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THE MULTIFACETED ROLES of ONCOLOGY NURSES

One of the great things about nursing as a career is this: If you can't find the job you want, you may be able to design a brand new one. This ability has led to the development of all sorts of specialty roles envisioned and enacted by nurses.

As oncology nurses, we choose between medical oncology, surgical oncology, in-patient nursing, infusion nursing, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, radiation oncology, hospice and so forth. The possibilities are numerous. Whatever our job description, we strive to provide quality patient care. This requires constantly adapting our roles to meet the needs of our patients, our colleagues and the health care industry.

In this issue, we explore some of the unique roles that our PSONS colleagues hold. Many of these roles have been created due to a foreseeable need. As they strive to improve care they have met their own desire to grow professionally and personally. For many of our colleagues profiled in the following pages, the change in position was not an easy one. Several express anxiety and well....stress! They took a "leap of faith".

We hope this issue of the Puget Sound Quarterly will not only give insight into the roles and talents of your colleagues, but that it inspires you to think about your own role. What are your dreams for your current or future position? What inspires you to "think outside the box" and create a new role that will benefit our patients and colleagues alike?

In a time of continuing nursing shortage, this issue should be one that is shared with our workmates, new nurses, and students. Oncology nursing has multifaceted roles, but even more are possible. The sky is truly their limit!

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