

Joint Event on  
33<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on  
**ONCOLOGY NURSING AND CANCER CARE**  
and  
16<sup>th</sup> ASIA PACIFIC PATHOLOGY CONGRESS  
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**Co-operation between nurses in the twinned cities of Glasgow and Bethlehem and the development of a cancer nursing diploma at Bethlehem University, Palestine**

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Cancer is a serious public health issue in Palestine. The impact of the conflict between Palestine and Israel has a negative impact on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. In addition the political situation has hindered the development of effective cancer nursing reflective practice and education for Palestinian nurses. A meeting between Gerry O Hare (oncology CNS Glasgow and Clyde Health Board) and Mariam Awad (Dean of Nursing, Bethlehem University) in 2011 led to an exploration of opportunities for cancer nursing educational initiatives between Glasgow, Scotland and Bethlehem Palestine. Support for cancer nurses education was secured from Glasgow Health Board, the office of Lord Provost of Glasgow, Bethlehem University, and medical aid for Palestine, European Oncology Nursing Society, Palestinian Department of Health and supportive UK and Bethlehem nurse academics. This multi-agency commitment and support resulted in the launch of the first Post Graduate High Diploma in Cancer/Palliative nursing in Palestine by the Nursing Department at Bethlehem University Palestine in 2016. This is an example of motivated nurses from geographical distant countries positively influencing agencies to develop a pioneering cancer/palliative care nurse educational high diploma program at Bethlehem University, Palestine. This initiative sends a message to cancer nurses globally to encourage them to cross cultural, political and geographical barriers to achieve positive outcomes for cancer nurse education.

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