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I am an Assistant Professor and the Quality Improvement Coordinator for the Department of Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University. I earned my B.S.N from Southern Connecticut State University, my M.S.N. from Yale University, and my Ph.D. in Nursing from Seton Hall University. I have more than 23 years of pediatric nursing experience, with particular expertise in caring for children with cancer and their families. Prior to becoming a professor at Southern Connecticut State University, I practiced as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. I hold national certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner and am a pediatric ELNEC (End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium) trainer. I have six years of experience as an academic nurse educator and currently teach several undergraduate courses. As Quality Improvement Coordinator, I oversee the Department of Nursing's Master Evaluation Plan and coordinate data collection, analysis, and dissemination across all programs. My research interests include pediatric palliative and end-of-life care. My research expertise is in qualitative design and analysis, with a particular emphasis in phenomenology. My doctoral research was a Heideggerian, hermeneutic phenomenological study describing the lived experience of parental bereavement. As a teacher-scholar, I have presented at regional research conferences and received both research award and curriculum-related grants. Upon invitation from the American Childhood Cancer Organization, I authored a chapter on the topic of grief in a new book entitled, *Enhancing quality of life in children with cancer: A parent's guide to pediatric palliative care*, due out for publication in September 2014. I have been the recipient of professional awards, including the Marie Hippensteel Lingeman Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing from the Visiting Nursing Association of South Central Connecticut. I am a member of the Association of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Nurses, Oncology Nursing Society, Connecticut Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and Eastern Nursing Research Society.