



ASSOCIATION of PEDIATRIC  
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSES

March 16, 2010

Dear Editor,

Pediatric oncology nurses recognize the need to address the complex issues of adolescents and young adults with cancer (AYAs) who live in the fringes between pediatric and adult oncology care settings ("In Cancer Fight, Teenagers Don't Fit In," 3/15/2010). Studies show that survival rates are compromised without the comprehensive services needed to face future challenges.

The Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) has addressed these issues in many conferences including a joint workshop with Children's Oncology Group, "Saving the MySpace Generation-Why Age Matters." It described common oncological diseases, treatment challenges, and recommended strategies to increase access for AYAs to advanced cancer care.

Pediatric oncology teams are looking for ways to partner with adult oncology colleagues to help bridge the gap, offering guidance and support through innovative programs as these young survivors transition into adulthood. These important programs provide a necessary link for wellness in life beyond diagnosis and treatment.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Echtenkamp".

Deborah Echtenkamp, MSN RN CPON®  
President