

Bulgarian Oncology Nursing Society /BONS/ is established in 2005 and it consists of 145 members at the moment. The members of the society are from the National Oncology Hospital in Sofia and Regional Oncology Hospitals in different towns like Varna, Vratza, Pleven, Shoumen, Bourgas. Since 2005 BONS is a member of EONS /European Oncology Nursing Society/.

The main aim of the leadership of BONS is to work in a direction to confirm the role and prestige of health care specialists, who works in the sphere of oncology in following aspects: professional, ethical and human, development of scientific interests and improvement of knowledge and practical skills of health care specialists. In connection with this lots of seminars, trainings for health cares for oncology patients, presentations of drug companies were held.

International participations:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Balkan Congress of Oncology, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2006
- First Masterclass in Oncology Nursing – St. Julians, Malta, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007-1<sup>st</sup> March 2007
- Course “ Pain Management” – Singapore, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007 – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007
- IX Congress of GI Cancer – Baelona, Spain , June 2007
- 7<sup>th</sup> Balkan Congress of Oncology, Kusadasi, Turkey, 2008
- Second Masterclass in Oncology Nursing – Sofia, Bulgaria, March 2008
- Third Masterclass in Oncology Nursing – Sintra, Portugal, March 2009
- International Breast Cancer Conference, Sarajevo, Bosna and Herzegovina, april 2009

National participations:

- National Congress of Oncology – Golden Sands, Bulgaria, September 2007
- Course “ Pain Struggle” – Maroussia Daskalova – National Oncology Hospital

BONS received European Journal of Oncology regularly.

In 2008 was held a meeting between Executive Board of BONS and Jan Foubert – vise president of EONS. As a result Post Basic Curriculum for Oncology Nursing was translated in Bulgarian with a financial support of

EONS. Our aim is to present it to the Ministry of Health as a Curriculum for a profile “oncology nurse”, that is missing at the moment in Bulgaria.

Another aim of BONS is creating of Guideline of Oncology Nursing in Bulgaria. In connection with this we expect to gather more information, literature and other helpful materials for publishing in such a Guideline, that would be a basement of standards of oncology nursing.

The biggest problem for Bulgaria is the lack of nurses. After political and economical changes in the country a big part of Bulgarian nurses left Bulgaria and work abroad. At the same time young people are not interested in the profession, because of the low salary and more of the faculties for nurses were closed.

In this situation BONS is in front of the challenge of keeping and motivate oncology nurses to continue their work and increase their qualification.

For 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cancer Care we'll try everything to come. We are looking for sponsors and waiting for their answer.

We honestly hope that we'll have an useful collaboration with you.