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For Immediate Release

MORRISTOWN MEMORIAL ONCOLOGY NURSE RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD TO HELP HONOREE DEVELOP HOLISTIC NURSING INITIATIVES AT CANCER CENTER

MORRISTOWN, NJ MARCH 11, 2008 – Sylvia Isaacson, an oncology nurse manager at [Morristown Memorial Hospital's Carol G. Simon Cancer Center](#), received the Oncology Nursing Society's 2008 Nurse Leadership Career Development Award, an honor which recognizes her leadership role and supports her goals in developing a holistic nursing environment in her unit at the hospital.

Isaacson, manager of inpatient medical-surgical oncology and the outpatient infusion center at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, has been working to make holistic nursing a part of the cancer care provided at the hospital in a way that benefits not only the patients, but their nurses and caregivers as well.

As part of the award, which is given each year in recognition of a nurse's strong leadership abilities, Isaacson will receive \$2,000, which will go toward achieving a certification in holistic nursing. Isaacson has participated in a four-part certification program in holistic nursing and integrative healing arts from the BirchTree Center for Healthcare Transformation.

"I think that as cancer care has evolved, patients are living longer, and it is necessary for nurses, as caregivers, to embrace cancer care as an ongoing way of life," Isaacson said. "One way to do that is to create an environment that is supportive and comfortable for both the caregivers and the patient."

Some of Isaacson's holistic initiatives have included the use of music therapy, Healing Touch, a therapy that uses gentle touch to help the body to rest and restore itself, and Reiki, a Japanese relaxation technique. Through these initiatives, Isaacson offers her staff the opportunity to learn different hands-on techniques which they can incorporate into their daily practices.

Isaacson was also instrumental in a program in which certified pet therapy dogs visit the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and the inpatient oncology unit, allowing patients, their family members and staff to meet with, and draw comfort from the animals. In 2008, Isaacson is looking to pursue programs such as aromatherapy and further developing the Healing Touch program.

Isaacson, who has been an oncology nurse for 34 years in hospitals throughout the East Coast, came to Morristown Memorial Hospital in 2001, and became manager of the inpatient oncology unit and the outpatient infusion center, overseeing more than 80 full-time employees, six years ago.

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

All of Isaacson's staff are graduates of the Oncology Nursing Society's Chemotherapy/Biotherapy course, and under her leadership, the staff set all time high certification rates. Members of Isaacson's staff have been selected to receive significant awards within Morristown Memorial Hospital and recently won the New Jersey Governors' Merit Award for Nursing Excellence.

"Sylvia is a very hands-on leader who doesn't ask her staff to do what she is not willing to do herself," said Barbara Markt, RN, part of Isaacson's staff, who along with Ruth Lin, a clinical nurse specialist, nominated Isaacson for the award. "She sets high expectations for us, but is extremely supportive of her staff and always looking for ways to make our experience and the patients' experience better. She's not afraid to explore new areas of nursing to achieve that goal."

Isaacson will be recognized as the award recipient through a photo display at the 2008 ONS Annual Congress in May. The honor will also be detailed in various publications distributed to ONS members nationwide. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a national specialty organization of more than 35,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals dedicated to excellence in patient care, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology.

About the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center

Morristown Memorial Hospital's Carol G. Simon Cancer Center continues to offer the region's largest staff of cancer specialists and the most advanced methods to diagnose, treat and manage all types of cancer. All members of its multi-disciplinary care teams have been specially selected and trained to provide the highest level of care for both the physical and emotional needs of its patients.

Integrating traditional and complementary medical modalities, the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center provides inpatient, outpatient, home care, support services, and preventive screenings. All of these services are conveniently offered at Morristown Memorial Hospital—allowing the cancer patient and care giver to remain within the community, close to family and friends.

Part of Atlantic Health atlanticealth.org, Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 629-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, NJ, with more than 1,200 physicians. Morristown Memorial's specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center and a Level III Regional Perinatal Center. Home to the largest cardiac surgery center in the state, Morristown's other services include the Goryeb Children's Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, and North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center. In 2008, Atlantic Health will complete the new Gagnon Heart Hospital, a 250,000 square-foot facility that will consolidate all cardiovascular services at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Morristown Memorial is designated as a Magnet Hospital for Excellence in Nursing Service, the highest level of recognition by American Nurses Credentialing Center available to facilities that provide acute care services.

The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

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