



# NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 4 & 5

May 1, 2009 <http://wheatlandchapter.vc.ons.org/>

**President: Janet DeNeault RN OCN**

**Topic: Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura**

**Speaker: Sandra Vail RN MSN AOCN**

**Where: Tammy Walker Cancer Center**

**When: Thursday May 14, 2009**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**A catered meal will be provided by Kevin Pouch—GSK**

**RSVP by 5-11-2009 to Janet at 823-1521**

**CEU: 0.5 contact hours**

**Come One, Come All, Visitors Welcome !!**

Meeting to follow presentation.

## **Chapter Meeting--March 12, 2009 --- Minutes**

The March Wheatland Chapter ONS meeting was held on March 12, 2009 at Tammy Walker Cancer Center. Eleven members and 3 guests were in attendance .

The speaker, Diane Godbey, presented "A Multidimensional Case Study of Adjuvant Endocrine Treatment in Early Breast Cancer". The catered meal was provided by Garry Plane, Novartis.

The meeting was called to order by Janet D., President.

Minutes from January 15, 2009 were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was given by Beth B.. Beginning Balance: \$3793.99. Revenue: \$110.19. Expenses: Pt Assistance-\$142.97. Ending Balance was \$3761.24.

Committee's & new committee members for 2009:

Website: Carol G. & Deb J.

Community Ed/Fundraiser: Janine H., Mary Q., & Becky E.

Special Needs: Becky E., Beth B., & Chris P.

Program: Janet D.

Membership: 2009 Officers

Nominating: Jane P.

Old Business:

Elections: Sandy K. is the vice president & Mary Q. is the secretary. Janet D. is President & Beth B. is Treasurer.

Review of Questionnaires —Janet passed around the returned questionnaires. The majority of responses said they did not have time to be an officer; they want CEU's ; they want to help patients; they like networking, and the 6 pm hour was the most popular.

New Business:

2009 chapter goals:

1. Improve meeting attendance & group participation
2. Conduct a CEU workshop open to the public
3. Offer 2-3 CEUs per year w/regular meetings
4. Donate to special needs patients as funds permit
5. Retain current members & recruit new members
6. Donate to a charitable cause
7. Maintain chapter newsletter & website
8. Continue fundraising for chapter
9. Send ONS member (preferably VP) to Mentorship/Leadership weekend

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### **Special points of interest:**

- **Minutes 1-15-2009 & 3-12-2009 Chapter Meetings**
- **Next Meeting  
May 14, 2009**

**Website:**

**<http://wheatlandchapter.vc.ons.org/>**

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Meeting dates for 2009, meetings start at 1800, meetings are set up for TWCC Conference Room:  
 March 12  
 May 14  
 July 16  
 September 17  
 November 19

Fall Oncology Fair Planning Committee: It was decided the date for the fair will be September 19. Some suggested topics are Fatigue, Pain, Genetics, End of Life, Sexuality, and Cyberknife. It was also suggested to raise the booth fee for vendors to \$350 or \$400. We need to remember to put the ONS logo on our flyer for the fair.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2009 at TWCC at 6 PM. Speaker will be Sandra Vail. Topic has not been decided.

Meeting adjourned by Janet.

### Green Tea May Negate the Benefits of Bortezomib (Velcade)

According to a study published in BLOOD (Feb. 3, 2009) consumption of green tea may be contraindicated for patients receiving bortezomib, as the polyphenols in green tea may actually negate the therapeutic benefits of the drug. Green tea contains a polyphenol called epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) that has been shown to prevent cancer cells by changing the way normal cells react to potential carcinogens entering the body. EGCG appears to create chemical changes that kill active cancers in multiple myeloma, breast, cervical, & colon cancer tumors. As a result many patients use green tea hoping it will help fight cancer. In the studies the EGCG in green tea prevented the tumor cell death induced by bortezomib. This EGCG effect only occurred with boronic acid-based proteasome inhibitors (Velcade, MG-262, PS-I) According to the researchers "EGCG directly reacted with Velcade (bortezomib) and blocked its proteasome inhibitory function. As a result, bortezomib could not induce tumor cell death. (Blood, 2006; CancerConsultant.com News 3/11/09)

### Bisphosphonate Boosts Chemotherapy Activity

In several studies reported at the December 2008 31st Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, breast cancer chemotherapy got a boost in activity when patients also received the IV bisphosphonate drug zoledronic acid (Zometa). Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for early-stage breast cancer studies showed pathologically assessed residual invasive tumor size at surgery when given zoledronic acid was associated with a 33% reduction in residual tumor size compared to chemotherapy alone. According to Dr. Robert Coleman MD of University of Sheffield in England, "the data suggest that zoledronic acid is doing some more than protecting bone, this is the first patient-related evidence of a possible direct antitumor effect. This is not a practice-changing study, but is hypothesis generating, which will lead to new trials to look at this in greater detail". Dr. Michael Gnant MD of the University of Vienna, Austria reported on 1800 premenopausal women with early breast cancer, randomized to 3 yrs of adjuvant endocrine therapy with or without zoledronic acid. All patients had ER positive tumors, ten or fewer positive lymph nodes, & had undergone surgery followed by radiotherapy. The primary endpoint was disease-free survival (DFS) at 48 months. However, patients randomized to receive zoledronic acid with the adjuvant endocrine therapy had a 36% improvement in DFS. Dr. Gnant stated "zoledronic acid results in a DFS efficacy similar to other paradigm-changing treatment in early breast cancer and adjuvant treatment with zoledronic acid should be considered to improve the standard of care in premenopausal women with breast cancer."

## Chapter Meeting--January 15, 2009 --- Minutes

The January Wheatland Chapter ONS meeting was held on January 15, 2009 at Tammy Walker Cancer Center. Five members and 2 guests were in attendance.

The presentation was "Targeting VEGF Therapy in Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Safety and Efficacy of Avastin". The speaker for the evening was Judy De Groot RN MSN AOCN. The speaker and food were sponsored by the drug company. The speaker was excellent and the program was very educational.

The meeting was called to order by Janet D., Vice-President for Jane P.

### Old Business:

Minutes from November 20, 2008 were read and approved with no changes. The treasurer's report was given by Janet D. for Beth B. We assisted 4 patients with drug assistance money for a total of \$239.65. The oncology fair profit was \$2,518.00. Christmas donations to 10 patients equaled \$1000. Other donations were: Relay for Life-\$250 and ONS-\$100. The total ending balance is \$3693.99.

Thank you notes were read by Janet D. from Margaret Frogge for the \$100 donation to ONS Foundation, Rebecca R. for the Christmas gift, and Pam G. and Kim S. for planning the Oncology Fair.

### New Business:

Janet D. shared the lack of responses she got from members regarding running for vice president and secretary for next year. She was not able to send out the ballots because of this. Much discussion took place regarding the poor attendance at our meetings, whether to keep being an ONS chapter, what we want from this chapter, etc. It was decided to send out a survey to all members asking what they want from this chapter, what times to have the meetings, and why people do not want to run for offices.

Janet D. will put together a survey, call members again regarding running for offices, and send out the ballot, and the information needed for local membership dues.

Meeting was adjourned.