

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

*I first connected with UKONS when the annual conference came to Belfast in 2022. I completed my PhD in 2020, and due to restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, I still did not have the opportunity to network or share the findings, implications and resources informed by my PhD studies at an in-person conference. Clinical-academic roles in nursing, and more specifically, cancer nursing are rare. I was very fortunate to be appointed to a clinical-academic role in 2024 across Ulster University and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland. For me, UKONS is a community that brings together cancer nurses working in clinical, educational, academic and policy related roles. Similar to how I value the clinical-academic role, UKONS is the opportunity to disseminate research to inform and enhance evidence-based practice and clinically relevant research questions.*

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

*Prior to undertaking a PhD, it was clear to me that research should be impactful and make a difference. When I first attended and presented at UKONS, I had completed a BSc in Psychology and PhD in Nursing. However, I firmly held the belief that 'to make a difference to practice, it's important to be part of the practice'. I subsequently completed my MSc in Professional Nursing and obtained my nursing registration. Clinical-academic careers were firmly on the agenda during the 2023 conference in Newport. Alongside powerful and impactful speakers, this enabled important subsequent conversations that further helped me as I progressed as an early career cancer nurse and researcher in a clinical-academic role.*

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

*Across the last few years, UKONS has provided and enabled opportunities for me to disseminate the evidence-based resources I have been involved in developing and evaluating to health and social care professionals across the UK. This has included opportunities to present at webinars for relevant MIG, represent UKONS at other national events and conferences, as well as co-chair breakout sessions at annual conferences. Since 2024, I am a very proud UKONS Champion, striving to promote the relevance, resources and powerful impact it can have to cancer nurses across their career trajectory, and ultimately the people we care for.*

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