidence and knowledge in triaging oncology patients over the phone. Since my positive experience with the triage toolkit, I always trusted and sought educational resources/opportunities that were either developed or endorsed by UKONS, as I felt I could trust them.

Whilst reading the UKONS newsletter in February 2023, I decided to apply for the cochair position for the Young and Early Career Cancer Care Nurses MIG as I was really excited about the opportunity to collaborate with such a reputable and well-respected charity.

### **2. How has UKONS influenced your career?**

I am ever so grateful to UKONS for giving me the opportunity to represent Young and Early Career Cancer Care Nurses as one of the MIG co-chairs. Over the past two and a half year, I have been involved in some amazing projects and have met several inspirational cancer care colleagues that has shaped me as a professional. Despite initially feeling terrified at the thought of sitting in the UKONS Board meetings, I quickly realised that my voice counts and that only by participating and listening to all professional groups we can make meaningful changes for cancer nurses and patients. My love for learning and education has grown and I am actively involved in clinical nurse specialist development within my NHS Trust.

**3. In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?** As well as supporting my professional development, being part of UKONS has given me the confidence to pursue a leadership role within my organisation. In January 2025 I was appointed as the Macmillan Lead Cancer CNS for Personalised Care at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. My role as one of the YECCN co-chair will end next year, however I hope to continue being involved in this amazing charity's work and I would really encourage other young nurses to join in!