

## **Graduate Scholarship in Cancer Nursing Practice**

**Principal Investigator:** Adele Nielsen, BSN, RN, **Faculty Sponsor:** Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN

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### **Abstract:**

The global burden of cancer is on the rise. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a specialized agency of the World Health Organization, over 14 million new cases of cancer and 8.2 million cancer-related deaths occurred in 2014. In fact, cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide. Furthermore, projections indicate that there will be over 22 million cancer survivors by 2030; an increase of 57%. Many of these cancer survivors suffer from untoward symptoms and side-effects throughout the cancer care trajectory, requiring advanced practice healthcare providers to address their complex care. Therefore, it is imperative that nurses receive advanced education to provide quality care for cancer survivors. The purpose of the American Cancer Society (ACS) Graduate Scholarship in Cancer Nursing Practice is to prepare students enrolled in an accredited graduate nursing program with a focus in cancer. The ACS Scholarship will provide the Graduate Scholar with the resources to obtain an advanced practice Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) certification. The Graduate will complete 36 credit hours and obtain over 500 clinical hours in preparation for advanced practice certification. The master's curriculum will provide a foundation for the candidate as she progresses through the BSN-PhD program at Indiana University School of Nursing. The applicant's program will include didactic and clinical courses focused on issues in oncology nursing. Specifically, didactic courses on symptom management, functional enhancement, stress and coping, and clinical experience in oncology settings along with the required prerequisite masters courses for a PhD in Nursing Science will be completed. The Graduate Scholar's program plan will be guided by her faculty mentor, Dr. Diane Von Ah, a nursing educator and researcher in cancer survivorship and symptom management. Outcomes of the ACS Graduate Scholarship in Cancer Nursing Practice will include the successful completion of the masters program of study and completion of the advanced certification exam. The student will also work on her mentor's research to improve the lives of cancer survivors through the management of cancer and cancer treatment-related cognitive impairment. Ultimately, the ACS Graduate Scholarship and Cancer Nursing Practice Award will provide the necessary foundation for the Graduate Scholar's development as an oncology researcher with an independent program of clinical and translation research in symptom and symptom management for cancer survivors.