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Bringing Evidence Based Care into Oncology Nursing Practice Across Regional, National and International Boundaries – the de Souza Experience

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Oncology nurses are a critical resource for all cancer patients and their families . However, nursing curricula do not prepare nurses to become cancer nurses with knowledge, skills and clinical judgement to meet the complex needs of the patient population. Nurses currently in the field also require evidence based knowledge and standardized approaches to support their specialized practice, and for successful management of the unique complexities in cancer care. In 2008 the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provided funding to establish the "de Souza Institute" (www.desouzanurse.ca). The key deliverable was a state of the art Institute for knowledge translation and building capacity across all domains of oncology nursing practice (generalist, specialist, advanced practice roles) with the vision "to provide Ontarians with the best cancer care in the world". The de Souza Institute is leading the way in providing timely, accessible, evidence-based continuing and graduate education through innovative teaching models that incorporate online learning and telemedicine . To date, more than 3,500 nurses working along the continuum of cancer care from prevention, screening, treatment, palliation to survivorship care have participated in de Souza educational offerings and curriculum has already been sought out and delivered in other provinces, such as Alberta and in such countries as Brazil and Kuwait. The *de Souza Designation*- a comprehensive educational program supporting specialization of knowledge and practice of oncology nursing and directed at different levels along the trajectory of care has been launched with the goal to inspire nurses to meet the highest standard of care.

This workshop is open to leaders and will provide an overview of the de Souza programs, its structure and on the new "de Souza Designation". The workshop leaders will facilitate dialogue on potential partnerships with other International groups to explore opportunities for enhancing the expertise of cancer nurses, collaborating on initiatives and supporting nurses in advanced knowledge and clinical practice wherever they work.