



AONN+ and AONN+ FFL Professional Development Handbook: Developing the Future of Navigation

Navigation as a profession requires a multitude of skillsets, knowledge, education, and resourcefulness, all of which should continue to be refined and enhanced throughout one's career. Professional development can take place in many different capacities such as research, public speaking, publication, networking, continuing education, leadership roles, enhancement of knowledge or a specific skillset, among others.

AONN+, as the largest specialty organization of oncology nurse and patient navigators, provides a multi-faceted platform for navigation professionals to seek professional development opportunities within AONN+ as well as AONN+ FFL including:

- AONN+ Annual & Midyear Conferences
- Podcasts/Blogs/FB Live
- Professional Journals
- Authorship
- Research (Abstracts)
- National Committees
- Local Navigator Networks
- CE Credits
- Mentorship Academy
- Professional Networking
- Advocacy
- Self-Care Support

AONN+ Foundation for Learning (FFL)

- Professional Certification

Below you will see an overview of what AONN+ and AONN+ FFL have to offer in the professional development space. Please click on each link to learn more about each opportunity.

[AONN+ Navigation & Survivorship Conferences:](#)

- **About:** AONN+ conferences offer oncology navigators and cancer care professionals opportunities to discuss current and emerging topics, share best practices, and forge new relationships. Attending an AONN+ conference provides a unique opportunity to learn from oncology and navigation thought leaders and connect with like-minded peers, while earning valuable CEs.
- **Link:** (<https://aonnonline.org/conferences>)

[Digital Library: Podcasts/Blogs/FB Live Series:](#)

- **Podcasts:** **Heart and Soul of Oncology Navigation** provides a platform for navigators to discuss a variety of navigation related topics.
 - **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/education/podcasts>
- **Blogs:** Sharing relevant information pertaining to AONN+ and oncology navigation. AONN+ invites all nurse and patient navigators, administrators, social workers, oncologists, and other members of the cancer care team to share their perspectives on the blog.
 - **Link:** (<https://aonnonline.org/expert-commentary/aonn-blog>)
- **FB Live Series:** AONN+ invites you to experience the “*Navigate Now: How Can We Help?*” Facebook live series which is dedicated to sharing resources and support with members of the cancer care community. Each session focuses on a topic that you, our AONN+ community, have helped us select.
 - **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community/facebook-live-series>

[Professional Journals](#)

- **JONS:** The *Journal of Oncology Navigation and Survivorship (JONS)* promotes reliance on evidence-based practices in navigating patients with cancer and their care givers through diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. *JONS* also seeks to strengthen the role of nurse and patient navigators in cancer care by serving as a platform for these professionals to disseminate original research findings, exchange best practices, and find support for their growing community.

- **Link:** (<https://www.jons-online.com/about-jons>)
- **CONQUER:** *CONQUER* magazine features articles written by and for patients with cancer, survivors, nurse navigators, and other oncology team members.
 - **Link:**(<https://conquer-magazine.com/about>)
- **TON (The Oncology Nurse-APN/PA):** The Oncology Nurse-APN/PA features articles written by and for oncology nurses and specifically addresses the oncology-related issues nurses and their colleagues face every day in clinical practice.
 - **Link:** <https://www.theoncologynurse.com/about-ton>

Authorship:

- **About:** Through blogs and official journals of AONN+, members and oncology healthcare professionals can submit their manuscripts, ideas, blog content, original research, and articles on an array of topics including, navigation and survivorship, for all cancer types and in all patient populations-

Abstracts (Research):

- **About:** In publishing and presenting abstracts, authors have the opportunity to share evidence-based navigation research studies, quality improvement projects, and best practices utilizing pre- and post-data elements with their navigation and survivorship care colleagues.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/conferences/annual-conference/call-for-abstracts>

National Committees:

- **About:** AONN+ has assembled a variety of avenues for collaboration including committees devoted to topics/issues of critical importance to the oncology community. Committee participation allows members to share best practices and network.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community/committees>

AONN+ National Committees:

- Abstract Review
- Clinical Trials
- Community Outreach, Prevention, & Early Detection
- Conference Planning
- Genetics & Genomics
- Integrative Health
- Metrics
- Policy & Advocacy

- Professional Development
- Survivorship
- Technology & Innovation

Local Navigator Networks:

- **About:** The Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is focused on developing local and regional networks of navigators to facilitate communication and education among peers and improve patient outcomes and survivorship. We invite you to either join an existing local navigator network (LNN) or start one in your area.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community/local-navigator-networks>

Continuing Education Credits:

- **About:** Access to online continuing education courses, curated toolkits, and resource guides that offer the knowledge and tools to help you provide optimal care to your patients.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/education/modules>

BOLD: Mentorship Academy:

- **About:** AONN+ has announced a new mentoring initiative, *BOLD: Mentorship Academy* “Building Oncology Leadership & Development” with the intent to elevate the profession of navigation by supporting and fostering a reciprocal and collaborative mentoring relationship between two individuals who share mutual goals and accountability for the outcomes and success of the relationship.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community/bold>

Professional Networking:

About: Networking amongst peers allows navigators to learn and share best practices, seek mentorship opportunities, and gain support from the navigation community. AONN+ provides multiple avenues of professional networking through conference attendance, national committees, local navigator networks, and social media platforms.

Link: <https://aonnonline.org/community>

Advocacy:

- **About:** AONN+ strives to provide advocacy opportunities through its multi-faceted platform including numerous committees offered to its members.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community/committees>

Self-Care Support:

- **About:** Oncology healthcare professionals are at a substantial risk for compassion fatigue and burnout due to the emotional involvement with their patients and the daily mental and emotional toll of their work. AONN+ recognizes the mental health challenges navigators face and seeks to provide resources, support, and networking to promote emotional resilience and prevent burnout.
- **Link:** <https://aonnonline.org/community>



Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators®

Professional Certification: AONN+ Foundation for Learning

- **About:** Certification provides credentialing for both clinical and patient navigators demonstrating, via examination, an acquired core body of specialized knowledge of navigation practice. AONN+ Foundation for Learning certification will provide specific credentials to enhance professional credibility, marketability, and opportunities for career advancement.
- **Link:** <https://aonnffl.org/>

Benefits of Certification:

- Validation of advanced knowledge, skills, and practice in oncology navigation
- Enhancement of professional credibility, marketability, and opportunities for career advancement
- Recognition and respect from industry organizations, institutional leadership, peers, and patients as an integral member of the multidisciplinary oncology team

Patient Navigator Certification -currently in redevelopment

Licensed Clinical Navigator Certification -currently in redevelopment

AONN+ Foundation for Learning National Committees:

Certification Advisory Committee

Appeals Committee

Item Writing Committee

Scheme Committee

As the navigation profession grows and evolves so will the professional development opportunities provided by AONN+ and AONN+ FFL. We hope this Professional Development Handbook provides you the resources you need to further elevate your professional growth and we encourage you to **“Be Bold”** as you play a role in developing the future of navigation.

Sincerely,

AONN+ and AONN+ Foundation for Learning Leadership