



PASSION FOR PATIENTS  
NCODA.ORG

# Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA)

*Patient-centered. Always Collaborative.*

Taryn Newsome, CPhT – OPTA Coordinator & Christopher Hall, PharmD Candidate – University of Florida



## Background

- Oncology Pharmacy Technicians are integral contributors to the care of cancer patients
- To promote higher quality 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 for our professional discipline
- OPTA is specifically for Oncology Pharmacy Technicians dedicated to supporting and encouraging their professional development
- Our focus includes becoming the standard bearers for oncology pharmacy technicians nationwide
- We are a strong, growing group of 600+ peers

## Programming

- Monthly OPTA meetings
- Monthly OPTA leadership meetings
- Regularly scheduled email updates
  - OPTA Review (OPTA's virtual newsletter, released monthly)
  - OPTA monthly meeting agenda
  - Technician in Focus
- OPTA Certification Initiative
- OPTA Monthly Webinar
  - Second Wednesday of every month at 3PM EST
  - Main content includes Technician in Focus, Drug Updates
  - Hot Topic Discussion (open roundtable talk)
  - NCODA/OPTA Updates
    - CE resources
    - Basecamp
    - Financial Assistance
    - Discussion Board

## Discussion

- OPTA is the leading organization in the professional development of pharmacy technicians
- Membership is complimentary
- Ability to exchange knowledge and effective practices
- Opportunities to get involved with OPTA on a regional and national level to help set quality standards nationwide
- Continue to build infrastructure for the following:
  - Continuing education specific to oncology pharmacy technicians
  - Personnel and administration

## Get Involved

- For more information on OPTA please contact:
  - Taryn Newsome, CPhT, OPTA Coordinator, taryn.newsome@ncoda.org
  - Ginger Blackmon, PharmD, Senior Manger of Clinical Initiatives, ginger.blackmon@ncoda.org
- To register for our complimentary membership, visit our website at <https://www.ncoda.org/register/>
  - Make sure you check mark 'YES' at the bottom of the page to join Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association.
- Also, you can scan the QR code below to join our growing membership!

## Objectives

- Advance the value of oncology pharmacy technicians regardless of practice location
- Maximize members' professional development through training, collaboration and knowledge sharing of resources, tools, benchmarks, and other value-adds to OPTA members
- Advocate for oncology pharmacy technicians to be an influential voice for oncology patient care issues
- Collaborate with oncology pharmacy technicians to influence and strengthen the safety, quality and access to care for each patient



## Mission & Vision

- Mission: Our mission is to support and encourage the professional development of oncology centers and medically integrated dispensing clinics nationwide. We as an association will strive to strengthen and empower dispensing staff in their increasingly vital role by providing leadership and sharing knowledge to ensure better outcomes for patients.
- Vision: Our vision is that each patient receives the maximum benefit from their cancer treatment by cultivating a community focused on advancing the role of the oncology pharmacy technician through professional development & innovation.

## Meet Our OPTA Leadership Committee

- Joel Sanchez, HDDP - Kelsey-Seybold Cancer Clinic, Houston, TX – Designated Person
- Linda Grimsley, CPhT - Virginia Cancer Specialist, Fairfax, VA – Retail Pharmacy Supervisor
- Christine Robinson, CPhT- Clearview Cancer Institute, Huntsville, AL - Clinical Data Analyst
- Emily Zimdars, CPhT - M Health Fairview, Minneapolis, MN – Business Operations Specialist-Oncology
- Sara Eisenhart, CPhT - Gettysburg Cancer Center, Gettysburg, PA – Oncology Pharmacy Technician
- Teri Roberts, CPhT – Arizona Oncology, Prescott, AZ – Oncology Pharmacy Technician
- Brandi Gudwien, CPhT - Alabama Oncology, Birmingham, AL – Patient Advocate & OPTA Co-Chair
- Becki Tinder, CPhT – Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, IA – Technician III & OPTA Co-Chair

## Initiatives

- Networking and community building
  - Email communications, discussion board
  - NCODA Meetings: Fall Summit and Spring Forum
    - OPTA specific sessions, presented by oncology pharmacy technicians
- Continuing Education
  - Developing oncology pharmacy technician specific courses that support OPTA's Quality Standards
- Creating a certification for oncology pharmacy technicians
  - Process underway with growing membership