From Student to Practicing Oncology Nurse: A Novel Collaboration to Create a Transition to Practice Program in Ambulatory Cancer Care

Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, RN, PhD, Suni Elgar, RN, BSN, OCN®, Diane Heye, BSN, RN, OCN®, Rosemary Ford, BSN, RN, Sharol Bohl, RN, OCN®, Seth Eisenberg, RN, OCN®, BMTCN®, Arlyce Coumar, RN, BSN, OCN®, Pamela Pearson, RN, Julienne Pugh, RN, BMTCN®, Karla Mather, RN, MSN, OCN®, and Debra Wise Matthews, RN, PhD

**Objectives:** The article summarizes the collaboration between a baccalaureate nursing program and a cancer clinic to establish a dedicated education unit (DEU).

**Methods:** A pilot project was undertaken to create the DEU and residency program.

**Findings:** The collaboration has provided a clinical setting for baccalaureate nursing students to learn and develop clinical competencies, advance their critical thinking skills, and enhance advanced pathophysiology knowledge. The scope of the program includes a transition-to-practice model which maximizes the use of the DEU as students graduate and are eligible to apply for the oncology residency program. The DEU has created a pipeline for new nurses.