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Place of Work: Gloucestershire Oncology Centre

Role: Oncology & Haematology Practice Development Lead

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

Like UKONS I have been part of the NHS for 20 years now. I first discovered UKONS in 2013. Having started my Oncology Haematology career in 2012 on the wards. I started to undertake my SACT module at university and heard about UKONS through that.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

I have watched the speciality grow, UKONS grow and the resources and support with the complexities of treatments and pathways for patients. I first went to the conference in Telford. We were just thinking about the need for SACT reaction policies back then. After the debate session I came back and authored our first one, which I then shared widely. Then presented one year after doing a SACT Handling and H and S project locally to introduce closed systems. This was a rare opportunity to talk to a room of about 100 very experienced nurses and although I was extremely nervous it really inspired me and made me realise what I could do if I pushed my boundaries and how important it was to both challenge and celebrate practice.

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

I have made so many new networks and contacts nationally. Also, heard of projects that have made me reflect either that our centre is ahead of its time, or needing to introduce new practices. The national tools and resources have been a great standard and the Triage tool especially.