Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA)
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Background
- Oncology Pharmacy Technicians are integral contributors to the care of cancer patients
- In an effort to promote higher quality patient care, NCODA created the Pharmacy Technician Committee in 2018
- In late 2018, the Pharmacy Technician Committee evolved into OPTA and became its own Association
- OPTA is the first and only association specifically for Oncology Pharmacy Technicians dedicated to supporting and encouraging their professional development
- Focus includes setting the standards for oncology pharmacy technicians
- A growing group of 400+ peers nationwide

Objective
- Create a platform for connecting oncology pharmacy technicians
- Exchange practical information around effective practices
- Develop Quality Standards
- Create a certification process for oncology pharmacy technicians

Examples of Content on OPTA Webinars:
- Drug Update
- Peer Presentation
- Technician Practice in Focus
- Certification Update
- Continuing Education resources
- Future engagement opportunities

Monthly Webinars
- Second Wednesday of each month at 3PM EST
- Three content areas (topics change monthly):
  - Drug Update
  - Peer Presentation
  - Technician Practice in Focus
- Certification Update
- Continuing Education resources
- Future engagement opportunities

Initiatives
- Creating a certification for oncology pharmacy technicians
- Process underway with growing membership body
- Continuing Education
- Developing oncology pharmacy technician specific courses that support the OPTA Quality Standards
- Networking & Community Building
- Emails, Webinars, Discussion Board
- NCODA meetings: Fall Summit and Spring Forum
- Technician specific sessions

Discussion
- OPTA is the leading organization in the professional development of oncology pharmacy technicians
- Complimentary Membership
- Exchange of knowledge and effective practices
- Get involved today to help shape the future
- Continuing to build infrastructure for the following:
  - Continuing Education specific to oncology pharmacy technicians
  - Leadership Positions for Oncology Pharmacy Technicians
  - Personnel and administration

Format
- Monthly OPTA Webinars
- Monthly Leadership Meetings
- Discussion Board engagement
- Regularly scheduled Email Updates
- Certification Initiative

Examples of Content on OPTA Webinars:
- Peer Presentation: Gina Buzzell, McFarland Clinic, IA
- Technician Practice in Focus: Christine Robinson, Cleveview Cancer Institute
- Technician Practice in Focus: Kara Sammons, Florida Cancer Specialists
- Technician Practice in Focus: Gina Buzzell, McFarland Clinic, IA

Information
Link: [https://www.ncoda.org/oncology-pharmacy-technician-association-opta/](https://www.ncoda.org/oncology-pharmacy-technician-association-opta/)
For Interested Applicants for OPTA:
1. Register for NCODA membership
2. Log-in to NCODA and Apply for OPTA