

UPS Foundation Academic Study Scholarship Recipient 2016

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The aim of my dissertation research study is to understand the interactions of young adult cancer survivors and occupational and environmental health professionals within the workplace. Since young adult cancer survivors have been shown to have health changes during a lifetime due to potential for cancer recurrence, and late effects from treatments, the impact on careers can be profound. How cancer survivors interact with occupational health and safety professionals, including nursing has been explored, through individual semi-structured interviews. Interviews were also conducted with occupational and environmental health professionals, as generally identified by the cancer survivors. This study provided dual perspectives from cancer survivors and occupational health and environmental professionals alike, about how worker health strategies can be improved for those who have a cancer history.

The *UPS Foundation Academic Study Scholarship* provided funding that supported interview transcription, and also offset travel expenses associated with interviews. During the *2016 National AAOHN Conference*, I presented a poster disseminating key findings from my study and discussed practice implications with the occupational and environmental health nurses in attendance. To broaden dissemination of study findings beyond conference participants, a manuscript to the *Workplace Health & Safety* journal will be submitted. Presentations and/or publications are also planned to oncology health professionals, and young adult cancer survivors. Creating awareness among young adult cancer survivors about the services available from an occupational and environmental health team are important to promote as determined by the study. Interactions between young adult cancer survivors and occupational and environmental health professionals are essential to improve health and safety for workers who have variable needs and changes in health status over time.

The financial support for scholarly work to generate and disseminate new knowledge is greatly appreciated. Thank you!