National Cancer Registrars Association Acknowledges
Two Exceptional Members for Their Work

Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR—Educational Achievement Award
Jocelyn Hoopes, MILS, CTR—Outstanding New Professional Award

Alexandria, VA, April 19, 2017—The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) acknowledged two outstanding members at its Annual Educational Conference in Washington, DC, on April 8, 2017. Donna Gress was presented the 2017 Educational Achievement Award, and Jocelyn Hoopes was awarded the 2017 Outstanding New Professional Award. The NCRA awards program was established in 1987 to highlight member contributions.

Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR—Educational Achievement Award
NCRA’s Educational Achievement Award is presented to an NCRA member to acknowledge significant contributions to cancer registry education. Donna Gress is the Technical Specialist for the American Joint Committee on Cancer in Chicago, IL. She is a Past President of NCRA and received its Distinguished Member Award in 2008. Gress has been in the health information management and cancer registry fields for over 30 years with the majority of her time serving in hospital registries.

Those nominating her noted that when one thinks of cancer registry education, the first name that comes to mind is Donna Gress. Even though she is a past president of NCRA, she has shown her dedication to NCRA and to the profession by continuing to volunteer, primarily as an educator. She has written numerous publications for NCRA, including updating NCRA Study Guide for the CTR Exam annually and preparing the three recent cancer case studies workbooks on how to assign AJCC and summary stage. Gress is an instructor at the annual Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop and conducts the in-person CTR Prep Workshop on the open-book section. She is a charter member of the NCRA Education Foundation, serving as its chair for several years. Her committee work includes serving on the Formal Education Program Review Committee and the NCRA Education Committee. Gress recently chaired the online CTR Exam Prep Workshop Subcommittee to revise the curriculum and identify speakers.

Jocelyn Hoopes, MILS, CTR—Outstanding New Professional Award
NCRA’s Outstanding New Professional Award is presented to a new NCRA member to acknowledge significant involvement in the profession. Prior to opening 360 Registry Services in 2015, Hoopes was the Oncology Data Specialist at MainLine Health Systems, Paoli Hospital, in Paoli, PA. The cancer registry is Hoopes third career; she had a 10-year career in library science and 20-year career in educational advancement. Hoopes is an active member of several national cancer registry professional associations, including chairing the NCRA Informatics Committee and serving on the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries IT Advisory Board. Hoopes is also a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Association of Cancer Registrars.

Those nominating Hoopes welcome her to the profession, noting that she is an enthusiastic and outstanding registrar. Her knowledge of the field of informatics is extensive, and she believes working to educate cancer registrars about informatics is needed to grow the profession and ensure registrars reach their full potential. Her recent presentation at a regional meeting entitled “Understanding Informatics and Its Role in The Cancer Registry Profession” highlighted how cancer registry associations must continue to educate their members on the importance of informatics. Hoopes stated that the future of the profession lies in the ability to adapt to computer-based systems that accept information from other data systems. She noted that registrars must review and understand the data from these other systems to ensure cancer patients are diagnosed accurately and that they receive the proper care and treatment.
During the awards ceremony, NCRA also acknowledged the authors of two papers that were published in its *Journal of Registry Management*. Those awards included the Best Paper Award for “SEER*Educate: Use of Abstracting Quality Index Scores to Monitor Improvement of All Employees”. The authors were Mary S. Potts, RHIA, CPA, CTR; Tim Scott, MEd; and Jennifer L. Hafterson, CTR. The article “Timeliness of Breast Cancer Treatment in Delaware” by Stephanie H. Belinske, MPH; James Spellman, MD; Lisa Henry, MS; Marjorie Shannon, MS, received the Honorable Mention Award.

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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 provide 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.