



EONS EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT GRANT REPORT 2022

Eyşan Hanzade Umac

Winning the Early Career Development Grant from the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) was a significant turning point in my academic and PhD journey. The grant provided by EONS was precious to me on this journey. The financial support offered by EONS was a vital cornerstone in completing my doctoral thesis. It enabled me to obtain the resources necessary for my research and enabled us to develop the first biofeedback-supported virtual reality (VR) game for the pediatric population in my country.

This game represents an innovation in managing pediatric patients' pain, fear, and anxiety during medical procedures. We significantly reduced their anxiety and fear levels by immersing them in an engaging virtual world and regulating their breathing. VR game not only increases the emotional well-being of these children but also contributes to their physical comfort, reducing the use of sedation or analgesics.

We are currently still in the data collection phase of the project. The grant has been a constant source of support, ensuring that this critical phase proceeds without interruption. It allowed us to collect valuable data demonstrating our VR game's effectiveness in pediatric oncology care. However, the impact of the EONS grant extends beyond the financial aspect. Additionally, winning this grant strongly incentivized my academic self-confidence and enthusiasm for the field.

Staying closely connected with EONS has been another invaluable aspect of this journey. Through this grant, I have had the privilege of maintaining a strong and collaborative relationship with EONS, a leading organization in the field of oncology nursing. This ongoing connection has introduced me to many innovations and opportunities in pediatric oncology nursing. As a result, EONS' Early Career Development Fellowship has been a catalyst for

innovation and positive change in pediatric oncology nursing. It provided the financial support necessary to advance my research and improve the well-being of children in clinical settings. With my sincere gratitude to EONS, I wish many successes for all young researchers with innovation, compassion, and unwavering support from EONS.

Sincerely,

Eyşan Hanzade Umaç