



PASSION FOR PATIENTS

Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA)

Patient-centered. Always Collaborative.

Taryn Newsome, CPhT | Associate Manager of OPTA



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 the Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (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 1200+ peers

Purpose

- Advance the value of oncology pharmacy technicians
- 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

Our Mission is to strengthen and empower oncology pharmacy technicians in their increasingly vital role as part of the medically integrated team by providing leadership and professional development opportunities to ensure better outcomes for cancer patients.

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.

Programming

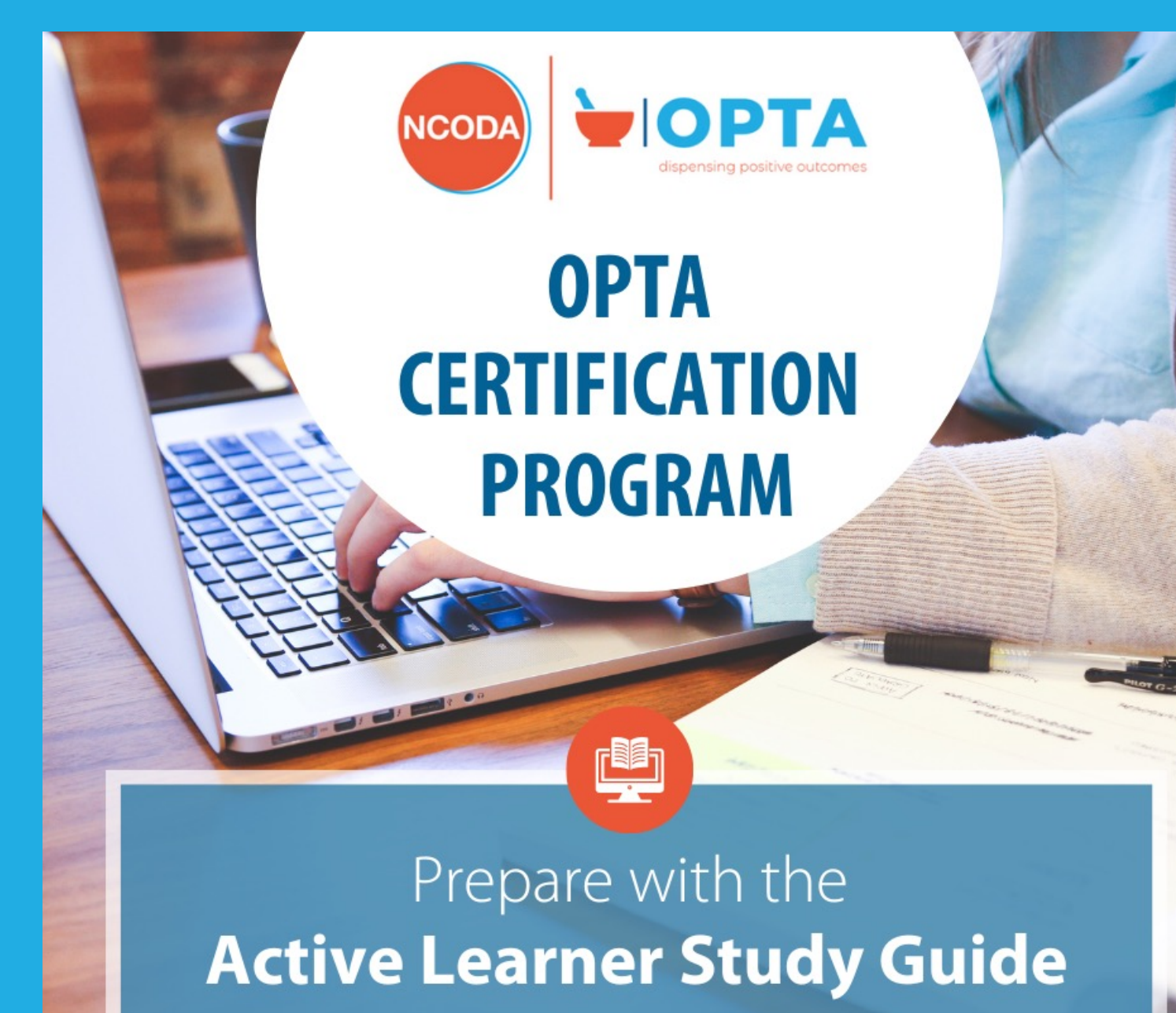
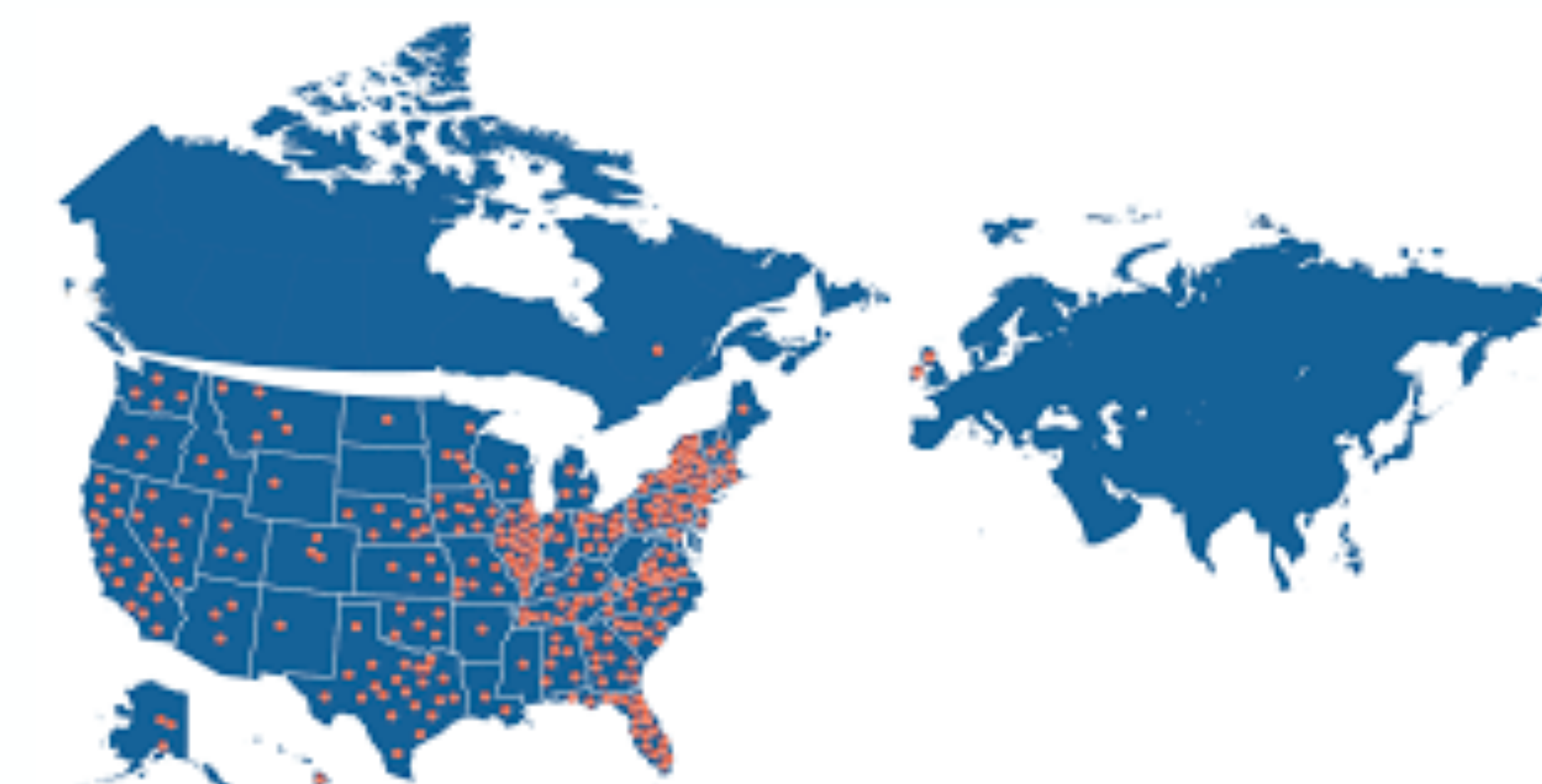
- Monthly OPTA Leadership Committee meetings
- Regularly scheduled email updates
 - *OPTA Review* (OPTA's virtual publication, released monthly)
 - Technician in Focus
- OPTA Certification
- OPTA Continuing Education
 - First-ever OPTA CE
 - Specifically for oncology pharmacy technicians
- OPTA Partnerships
 - Special presentations
- OPTA Monthly Webinar
 - Second Wednesday of every month at 3 PM EST
 - The main content includes Technician in Focus, Drug Updates
 - Hot Topic Discussion (open roundtable discussion)
 - Partnership presentations
 - Educational opportunity
 - NCODA/OPTA Updates
 - CE resources
 - Career Share Network
 - NCODA Connect
 - Discussion Board

Discussion

- OPTA is the leading organization in the professional development of pharmacy technicians
- Ability to exchange knowledge and effective practices
- Opportunities to get involved with OPTA on a regional national and international level to help set quality standards
- Networking and community building
 - NCODA Connect, email communications,
 - 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

Get Involved

- For more information on OPTA please contact:
 - Taryn Newsome, CPhT, Associate Manager of OPTA, Taryn.Newsme@ncoda.org
 - Ginger Blackmon, PharmD, Assistant Director of Clinical Initiatives, Ginger.Blackmon@ncoda.org
- To register for our complimentary membership, visit our website at <https://www.ncoda.org/register/>
- Also, you can scan the QR code below to join our growing membership!



Meet Our OPTA Leadership Committee

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • Alicia Barnes, CPhT - AON, Spokane, WA – Patient Assistance Advocate | • Brandi Gudwien, CPhT - Birmingham, AL – Patient Advocate & OPTA Co-Chair | • Emily Zimdars, CPhT - M Health Fairview, Minneapolis, MN – Business Operations Specialist |
| • Sara Eisenhart, CPhT - AON, Gettysburg, PA – Assistance Advocate | • Carol Hemersbach, CPhT, BSHCA - Arizona Blood and Cancer Specialists, Tucson, AZ – IOD Supervisor | • Vonda McClendon, CPhT, - Texas Oncology, Dallas, TX-Oncology – STAR Compliance Retail Specialist & OPTA Co-Chair |
| • Linda Grimsley, CPhT, BBA, PharmD Candidate - Virginia Cancer Specialists, Fairfax, VA – Financial Assistance & Authorization | • Teri Roberts, CPhT - Arizona Oncology, Prescott, AZ – MID/IV Pharmacy Supervisor | |

Certification

- Advance the professional development of oncology pharmacy technicians
- Ensure that oncology care meets a consistent standard of quality, **nationwide**
- Improve patient care by promoting the value of specialized training, knowledge and skill in oncology pharmacy

