



**Name:** Joseph Peralta

**Email:** joseph.peralta@nhs.net

**Place of Work:** Frimley Health Foundation Trust

**Role:** Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP)

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

I first came across UKONS when I transitioned into my role as an Acute Oncology Nurse in a busy district general hospital. Coming from a haematology/oncology chemotherapy background, I felt that I still needed a great deal of support and guidance. I was suddenly immersed in a highly specialised field and quickly realised I needed support beyond the walls of my hospital. A colleague recommended UKONS and, after attending my first conference, I was hooked. What drew me in was the sense of community, a network of passionate professionals all working towards the same goal: improving cancer care for our patients.

### **2. How has UKONS influenced your career?**

UKONS has been a guiding light in my professional journey. Through their conferences, webinars and shared best practice, I gained the confidence and clinical knowledge to help shape the Acute Oncology service within my trust. UKONS opened my eyes to national standards, innovative models of care, and the importance of collaboration across disciplines. Being part of this network has not only broadened my clinical perspective but also helped me to grow as a leader within my team.

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

UKONS gave me the reassurance that I'm never working in isolation. Whether it's accessing the AO toolkit, engaging with the AO Community of Practice, or reaching out for peer advice, I've always found UKONS to be an invaluable support system. The organisation has also provided a platform for ongoing education, allowing me to stay up to date with evolving treatments and pathways. Most importantly, it has inspired me to advocate for excellence in cancer care — even within the often-pressured environment of a district general hospital.