National Cancer Registrars Association Acknowledges Three Exceptional Members for Their Work

Alexandria, VA, May 31, 2018— The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) acknowledged three exceptional members at its Annual Educational Conference in New Orleans, LA, on May 23, 2018. Ebony Johnson, CTR, received the April Fritz Outstanding New Professional Award; Melanie Rogan, CTR, was honored with the Distinguished Member Award; and Vonetta Williams, PhD, MPH, CTR, was presented with the Volunteer Excellence Award. Established in 1987, the NCRA Awards Program acknowledges outstanding contributions to the cancer registry profession and the association.

Ebony Johnson — April Fritz Outstanding New Professional Award

In 2018, NCRA renamed its Outstanding New Professional Award to honor the legacy of April Fritz, CTR—a beloved colleague who played a pivotal role advancing cancer surveillance and the cancer registry profession. The first April Fritz Outstanding New Professional Award was presented to Ebony Johnson to acknowledge her significant involvement in the profession. Johnson is the Treatment Summary Specialist at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute in Atlanta where she is responsible for preparing the treatment summaries for the survivorship care plans. Johnson helps to facilitate and maintain CoC Standard 3.3 (the standard focused on survivorship care plans) and her efforts have contributed to Northside’s success in receiving the CoC Outstanding Achievement Award for five consecutive years.

The nominators noted Johnson’s numerous contributions to the cancer registry profession since she earned her CTR credential in 2015. Ebony has demonstrated leadership, innovation, and creativity, while motivating new and “seasoned” cancer registrars with her contagious enthusiasm and professionalism. She has donated her time mentoring aspiring registrars, teaching in the Georgia Tumor Registrars Association’s CTR workshops and helping them to navigate the CTR certification process. Ebony currently serves on the Georgia association’s executive board. Her passion for the registry is evident in her volunteer efforts at the national level as well. Johnson presented a session entitled “Treatment Summaries: The Easy Way” at last year’s Annual Conference and is an active member of NCRA’s Informatics and Membership Committees. She has also served as a host at the NCRA Annual Conference’s New Members and First-Time Attendees breakfasts for the past three years. Her colleagues have stated that, “What Ebony Johnson has done in her short time as a CTR is more than others do in a career!”

Melanie Rogan — Distinguished Member Award

The recipient of the NCRA Distinguished Member Award is Melanie Rogan. She is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to the profession. Rogan has been active at the state and national levels, serving as both treasurer and president of the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars (ANCCR) and honored by them when she received the state association’s Luna M. Woods Award, acknowledging her dedication, educational leadership, and extraordinary enthusiasm for the profession. Her commitment to NCRA is evidenced by her 20+ years of involvement, including serving on the Awards (Chair), Continuing Education, Informatics, Membership, and Nominating Committees, and as president in 2011-2012.

In addition to her many volunteer leadership positions, Rogan has been a dedicated mentor. She has shared her knowledge and time, helping the next generation of cancer registry professionals discover their talents and hone their leadership skills. As one mentee noted, “She is compassionate and understanding when problems arise. When I make a mistake, she guides me through the process of finding a solution.”

Rogan began her career as a Respiratory Therapist, but soon realized her true calling was the cancer registry. She served as an Oncology Data Analyst at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center for many years and is the current Director of Registry Services at Electronic Registry Systems (ERS).
Vonetta Williams — Volunteer Excellence Award
The recipient of the NCRA Volunteer Excellence Award is Vonetta Williams. She is being acknowledged for her significant volunteer contributions to NCRA. Williams served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Registry Management (JRM)* from 2011 and 2015 and its Editor-in-Chief since 2015. (The peer-reviewed JRM publishes papers on topics related to the management of health registries and the collection, management and use of cancer, trauma, AIDS and other health registry data.)

The nominators noted that Williams’ strong background in both cancer registry and research serves NCRA well as she provides leadership and direction for the JRM at a critical time in the cancer registry profession. Vonetta has given freely of her time and expertise, working with numerous authors on a variety of topics with the goal of publishing a high-quality journal that registrars and researchers can reference and that serves as a tool to document how cancer surveillance data are used to improve public health. Williams is currently the Core Staff Scientist, Collaborative Data Services Core at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL.

During the awards ceremony, NCRA also acknowledged the authors of two JRM papers. The Best Paper Award was presented to Allison Ertl, Jonathan I. Groner, Sergey Tarima, Laura D. Cassidy, for their article entitled, “Characteristics of Traumatically Injured Pediatric Assault Patients: A Statewide Assessment in Ohio.” An Honorable Mention Award was given to Mei-Chin Hsieh, Brent Mumphrey, Lisa Pareti, Yong Yi, and Xiao-Cheng Wu for their article entitled, “An Innovative Approach to Improve Completeness of Treatment and Other Key Data Elements in a Population-Based Cancer Registry: A 15-Month Data Submission”.

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About the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)
NCRA is a non-profit organization that represents more than 5,800 cancer registry professionals and Certified Tumor Registrars. The mission of NCRA is to promote education, credentialing, and advocacy for cancer registry professionals. Cancer registrars are data information specialists that capture a complete history, diagnosis, treatment, and health status for every cancer patient in the U.S. The data provides essential information to researchers, healthcare providers, and public health officials to better monitor and advance cancer treatments, conduct research, and improve cancer prevention and screening programs. For more information about NCRA, visit www.ncra-usa.org and www.CancerRegistryEducation.org.