

**Welcome to Bethany of UKONS
– our new EONS YCN Group rep**

Bethany Maynard is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in oncology at the University of Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. She has recently taken on the role of representing UKONS (United Kingdom Oncology Nursing Society) Young Cancer Nurses (YCN) in England on the EONS Young Cancer Nurses Group. Here is a short interview

Can you introduce yourself and what you have been up to in your career this far?

My name is Bethany Maynard and I am South coast born and bred! I took my undergraduate degree at University of Surrey and, since qualifying in 2013, I have worked at University of Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. For 3.5 years I worked on an inpatient Oncology ward, where I developed the normal range of inpatient oncology skills, including giving chemotherapy and caring for a whole range of patients from the acutely unwell to those at the end of life.

Since October 2016 I have worked as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner; I love my role. I am based in the inpatient setting where my main focus is in medical oncology but I have also been involved with clinical oncology and haematology. I also work within our Acute Oncology Service.

Whilst doing this full time, I have also been undertaking a Masters in Advanced Clinical Practice, which sometimes makes life a bit busy!

Tell me about how you became involved with EONS and something about your role as representing UK Young Cancer Nurses?

I was first introduced to EONS by a colleague who had attended the Masterclass a year previously. I attended in Berlin in March 2017 and had an incredible time. It was an amazing experience to spend a week with people from all over Europe who had completely different experiences but the same passion for improving cancer care. It was a great way of meeting a broad range of new people and I made some great connections. I then went on to attend Leadership Summit in Ede, Netherlands in November 2017 and by March 2018 I returned to the Masterclass but this time to give a presentation on Acute Oncology. I'm fairly new to presenting but really enjoyed it!

As to representing YCNs in England, it is difficult to know where to start. It seems like a massive undertaking! I would love for others to be able to have the same experiences I have had, particularly with EONS. I would like to inspire others and help them to develop their own passion and knowledge of a really interesting area. Oncology nursing is a unique speciality and I would like to help oncology nurses maximise their development and give patients the best experience possible within a very traumatic period in their lives.

What do you think are the biggest challenges you will face looking forwards to your career in cancer nursing?

That is a difficult question I think and its It's hard to know how things will look in the future. Nursing is changing which is really exciting. Our ANP service has been running for about 5 years and is still developing. Nurses are being given more responsibility and independence and a greater scope for development. It is a job that seems ever-expanding. That is an exciting prospect but also one that is challenging. I enjoy having new challenges and pushing

myself even when the prospect is uncomfortable. However nursing develops in the future I am sure it will be interesting