

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

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

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

I'm Emma Chalmers and a Clinical Educator in NHS Lothian, Edinburgh. I'm also Co-Chair for the Disabled Employee Network. I work closely with oncology nursing teams and I'm pleased to share how the UKONS network has shaped my work and career.

I've been involved with UKONS since around 2017. Initially it was to use the resources for triaging patients then it moved into marking the old SACT passports. I quickly discovered that UKONS is so much more. I was drawn to UKONS as it helps to support nurses who work in such a specialised branch of medicine that has many ups and downs.

By being a part of UKONS, I've made some excellent relationships with other service areas and health boards, but it has really pushed me to put myself forward for opportunities including joining the UKONS SACT MIG and putting an abstract into the annual meeting in 2024.

The online forums are an excellent resource for nurses to share knowledge and to link up with each other and the education forum reminds us all that we're not alone when teaching such complex topics. As I am in education, I can share my teaching resources with others and now to build resources together with other UKONS members. I began to work alongside our current UKONS President Karen Campbell in 2023 on a quality improvement project and she began to really encourage me to go further, now to the point that I have been accepted to do a Masters of research degree in cancer treatments.