



Name: Happiness Barnabas

Place of Work: HCA Healthcare UK, London

Role: Staff Nurse, IPC Link Nurse

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

I first got involved with UKONS in 2023 after learning about the organisation through my clinical practice facilitator. As a haematology and oncology nurse passionate about professional development, I was immediately drawn to UKONS because of its reputation for championing cancer nursing excellence, members interest groups, teachings, evidence-based practice, and community engagement. I was fortunate to attend the 2024 conferences after being selected for a Gilead grant. I submitted a successful essay, which earned me a free ticket to attend the UKONS Annual Conference, £100 travel allowance, and two nights' hotel accommodation. This opportunity opened a new door in my cancer nursing journey.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

Attending the UKONS Annual Conference was a turning point for me. It connected me with like-minded professionals and leading experts in oncology nursing. The conference sessions expanded my understanding of current trends in systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT), infection prevention control measures, care of patients with pressure ulcers and holistic patient support. I returned to my role inspired and better equipped to deliver evidence-informed care. I also held a teach back session for my colleagues on safe handling of SACT after returning from the 2024 UKONS conference. I was also able to convince the pharmacy department of my hospital to purchase some of the products that were displayed at the conference and will be useful in nursing care of the patients. It encouraged me to actively seek out continuous education opportunities and to contribute to the wider oncology nursing community.

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

UKONS has given me the confidence to pursue excellence in my practice and to view my role

as part of a wider, impactful movement in cancer care. The knowledge, resources, and connections gained through the conference have helped me advocate more effectively for patients, particularly in managing treatment-related toxicities and improving quality of life. The experience also inspired me to begin creating cancer education content for the public, with the goal of simplifying complex information and raising awareness. Being part of the UKONS network has made me feel supported, empowered, and proud to be a cancer nurse