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1. How did you first get involved with UKONS, and what drew you to it?

I first engaged with UKONS in 2021, when I began my PhD at the University of Surrey. My supervisors encouraged me to join the UK Oncology Nursing Society as the leading professional community aligned with my topic. After my first UKONS Conference, the breadth of practice and research - from SACT services to survivorship - convinced me to get more involved. The openness, mentoring and practical sessions made it a natural home to learn, share and test ideas.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

UKONS broadened my sense of possibility. Seeing work across the whole cancer pathway helped me locate my contribution in workforce planning and service improvement in SACT day-unit settings. Conversations and sessions on methodology, quality improvement and policy translation sharpened my research questions and gave me the confidence to pursue ambitious, patient-centred projects that link evidence to impact. The community's emphasis on impact reinforced that rigorous research can change practice. As an early-career researcher, the visibility, mentoring and constructive critique I received made me more ambitious, and more focused.

3. In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?

UKONS supported my PhD in very practical ways, members participated in my study, enabling strong recruitment and rich insights. The network opened doors to collaborations and ongoing learning, from webinars to communities of practice. As I move into a lecturer role, UKONS continues to be my compass: a place to test ideas, stay aligned with best practice and policy, and contribute back through dissemination and service. I'm grateful to the community that helped shape my journey and excited to keep working together to improve cancer care end to end.