NCRA Proposes a New SOC Code for Medical Registrars

One of the issues facing cancer registrars and CTRs today is the general lack of knowledge of the role cancer registrars play in the medical field, both in terms of patient care and cancer research. A common misperception is that cancer registrars are involved with hospital admissions or clerical work. This mistake leads to unclear job descriptions and incorrect compensation. To help clarify the role of cancer registrars, NCRA is seeking to establish a new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code of “Medical Registrars.”

Every occupation in the United States is associated with a code and detailed occupation title in the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Standard Occupational Classification system, which is managed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Currently, cancer registrars are associated with the code 29-2071 and the occupation title of Medical Records and Health Information Technologists. The current job tasks associated with this code include: “Compile, process, and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system. Process, maintain, compile, and report patient information for health requirements and standards in a manner consistent with the healthcare industry’s numerical coding system.” Unfortunately, this is the definition describing the job tasks of cancer registrars to both current and future employers.

The Bureau's Occupational Outlook Handbook is the online reference tool that outlines job characteristics, average salary, and education requirements. It is used by employers and human resource departments to develop job descriptions and determine salaries. Individuals researching possible careers also use the handbook.

NCRA does not believe cancer registrars should be coded under 29-2071 and thinks the code diminishes recognition, support, recruitment, and retention of the cancer registry workforce, along with other medical registrar professions, including those that deal with trauma, immunology, birth defects, cardiac, exposure, and clinical trials. Soon to join this list will be Quality of Care registries that have been recommended by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The OMB’s SOC system is reviewed and updated through a multi-year process every ten years that aligns with the decennial census. During this revision period, proposed edits and changes, including new detailed occupation titles, may be submitted. On July 21, 2014, NCRA submitted a comment to the OMB proposing a new detailed occupation be created for “Medical Registrars.” If accepted, the change would create a code for medical registrars that would be listed in the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Inclusion will provide a clearer understanding of the cancer registry and other medical registry professions, including correct job descriptions and accurate salary information. This new code would also help to convey and underscore the importance and value of the medical registry profession.

LEARN MORE!

NCRA has prepared materials to help its members and other medical registrars understand the importance and the process for establishing a distinct detailed SOC occupation code for “Medical Registrars.”

To access these resources, including a video outlining NCRA's rationale and the SOC process, visit www.ncra-usa.org/SOCcode.
Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to fall. As I look out my window I see gorgeous, vibrant colors of the changing leaves. Fall seems to be a time of change. There is a sense of motivation to accomplish tasks before the holidays approach and catch up on things left after summer vacations.

The President’s Message by Terri Richardson on registry efficiency (pg 3) instills the need for changes in the way our processes may be done. She also discusses her Presidential Charges (pgs 6-7) to help NCRA move forward. Now is the time to “Raise Your Voice” as noted by our Advocacy and Technical Practice Directors (pg 4) and strive for more education. Lori Lindsey, NCRA Membership Committee Chair, highlights multiple benefits and values (pg 13) of renewing your membership. Cancer Registry Awareness tips are the topics in Mary Marshall’s article (pg 15). Congratulations to the 103 new CTRs worldwide (pg 16) and welcome to the new members of NCRA (back page).

The Connection offers you articles of information, education and great resources. Get your beverage of choice, settle into your comfy chair, and take time to enjoy this great read. Thank you to all our amazing authors. Change is an opportunity. Go for it.

Best,

Sherry G. Giberti, CTR

Editor

Sherry L. Giberti, CTR

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Leah Kiesow, MBA, CTR
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Therese M. Richardson, RHIA, CTR

Managing Editors

Janice Ford
Peggy Meehan

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President’s Message

TERRI A. RICHARDSON, RHIA, CTR | PRESIDENT

REGISTRY EFFICIENCY

During my installation ceremony in Nashville, I said that one of the areas I would like to focus on during my NCRA presidency is being a good steward of our resources. I would like to share with you some of the steps we have taken in our registry to streamline processes, eliminate a two-year backlog of abstracting, and to make our registry run efficiently.

As the manager of a cancer registry in a community hospital, I’ve had to learn how to be a good steward of resources. I would like to share with you some of the steps we have taken in our registry to streamline processes, eliminate a two-year backlog of abstracting, and to make our registry run efficiently.

When I became the manager of our registry, the most inefficient resource we had was the software used to perform our day-to-day operations. It worked fine as a repository for data, but it lacked the ability to interface with other systems and generate reports. Plain and simple, it was outdated.

There are several things to keep in mind when searching for a new vendor and software:

• Customer Service: The vendor is friendly, accessible and helpful.
• Report Capability: The software has the ability to export into Excel or other spreadsheet application and generate charts, graphs, and cross-tab reports.
• Interface Compatibility: The software has the ability to interface with other systems.
• Price: It must be affordable.

Once we converted to new software and gained the approval and support of our Cancer Committee, we took on the task of automating our manual case finding and follow-up processes. When undertaking projects like this I highly recommend the team approach. We worked with our IT Department, software vendors, and our central registry to create interfaces to automate these processes. The team mainly communicated via email or conference call.

Before automating these processes, we were manually reviewing surgery schedules, path reports, and department logs to identify cases. We would then manually enter them into our suspense database. At the end of the year we would get a large disease index in hardcopy to review. It was not unusual to find a few hundred cases to abstract. It was no wonder we were always two years behind in abstracting!

Our IT Department now generates a monthly disease index of all patients that enter our facility, regardless of diagnosis. Our interface identifies all reportable cases and imports them into suspense until we are ready to abstract them. It also updates follow-up on any patients in our database that returned to the hospital.

Two to three times a year we received a follow-up file from the Central Registry. It was an alphabetical listing in hard copy. We would print our monthly lost to follow-up listing in alphabetical order and manually compare the two listings looking for good follow-up dates and vital status. That information would need to be manually entered into our database. I know this sounds familiar to many of you. We now have an interface that performs this task. These two interfaces alone performed the work of a full time employee, and they do the job in just a few short hours each month. At first we used the time saved to work on that backlog of abstracts. Now we use that time to meet the increasing demand for more data.

Because of the progress we made, our Central Registry invited us to participate in a pilot project to bring Rapid Case Ascertainment to Georgia. A short presentation at Cancer Committee got us the approval we needed to proceed. We were the first hospital in Georgia to implement electronic path reporting. This was a win-win situation because the Central Registry now receives cases in real time and our registry eliminated the need to manually review pathology reports for case finding.

Some of our more recent undertakings include:

• Gained on-line access to our two medical oncology practices.
• Discontinued mailing out follow-up letters and outsourced our lost to follow-up cases.
• Participated in a pilot study of a software product designed to identify cases that pathologically met the criteria for clinical trials. It works similarly to rapid case ascertainment, and the clinical trials research nurses program in the pathological criteria for clinical trials we have available. The system scans the pathology reports looking for potential trial candidates.

We eliminated 85-90% of our manual processes and we are now current in our abstracting. The best part is that we implemented all of these changes with little or no cost to the registry and our savings were huge! Other benefits include:

• Ability to handle the increased demand for more data.
• Voluntarily participate in Rapid Quality Reporting System (RQRS).
• Manage multiple accreditations: CoC and NAPBC.
• Support multiple cancer conferences: two weekly and two monthly.
• Focus on new patient-focused standards and studies of quality.

Future plans include:

• Interface with physician practices for case finding and follow-up.
• Interface with the Radiation Oncology Department.
• Online access with free standing treatment centers.

If your registry is still performing many of these processes manually and you feel the need for additional staffing to handle your current workload, automating some of these processes might be a solution to your problem. This is also a great way to show your hospital administrators you are a good steward of your resources.

If you are implementing ways to streamline processes and to work more efficiently, I would be interested in hearing from you. If you are interested in discussing any of the above processes, please feel free to contact me at therese.richardson@dekalbmedical.org.
Advocacy and Technical Practice Directors Update

EASTERN
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WESTERN
KENDRA HAYES, RHIA, CTR
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CTRs are constantly learning and evolving as the cancer registry profession changes. As a profession, we should extend that drive for education to include efforts to garner a greater understanding of NCRA and its advocacy and technical practice efforts. Each region is assigned an Advocacy and Technical Practice Director (ATPD) to help answer these types of questions. We divide questions into four categories: Internal, External, Legislative or Regulatory.

- Internal policy is an NCRA policy or procedure.
- External policy is a policy or a procedure of a standard-setting organization or other agency (not NCRA).
- Legislative describes issues that are a state or federal initiative or action tied to congress or state legislature.
- Regulatory describes issues that are a state or federal law tied to regulatory enforcement by a state of federal agency.

The ATPDs also accept questions that are not within these four categories, so don’t hesitate to send us your thoughts. Since NCRA is full of highly educated and involved volunteers, if we cannot answer your question, we will forward it to an expert. The ATPDs use all resources within NCRA to get questions answered correctly! So “Raise Your Voice” and be heard! To get started, go to the “Raise Your Voice” page at www.ncra-usa.org/voice to post a question and to see which states/territories/countries are assigned to each of three ATPDs.

STAY CURRENT
To keep up-to-date, view the “Recent News/Events” section on the right side of the “Raise Your Voice” page. Staying current with what is happening in the “CTR world” is key to a strong and developing cancer registry profession. Who knows, it might just spark a question you can send in through “Raise Your Voice”.

NCRA Treasurer Report

JANET REYNOLDS, CTR | TREASURER SENIOR
KATHLEEN HESS, CTR | TREASURER JUNIOR

The Finance Committee met on May 14, 2014 in Nashville, TN prior to the NCRA Board of Directors Meeting. The committee reviewed NCRA’s financials, investments, and its review of fiscal guidelines.

The following income/expense report was reviewed during the meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income/Expense Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income:</td>
<td>$873,244.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses:</td>
<td>$439,688.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income:</td>
<td>$433,556.00</td>
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The final 2013 annual voluntary audit was completed and reported at the May 2014 Business Meeting. For fiscal year 2014, the Finance Committee will be working with new reports to provide more timely data from our accounting records. The NCRA Finance Committee will also update its three year rolling budget, which attempts to project our financial status.

Our investment portfolio is managed by BlackRock. Review of investments showed the following allocation by asset class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment/Asset Class by Allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Equivalents:</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equities:</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Income:</td>
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Registrars in Action

NPCR PROGRAM: INDIANA STATE CANCER REGISTRY

Initiative
Cancer Burden Fact Sheets by Senate Districts

Public Health Issue
The Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC) Advocacy Committee approached the Indiana State Cancer Registry (ISCR) for cancer incidence data on the top four cancers in each of the state's 50 Senate districts.

The ICC Advocacy Committee's goal was to create fact sheets informing policy makers of local cancer rates and the resulting economic burden to their respective constituent base in comparison to Indiana and the United States as a whole. The intent of the fact sheets is to provide policy makers with information to make data-driven decisions leading to reduced cancer burdens in their communities; while at the same time, garnering their support for implementation of evidence-based public health interventions employed by groups working to reduce the cancer burden in Indiana. Filling the data request required collaboration from academic partners, in-house Geographical Information System (GIS), and data expertise.

How Cancer Registry Data Were Used
Using 2005-2009 data, staff from the Indiana State Department of Health worked on obtaining the requested calculations. For efficiency, GIS mapping was employed to assign addresses of cases to their respective Senate districts which are drawn using census tract block groups. A shapefile of the Senate districts downloaded from IndianaMAP was used to complete the task. A data set from the ISCR was created that contained primary site and address information needed to map each case to a Senate district. The resulting counts per district were downloaded into MS Access and converted to MS Excel where case counts, population numbers, rates, statistical significance, standard error and confidence intervals were calculated for the top 10 cancers via formulas. For the top four rates in each district (prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal), economic costs were determined via consultation with academic partners. The rates were pulled into the Statistical Analysis System (better known as SAS) software and economic costs for the top four cancers were calculated for each Senate district and Indiana. A report containing these rates and costs per district was compiled to facilitate their use by the ICC.

Implications of Cancer Registry Data Usage
The end products for distribution by the ICC are fact sheets containing tailored messages for each Senate district showing how the top four cancers are impacting local communities. Additional information was included to educate and to encourage support from each senator for policy that fosters and sustains healthy behavior among their constituents. This is an excellent example of a collaborative effort using a state health department’s capacity to provide and calculate numbers, knowledge from academia as well as the reach and promotional skills of a statewide consortium.

The Registrars in Action column highlights the impact cancer registrars have on public health. Cancer registrars collect standardized data on a daily basis to submit to Central Cancer Registries (CCRs), and this data is then submitted to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). CDC funds 45 states, the District of Columbia, and two U.S. territories. The CDC's Cancer Surveillance Branch is home to NPCR, which was established by the Cancer Registries Amendment Act, a law Congress enacted in 1992. As a result, cancer is the only reportable chronic disease; therefore, allowing CDC to disseminate accurate national incidence data. By understanding the burden of cancer, public health organizations, including the CDC, can create programs and interventions for prevention and early detection.

CDC highlights the difference data is making through various “Success Stories.” Visit the Web site (http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/success/index.htm) to read synopses of important data-driven projects happening across the United States. If you work at a hospital registry and have a success story to share, please send to Peggy Meehan at pmeehan@ncra-usa.org.
2014-2015 Presidential Charges

TERRI A. RICHARDSON, RHIA, CTR | PRESIDENT

Each year the NCRA president consults with the NCRA staff about their functional area of expertise to develop and implement presidential charges or activities that help NCRA move forward. The NCRA volunteer leadership (committees, liaisons, and task forces) help carry out these charges.

2015 Program Committee
- Study and advise the Board on adding “Poster Sessions” to the NCRA Annual Conference beginning with 2016. Provide a report to the Board for their Winter 2015 Board Meeting.

Advance Editorial Advisory Board
- Work with the staff and Board to develop a 2015 editorial schedule.
- Send a copy of all articles to be submitted to the President and Executive Director at least 3 days in advance of deadline for any final edits.
- Send a quarterly communication to the President on the status of articles to be written.

Advance Education Subcommittee
- Prepare the 2014-2015 webinar series agenda to address transition to TNM and Summary Stage, as well as strategic abstracting, data analysis, concurrent abstracting, RQRS, informatics and writing for peer publications.
- Develop three new “Coding Best Practices” podcasts.
- Develop instructional abstracts for the five major sites for new registrars.

Alternative Methods Committee
- Complete and deliver an online course entitled “Build a Survivorship Program.”
- Develop a “How to Build a Quality Program” online course for the CCRE.

ATPD Transition Taskforce
- Develop an ATPD Transition Orientation agenda with backup materials as final for Winter Board Meeting.
- Hold web-based orientation with new ATPD representatives along with the President and President-elect.

Awards Committee
- Increase the awareness of awards submission opportunities by creating an e-postcard mailer to all members.
- Determine if there is an effective strategy to provide an incentive to nominators to bestow the honor to their colleague.
- Author a detailed article on the awards. It would be written by past recipients, and past presidents to help members understand the scoring and purpose, and to get more nominations for recipients each year that qualify.
- Investigate the option of adding mentoring accomplishments to the volunteer award.

CTR Exam Prep Subcommittee (reports to Education Committee Chair)
- Review and update NCRA’s CTR exam prep resource materials for 2015.
- Review and update content for the one-day Intensive CTR Exam Prep Open Book Workshop and offer at the 2015 annual conference.
- Review and update the NCRA Study Guide for the CTR Exam.
- Review and update the content of the online CTR Exam Practice Test, including expanding the question bank.
- Update CTR Exam Prep Resources marketing plan.
- Modify P&Ps to include a marketing role.

Council on Certification
- Consider a process to which CEUs that are earned based on educational topic as opposed to educational activity (i.e., x hours required on CSv2).
- Consider a process of requiring CEUs based on pertinent educational topic(s) for the field (i.e., 5 CEUs required on CS).
- Actively promote the Council’s projects and accomplishments to the membership and CTRs via the newsletter, website, and emails.
- Develop a CTR Exam report template for NCRA-accredited programs.
- Determine viability of self-assessments for CTRs.

Education Committee
- Continue to work with staff to identify ways to repurpose existing NCRA educational webinars, materials, recordings, publications, research and articles into new educational products and develop those products. Focus on making these products available on the CCRE.
- Implement a detailed marketing plan to promote NCRA’s educational and training programs and services. Special emphasis should be on showcasing the CCRE.

Finance Committee
- Update three year rolling budget.

Formal Education Committee
- Provide a planned schedule of annual communications to the Formal Education Programs.
- Develop an outreach plan to HIM programs to seek ways to make CRM/CIM courses available.
- Investigate ways to use the CCRE to offer courses and materials to NCRA’s Formal Education Programs.
- Develop a communication/follow-up plan for programs that are developing CRM/CIM programs.

Continued next page
Formal Education Program Review Committee
• Review and update the schedule of all currently accredited schools to ensure timely and thorough review of future applications.
• Increase the number of Formal Education Program Review Committee members.
• Update the NCRA Formal Education Accreditation Manual.
• Review and update the Professional Practice Clinical Program Information document.
• Seek ways to capture contact information for students in NCRA-accredited programs.
• Revise and streamline the Annual Report form for programs.

Fundamentals of Abstracting Subcommittee
• Continue to enhance the Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop based on CDC cooperative agreement. Add new materials, such as online abstracting modules.
• Recruit one additional faculty member.

Governance, Planning and Evaluation Committee
• Assess if NCRA should begin to develop a new Strategic Management Plan with current time on existing plan ending or merely update existing plan.

Informatics Committee
• Identify and incorporate hospital-based cancer registrar’s knowledge, skills and competencies for cancer informatics into the committee activities, programs, resources and publications.
• Educate and develop an awareness of cancer informatics with the NCRA membership and how it supports the cancer registry and improves operational efficiency and data quality.
• Identify educational products or programs for development as educational activities for the hospital-based cancer registrar based on committee infrastructure as defined above.
• Structure and focus committee activities to encompass a robust set of concepts and methodologies in the field of informatics and how it relates to the hospital-based cancer registrar.
• Engage members of the committee in social media activities that will help to foster discussions and educate NCRA members in the topic of cancer informatics.

Journal of Registry Management
• Conduct a strategic conference call with the EAB to determine whether JRM should continue to be freely posted online or as a member benefit/subscription only publication (see...Journal of AHIMA as an example).
• Write articles to be published in The Connection that specifically highlights the content of upcoming issues of the JRM.
• Review the Call for Papers as well as the “Information for Authors” section in the JRM. Determine if reducing the size and placement of information on the website instead of printing in the JRM would still be effective.
• Complete the effective transition of duties from the current editor-in-chief to the 2015 editor-in-chief by the spring 2015 issue.

Medical Registry Task Force
• Coordinate all Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code process activities.

Membership Committee
• Relate the committee charge to all committee members so role of the committee is clear.

Mentoring Committee
• Update marketing plan to recruit mentors and mentees.
• Meet the Mentors: post mentor photos and short bios on the web site.
• Appoint a formal subcommittee for mentor/mentee matching.
• Develop a breakout session on mentoring and submit an abstract for the 2015 annual conference.
• Develop a plan to communicate with state and regional associations and distribute the Mentoring Toolkit.

National Cancer Registrars Week
• Develop marketing plan to enhance NCRW activities.
• Continue to review other organizations that celebrate a “recognition week” for ideas on event promotion and member involvement.

Nominating Committee
• Investigate the option of making sure the slate is available for review by members two weeks prior to launch of election for increased visibility of the candidates and the positions.
• Revise the nomination form to require photos from all candidates.
• Work with NCRA staff to develop strategies to decrease election costs while increasing by 2% voter turnout for 2014-2015 election.

Social Media Committee
• Create the Committee P&P based on the former SIG document.
• Educate members on the purpose and use of social media in relation to the profession including privacy issues. This may include a presentation at Annual Conference, an online PowerPoint presentation, or a podcast.
• Review and enhance the content on the NCRA web area, CONNECT at www.ncra-usa.org/connect.

The Connection
• Investigate the option of producing and printing a smaller version of The Connection (i.e., 4 pages) and only producing the full issue as an online publication.
• Increase the role of the EAB in the annual strategic planning of The Connection by holding conference calls at least twice annually for strategic planning.
• Conduct a strategy meeting with the EAB to determine and recommendation justifications if The Connection should continue to be freely posted online or distributed as a member benefit or subscription-only publication.

Website Committee
• Display photos of NCRA Board members for visibility of leadership and a tool for vendors to identify the leadership and to assure Board members are recognized for the work they do.
• Revise the Website P&P to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the chair/members related to the now-defunct online discussion board monitoring.
• Develop a short website evaluation survey (re: new site).
• Search for current news stories about and for cancer registrars that can be added to the site (i.e., newsfeed service).
• Review external websites that would be useful to members (useful links) to include in the resources section of the website.

All Board Directors
• Hold one-on-one calls with staff and entities prior to August 15.

ATPDs
• Hold monthly conference calls to track all “Raise Your Voice” issues (staff need not be present). Split leadership for the calls (Midwest is call lead July-September; West is call lead October-December; and East is call lead January-April).
Report on the IACR Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada

SHIRLEY JORDAN SEAY, PHD, OCN, CTR | IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, NCRA

It was an honor to represent NCRA at the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) 36th Annual Meeting held on June 24-29, 2014 in Ottawa Canada following the NAACCR meeting. A joint IACR/NAACCR reception served as the kick off for the meeting and the opportunity for NAACCR attendees and IACR attendees to meet, share ideas, and network. A joint plenary session focused on “Capitalizing on Cancer Surveillance Data for Improved Cancer Control” and served as the transition event between the two organizations. The keynote speaker was Heather Bryant, MD, PhD, CCFP, FRCPC, Vice President, Cancer Control, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

Many countries were represented as speakers shared insights, updates, strategies, and best practices. Represented countries included the Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Columbia, Nigeria, Israel, West Indies, China, India, France, Canada, Italy, Mongolia, Argentina, Belgium, Japan, Portugal, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and the United States. The mixture of nationalities provided an opportunity to share research, ideas and strategies to improve overall data quality; it provided a mechanism such that data could be shared and exchanged to fuel the research to improve outcomes for patients across the world.

The sessions presented scientific research and or analysis concerning mortality related to cervical, ovarian, breast, non-melanoma skin cancers and colorectal cancer as well as incidence data, survival data, and cost comparisons. Topics presented included:

- True Interval Breast Cancers Have Worse Tumour Characteristics and Survival Compared to Screen-Detected Breast Cancers
- Occurrence of Cancer Surveillance in Ontario’s Aboriginal Peoples: Challenges and Rewards
- Trends in Privacy of Cancer Data Worldwide
- Capitalizing on Global Health Initiatives to Address the Burden of Cancer in Developing Nations
- Structured Education Program for Cancer Registry Professionals
- Initiation of Bhutan Cancer Registry: Experiences, Progress and Future Challenges from Low-Middle Income Country
- Using Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to Enhance Registration and Improve Cancer Surveillance
- Finding and Coding Cancer Data Automatically

The conference demonstrated key differences in how developing countries manage their registries. Some registries are still at the point where paper records and record books are used due to their resource limitations. One speaker, a physician, cited an example where he actually carried the registry cases in a notebook or small tablet in his pocket. Many registry professionals still travel for days to villages to get follow-up information. This demonstrates the length registrars will go to in the interest of ensuring data quality and the most up-to-date cancer information.

Links to many websites were shared that provided information concerning cancer from an international prospective. For example, the website at http://ci5.iarc.fr/ contains cancer incidence data for five continents hosted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Information on this site could be found concerning the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development and International Incidence of Childhood Cancers. Information by country can be found via a link to the WHO Cancer Mortality Database by visiting http://www-dep.iarc.fr/WHOdb/WHOdb.htm.

The 2015 IACR meeting will be held at the Taj Hotel, Mumbai (India), in conjunction with the Tata Memorial, October 8-10, 2015. For further information on the work of the IACR and the meeting next year, visit www.iacr.com/fr/.

Website Committee Update

DEIDRE WATSON, CTR | WEBSITE COMMITTEE CHAIR

I am excited to be the new Website Committee Chair. I know I have big shoes to fill and look forward to the challenge!

The Website Committee has been very busy over the last couple of years. The redesign of NCRA’s website has been completed. I hope that you have been enjoying it and that you are finding the new website a useful resource. The Website Committee has worked hard to design a website with helpful and relevant information that is quick and easy to navigate. We are not done yet.

The 2014-2015 Website Committee include: Jennifer Jensen, BS, CTR; Anthony Pineda; Lisa Ross, CTR, RHIT; and Janet A. Wyrick, RHIT CTR. Now that the membership has had some time to become accustomed and acclimated to the new website, the committee is currently developing a short survey to assess how well the website is working and determine what other changes you may find helpful. Please watch for the survey in the next couple of weeks and let us know what other changes, additions or revisions would be most helpful to you.

In the interim, please feel free to forward any comments or suggestions to me at deidre.watson@usoncology.com. We look forward to hearing from you and to further improving our website!
Looking Ahead

LEAH KIESOW, MBA, CTR | PRESIDENT-ELECT/SECRETARY

My term as President-elect/Secretary began this past May 2014, and I must say that I’m looking forward to the coming year and filling even bigger shoes as NCRA President the following year. This Board of Director’s position is a 3 year commitment and one that I know will provide opportunities for learning, leadership growth, mentoring, and networking. In the next few years, registrars, vendors, standard setters, and registry departments will be involved in another era of change as we transition from Collaborative Stage to AJCC Stage and NCI Summary Stage. The revision of the FORDs manual will also be another vast undertaking that will require registrars’ input and feedback. As a community of registrars, I predict we will be very busy, maybe challenged at times, but hopefully inspired to play an active role in these transition endeavors.

For those of you I have yet to meet, I am currently a cancer registry Director at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. I entered the profession in 2005 by way of medical coding and the trauma registry. I started working part-time in a network cancer program performing registry follow-up and ICD-9 coding for the radiology and emergency room departments. At that time, my mentor predicted that all of the seasoned registrars would be retired within five years. This came true in about three to four years. So, I jumped on the fast track to learn how to abstract, write reports, and fulfill committee duties. I took full advantage of my mentors and began mentoring new registrars as well. As leadership opportunities became available, I pursued them and realized managing and leading people was my calling. As they say, “the rest is history.”

My short story is probably not a lot different from many of yours. We all started somewhere and most likely didn’t plan to end up in the registry. All in all, it’s a good place to be. The work we do makes a difference and that is something to be proud of at the end of the day.

Any information in the above message, including merchants, rewards and Links point balance, is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please login to your account on AchieveLinks.com.
NAACCR Update

LORI KOCH, BA, CCRP, CTR | NCRA LIAISON TO NAACCR

NAACCR held its 2014 Annual Conference entitled, “Capitalizing on Cancer Surveillance Data for Improved Cancer Control” June 21-26 in Ottawa, Canada. This year’s conference was an overlapping, joint meeting between NAACCR and the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR), which afforded participants the opportunity to view cancer similarities and differences worldwide.

The opening plenary session on Tuesday focused on the future of cancer surveillance and how it might evolve. Session topics included data quality, the impact of electronic medical records, survival methods, using data for cancer control, and treatment data. The afternoon plenary session offered presentations on cancer in special populations like the First Nations Tribes of Canada and pediatric cancer. There were also four breakout sessions on registry operations and quality control, survival and special populations, using data for cancer control, and staging.

Wednesday’s sessions began with a 5k Walk/Run followed by the morning plenary session on overdiagnosis of cancer and its implications for cancer surveillance. Additional sessions included presentations on registry operations and case ascertainment, statistics and modeling, emerging issues in breast cancer, using data for cancer control/risk factors, and cancer epidemiology and surveillance. There were also discussions on registry operations and quality control, survival methods, emerging issues in record linkage and data augmentation, registry operations and case ascertainment, and presentations by students.

Thursday morning began with the annual “Birds of a Feather” discussion. This year’s topic was “International Cancer Staging: Can We Develop a System for All?” which led to an interesting discussion regarding staging systems in other countries including the United States. Thursday’s session was a joint session between NAACCR and IACR and began with a fascinating display of traditional Canadian First Nations dance and welcome. The opening plenary focused on capitalizing on cancer surveillance data for cancer control and the comparability of international data. Presenters during the joint sessions hailed from all over the world, including the United Kingdom, Netherlands, India, France, Italy, Mongolia, Argentina, Belgium, Japan, Portugal, Ireland, Germany, and Australia. Thursday and Friday IACR sessions featured presenters from Denmark, China, Columbia, Israel, Grenada, and Nigeria.

The conference provided valuable information on what cancer registries can do to improve cancer surveillance and operations. I was very pleased to be representing NCRA as the liaison to NAACCR and appreciate the opportunity to attend on your behalf.

NCRA Program Recognition: Submit Your Educational Program Today!

LEAH DRISCOLL, BS, CTR | PROGRAM RECOGNITION COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Program Recognition Committee receives many requests for CE approval of educational programs around this time of year. As applications continue to pour in, it has been exciting to review and approve these fall programs and to see the many interesting topics that are being addressed throughout the country. To date, NCRA’s Program Recognition Committee has approved 165 programs for a total of 940.75 CE hours.

Why submit your program for NCRA approval?
- Recognition – show that your program has met the necessary requirements for continuing education units.
- Identification – allows cancer registrars to know that your program has been pre-approved by NCRA.
- NCRA’s Statement of Approval – can be included in your marketing and promotional materials.
- Marketing Opportunity – promote confirmed number of CE hours to help boost attendance numbers.
- Increased Online Awareness – all NCRA recognized programs are posted on NCRA’s website with their approval number. Check out the list of pre-approved programs at www.ncra-usa.org/approved.

CTRs are constantly searching for educational opportunities that will allow them to meet the requirements for their continuing education. NCRA’s Program Recognition allows them to know what programs meet those requirements.

How to apply?
To apply for NCRA Program Recognition, download the application at www.ncra-usa.org/pr. The application consists of four pages – Program Application, Payment, Program Schedule and Faculty Data/Objectives. It also includes detailed information for filling out the application and FAQs. Typical turnaround time for the review process is 1-2 weeks. Please ensure you are using the most current application.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact NCRA at ProgramRec@ncra-usa.org or (703) 299-6640 ext. 317.
Danielle Chufar Memorial Conference Scholarship

The Danielle Chufar Memorial Annual Conference Scholarship is named in memory of the NCRA staff member who passed away in February 2004 from cancer. Danielle was a new RHIT professional who was preparing to take her CTR exam. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to an active NCRA member with no available funding to attend NCRA’s Annual Educational Conference.

The scholarship includes conference registration fee, airfare (up to $600), and hotel for three nights. The number of applicants selected to receive scholarships is determined by the funds available. The scholarship is funded each year by individual donations, speakers’ returned honoraria, and the annual state basket raffle. Applicants must complete the application and submit a 500- to 750-word essay on the topic chosen by NCRA’s Governance Planning and Evaluation Committee (GPEC). The 2015 theme is “Beyond Collaborative Stage: What Impact Will the Transition to AJCC TNM and Summary Stage in 2016 Have on Cancer Registrars, including Data Quality, Productivity, and Processes within Cancer Registries.”

Those eligible to submit include all active NCRA members who have been a member for at least one year AND during the year the scholarship is awarded. Associate, inactive, sustaining, student, and international members are not eligible. Members of the NCRA Board of Directors or GPEC are also not eligible. Note: Only one person from each institution may apply. (If more than one person wishes to apply, the institution must decide which application to submit.) To download an application and to learn more, go to www.ncra-usa.org/conference.
Formal Education Update

LINDA SHROYER, CTR | FORMAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

The NCRA Formal Education Committee has been following up with programs that received the Introduction to the Cancer Registry CD that was created by the NCRA Education Foundation. This is an excellent promotional product for the field and NCRA!

Committee members have learned that, while the creation of a new course of study, such as Cancer Registry Management (CRM) or Cancer Information Management (CIM), can take a few years to get through the college administration, there are programs making headway. Committee members are continuing to reach out to programs who have expressed an interest in NCRA accreditation and are offering what support and guidance. We believe that the efforts of NCRA members are paying off and will continue to do so in the future.

We are pleased to report that Burlington County College in Pemberton, NJ, has received NCRA Provisional Accreditation status for its Cancer Registry Management Certificate Program. Students attending Cancer Registry Management or Cancer Information Management programs that have earned a provisional accreditation status from NCRA receive credit toward the requirement to sit for the CTR exam. NCRA welcomes Burlington County College to its family of formal education programs and thanks them for supporting cancer registry education and future CTRs!

If any NCRA member receives inquiries about NCRA accreditation, the Formal Education Committee members are available for advice and guidance through the accreditation process. Contact me at LShroyer@embarqmail.com or the Formal Education staff person, Mary Maul at mmaul@ncra-usa.org or (703) 299-6640 x314.
Membership Matters: Understand the Value beyond the Membership Dues

LORI LINDSEY, CTR | MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

NCRA conducts annual surveys of former members to determine their reasons for discontinuing membership. Although NCRA has not raised dues since 2009, the top reason former members have stated they do not renew their membership is because they cannot afford it. In some cases, if the employer stops paying, the member allows their membership to lapse, eliminating access to resources, services, and products developed specifically for the professional growth of the cancer registrar.

The benefits of an NCRA membership are numerous – just ask many of our long-time NCRA members. Belonging to NCRA is a financial investment in your present and future. Let’s look at membership solely through the prism of dollars and cents.

What Does Membership Cost?
An “Active” member paying national dues spends $105 a year, with other membership categories paying less. That’s just $2 per week and less than what you might spend on one cup of coffee once a week! With that small investment into your professional career comes considerable savings and value.

How Does Membership Pay for Itself?
Significant membership discounts through several benefits can cover the cost of membership. Members can save $150 on registration fees for the National Annual Educational Conference, the biggest national conference for cancer registry professionals. Members save $25 or more on enrollment costs for individual learning modules on the Center for Cancer Registry Education (CCRE). Members also save more by taking advantage of the cost-savings annual subscriptions to the CCRE and for access to free webinars, not available to a nonmember represents savings of $300 to $500 per CE cycle. NCRA’s professional resources including the *Workbook for the Staging of Cancer* and 2014 CTR Exam Study Guide can save members up to 20% over the nonmember price.

How the Cost Translates as a Value to the Member?
An NCRA membership provides numerous benefits, including access to several online members-only resources! Let’s take a few minutes to examine the tremendous value each member can receive in terms of education, information, networking, and career support.

Although a small number of cancer registrars have found it difficult to justify spending money on dues and fees for professional organizations, the majority of NCRA members renew each year (an impressive 96% retention rate). Member value grows as there is strength in numbers. Renew your 2015 membership at [www.ncra-usa.org/renew](http://www.ncra-usa.org/renew) or share the membership “join” page to encourage a colleague or peer to join!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Cancer Registry Education (CCRE)</td>
<td>The Center for Cancer Registry Education provides one-stop access to more than 60 timely learning activities, including CTR Prep Resources.</td>
<td>Can’t travel but need to earn CEs? The CCRE saves time and money from searching for continuing education courses. It helps you tailor your training, and manage continuing education credits with significant members-only discounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Directory</td>
<td>The exclusive members-only online Membership Directory is offered as a convenience for finding the contact information of other NCRA members.</td>
<td>Reduces the frustration and wasted time of trying to locate peers who have changed contact information. Find members to help solve problems, to discuss issues, or to capitalize on opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring Program</td>
<td>This program assists students and cancer registrars earn the CTR credential and helps current CTRs advance their careers by matching mentees with the most appropriate mentor. It also provides great opportunities for personal growth for mentors, who may also want to earn CEs.</td>
<td>Do you need advice on how to acquire new skills needed for your job? Do you feel like your career has hit a road bump (stagnation, job loss, loss of motivation)? Finding or becoming a mentor can provide you with information and support to overcome these challenges while showing your commitment to the cancer registry profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications: Journal of Registry Management, The Connection &amp; Update</td>
<td>Staying informed is one of the best things you can do for your cancer registry career. NCRA produces two publications and other educational resources geared to keeping you up-to-date about our constantly changing profession.</td>
<td>Trying to stay up-to-date on the latest news and updates in the industry without the hassle of online searches? As a member, you receive timely information that provides current industry and association news, useful tips, resources, and educational opportunities. The articles help you understand the impact of your work and your contributions to the cancer registry industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference and other Networking Opportunities</td>
<td>NCRA Annual Educational Conference allows members to expand their knowledge with presentations by the industry’s leading practitioners and educational seminars at member-discounted rates.</td>
<td>Attending the annual conference as a member creates opportunities for great connections and gaining new insight from people who understand the exact issues you are facing. Members also receive access to the new member and first timers networking event, pay the discounted registration fee, and have the opportunity to attend for FREE (i.e. membership renewal raffle and scholarships).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What's Your Oncology Outlook?

Join us on our new blog, CHAMPS Oncology Outlook where cancer information specialists share outlooks on topics such as:

- The Oncology Industry
- Program Standards
- Registry Operations
- Cancer Information

Join our experts at OncologyOutlook.com to hear from our bloggers on these topics and more. While you’re there, don’t forget to add your feedback in the comment section, subscribe to our RSS feed and share your favorite posts through your social networks.

Meet our bloggers:

Toni Hare, RHIT, CTR
CoC-trained Consultant
Vice President

Karen Schmidt, CTR
CoC-trained Consultant
Associate Vice President

Melissa Smith, RHIT, CTR
Director, Client Services

Amber Gregg
Director, Analytics & Innovation

Ilona Gyerman, RHIT, CTR
CoC-trained Consultant
Director of Quality & Education

Brenda Mileto, RHIT, CTR
Sr. Manager, Training & Education

OncologyOutlook.com
You have probably experienced the blank stare or polite smile when you told someone that you are a cancer registrar. Even in medical circles, many only have a vague awareness of the role of a cancer registrar. That’s not to say what we do isn’t important; it’s just that our career can sometimes be woefully unrecognized in the general public.

For years, I have been participating in community outreach programs as a speaker to spread the word about our chosen profession. I have explained the role of the cancer registrar to hundreds of people, from those attending cancer support groups, to allied health professionals to health agencies. I do it because I think people should know that there is a database full of valuable information that is helping researchers unlock the mysteries of a disease that impacts almost every American. CTRs play a role in the fight against cancer and speaking about it helps to remind me of that while spreading the message to others.

You don’t have to be a natural-born orator to go on the CTR speaking circuit, but to make the most of your experience – and your audience’s – here are five tips I would recommend.

1. **Know your audience** – Are you speaking to medical professionals who might benefit from accessing the registry data? Perhaps your audience is a support group for cancer patients who are interested in the many people “in their corner.” Your audience should determine your message.

2. **Minimize your use of acronyms** – Cancer is a complex disease and you, as a cancer registrar, are fluent in its hundreds of strings of indecipherable letters. Remember that if your audience doesn’t know what a CTR is, they’re certainly not going to understand what you mean by NCDB, SEER or RQRS.

3. **Provide information and resources** – Come prepared to hand out resources that your audience can take with them so they can continue to learn after the presentation is finished. Links to useful websites, brochures, and your contact information are good examples.

4. **Get feedback** – It’s relatively easy to put together an evaluation form for your audience to complete at the end of your presentation. Knowing what your audience thinks of your presentation will help you refine it and make it better.

5. **Practice your response to the question, “What is a cancer registrar?”** While it may seem counter-intuitive to practice this response since you should know the answer better than anyone, this is one response you definitely don’t want to trip over. Keep your answer simple and understandable. I usually start off by saying something like, “Cancer registrars are key players on the cancer team who specialize in capturing data to create a complete history, diagnosis, treatment and health summary for all patients diagnosed with cancer.” Then, for further clarification I sometimes add, “Think of us like the U.S. Census Bureau but for cancer information. Just as census takers have contributed to our understanding of the nation’s population and economy, CTRs have expanded our understanding of cancer through the collection and safeguarding of cancer information.”

Every year, cancer claims the lives of more than half a million Americans. Without documentation, progress in understanding the epidemiology and biology of cancer would be severely limited, which is why I know my career path is an important one. I think it’s valuable for others to also understand that. I encourage all cancer registrars to get involved in their community. Community involvement not only helps remind us of why we do what we do, it spreads the word about a profession that is too often overlooked in the fight against cancer.

Mary Marshall is a certified cancer registrar and community outreach enthusiast. She is a cancer information specialist for CHAMPS Oncology, living in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Your comments are welcomed by email to mary.marshall@chanet.org. Special thanks to Deanna Moore, MPA, for assisting with this article.
New CTRs

The summer CTR Exam was taken by candidates at testing centers worldwide during the June-July 2014 testing window. One hundred and three (103) candidates passed the exam and formally became Certified Tumor Registrars. NCRA’s Council on Certification proudly congratulates all new CTRs!

**Alabama**
Jeannie Aldridge, Winfield
Angela Phelps, Dothan

**Arizona**
Karla Cannizzaro, Bullhead City

**California**
Summer Ayers, San Diego
Mark C. Behning, Alameda
Mary Miyata, Rosemead
Leimomi Song, Loma Linda

**Colorado**
Lisa M. Tannler, Fort Collins

**Florida**
Heather N. Kelly, Dover
Brenda Lopez, Miami
Melissa McGowan-Lyons, Lantana

**Georgia**
Shantal S. Jolly, Duluth

**Illinois**
Ashley Ekiss, Decatur
Melanie Guse, Rockford
Diana L. Henselman, Hines
Ashley Lambert, Joliet

**Indiana**
Kathie Jo Bieschke, South Bend
Sarah Ann Poor-Leece, Westfield
Brianna E. McKenzie, Indianapolis

**Iowa**
Tarah Kay Paulus, Mason City

**Kentucky**
Shawn Chambers, Lexington
Kathy Clark, Stanville
Jo Hannah P. Cook, Louisville
Tamika Hudson, Louisville
Dianna Wiles, Madisonville

**Louisiana**
Elaine D. Fisher, Shreveport

**Maine**
Molly P. Kivus, Rockport

**Maryland**
Barbara Chapolini, Baltimore

**Massachusetts**
Linda Baba, Winchendon
Linda Everson, Southampton

**Michigan**
Patricia L. Davis, Ovid
Jessica Lynn Dumond, Grand Rapids
Ellen Metz, Stanwood
Barbara Ritsema, Grand Rapids
Lisa Ross, Flint
Jeanne Schaub, Muskegon

**Minnesota**
Cheryl L. Evans, Winona
Linda A. Karpenko, Roseville

**Missouri**
Teresa Kase, Columbia
Kimberly M. Smith, Cape Girardeau
Rose Yarmouth, Bolivar

**Nebraska**
Karen Wooster Edic, Lincoln

**New Hampshire**
Christine M. Colarusso, Dover

**New Jersey**
Alicia Gassert, Somerset
Monika Leake, Irvington
Richard Margaretta, Ocean Gate
Carol L. Paolillo, Freehold

**New York**
Jennifer Lynn Andrus Doyle, New York
Wilson Apollo, Kerhonkson
Sean P. Guerin, Rochester
Katherine M. Pierotti, Scotia

**North Carolina**
Amy Arnold, Jacksonville
Susan Jackson, Raleigh
Tara Privette, Charlotte
Farrah Scodius, Aberdeen
Michael Smith, Charlotte

**Ohio**
Dorothy T. Bias, Cleveland
Kristi A. Dietz, Avon
Sharma L. W. Piascik, Cincinnati
Carla K. Schutte, Cincinnati
Pamela S. Sumpter, Lake Milton
Jamie Thompson, Maumee
Marlene E. Wears, Columbus
Jacqueline Rae Zoltaszek, Toledo

**Oklahoma**
Dayna Corrow, Moore

**Oregon**
Deanna Patton, Milwaukie

**Pennsylvania**
Jody L. Clark, Mount Joy
Paula Keyes, East Stroudsburg
Pamela M. Sherwood, Lititz

**Puerto Rico**
Francesca J. Hayes-Velez, Bayamon
Naydi Perez Rios, San Juan
Maricarmen Traverso-Ortiz, Yauco

**Rhode Island**
Merrill A. Rodenbaugh, Providence

**South Carolina**
Sanquanette Jacobs, Columbia
Melanie Ringlein, Taylors

**South Dakota**
Lori Lynn Severson, Sioux Falls

**Texas**
Letesha Mae Beardsley, Lubbock
Lora Campbell, Cedar Park
Juan Gatica, Abernathy
Jennifer Harris, Ft. Worth
Matt Mayfield, Austin

**Utah**
Laura Christensen, Logan

**Virginia**
Christie Bassett, Midlothian
Kristina Lee Bridgeman, Gloucester
Jason J. Green, Richmond
Trishia L. High, Harrisonburg
Konstantina A. Kakaviatos-Zaras, Arlington
Rebecca M. Prillaman, Martinsville
Danielle N. Quinn, Richmond

**Washington**
Angela Anderson, Spokane
Pammy E. Axelrod, Bellingham
Gretchen Hoy, Spokane Valley
Jillian Mangrobang, Shoreline
Johna Peterson, Olympia

**West Virginia**
Joanne Jones, Weirton

**Wisconsin**
Laura A. Stephenson, Madison
Need CEs by December 31, 2014?

**✓ NCRA 2014 Encore Sessions DVD; Earn 20+ CEs**
View lectures of digitally captured video and audio from NCRA’s 2014 Annual Educational Conference. Virtually attend the session by listening to the presenter and viewing the corresponding slides. Complete the viewing certificate to earn up to 20+CEs. (Additional CE fees required.) Go to [www.ncra-usa.org/store](http://www.ncra-usa.org/store) to purchase.

**✓ NCRA’s CCRE Offers CEs Any Time: Day or Night!**
The Center for Cancer Registry Education (CCRE) offers a variety of ways for members to earn CEs on a schedule that works for you! Go to [www.CancerRegistryEducation.org](http://www.CancerRegistryEducation.org) to learn more.

**● Learning Modules**
Learning modules are archived webinars with additional resources and quizzes. Earn 1 to 1.5 CEs per module.

**● JRM Quizzes**
Take the JRM quiz online and earn one CE per quiz.

**● Online Course**
Take the online course, A Cancer Registrar’s Guide to the Immune System. The course includes five sections and additional resources. Earn 3 CEs.

**✓ Registry Data Analysis and Presentation CD; Earn Up to Six CEs**
NCRA’s workshop, Registry Data Analysis and Presentation, is available on a CD. It was created in response to members’ requests for more detailed information on how to analyze and present cancer registry data. A total of six CEs can be earned from viewing the CD. (Additional CE fees required.) Member price: $40. Go to [www.ncra-usa.org/DataCD](http://www.ncra-usa.org/DataCD) to order.

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**Earn All the CEs You Need to Maintain Your CTR Credential for $179!**

**Special Offer from NCRA’s Education Department**

**2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION TO NCRA’S CENTER FOR CANCER REGISTRY EDUCATION**

**Details**
The annual subscription provides access to all CE opportunities on NCRA’s Center for Cancer Registry Education, including all learning modules, *Journal of Registry Management* quizzes, and online courses. Live webinars from fall 2014 and spring 2015 will be archived and included.

**Timeline**
Subscription runs January 5, 2015, through December 31, 2015. This special offer must be purchased by December 31, 2014.

**Cost**
$179

**Special Conditions**
Must renew your NCRA 2015 membership by December 31, 2014 to qualify for this subscription. (Note: This is a per-person subscription; there is no carry over into 2016.)

**Get Started**
Go to [www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/Special-Subscription](http://www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/Special-Subscription).

**Questions**
E-mail ccre@ncra-usa.org or call 703-299-6640 (ext. 317).

Not Renewed for 2015 Yet? Go to [www.ncra-usa.org/renew](http://www.ncra-usa.org/renew)
Bestow the Highest Honor on a Colleague

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Congratulations to all of the past award recipients who continue to volunteer and share their leadership strengths. All past recipients are acknowledged on the NCRA website with photos attached. Who will be added to the listing for 2014? Your nominations are being sought to recognize leaders who make a difference in our profession.

Awards/Categories

Distinguished Member Award: NCRA member recognized for their lifelong outstanding contributions and achievements to the profession and to the organization.

Outstanding New Professional Award: Newer NCRA member recognized for significant early career involvement in the profession and the organization.

Literary Award: NCRA member(s) recognized for preparation of important authored and published material(s) related to the continuing education of cancer registrars.

Educational Achievement Award: NCRA member recognized for significant contributions to the field of cancer registry education.

Volunteer Excellence Award: NCRA member recognized for significant and ongoing volunteer contributions to NCRA.

Who do you know that deserves to be considered for these prestigious awards? Review carefully the criteria for each award and consider nominating an NCRA member who is a co-worker, friend or leader in your facility, statewide or nationally. The deadline to submit is January 31, 2015.

How to Nominate

To nominate a candidate for an NCRA award, submit online the following:

- Completed award nomination form
- Short narrative summary of why the nominee deserves this award be specific
- Resume or curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes their achievements in the category being submitted. For more information and all nomination materials, including the nomination form and details on each award category, visit www.ncra-usa.org/awards.

Below are examples of how a nominee’s activities might be weighted for the Distinguished Member and Volunteer Excellence Awards.

Distinguished Member Award:

NCRA Activities (20%):
- Consultant for committees and boards such as Cancer Control & Research Advisory Council
- CTR Exam Construction Committee
- Mentoring Committee

Contributions to the Cancer Registry Profession (40%):
- Authored/co-authored published articles newsletters/journals
- Creation of training materials
- Serve as journal editor, NCRA or others
- Guest lecturer; i.e., local HIM program, school of public health, allied health programs

Contributions to the Profession in NCRA role (30%):
- President
- Board of Directors

Other Organizational Activities (10%):
- Local association committee or board member/officer
- Other national association committee or board member/officer (i.e., AHIMA, AJCC, NAACCR)
- Local/national volunteer association (i.e., ACS, Red Cross, schools, libraries)

Volunteer Excellence Award:

Association Activities (60%):
- Mentor program involvement
- NCRA Board Member/Officer
- Committees involvement

Contributions to the Association Above and Beyond (40%)
- Serving other professionals through NCRA leadership

For more details and examples of the judging criteria in each category, or to learn more about the award nominations application process, please visit www.ncra-usa.org/awards.
Renew Today To Ensure Continuation Of Your Member Benefits:

• Discounted registration fees for the annual conference and CTR Exam.
• Up to 20 percent off NCRA's educational and professional development products, including webinars, publications, learning modules, online courses, and much more. Visit www.CancerRegistryEducation.org to learn more.
• Access the “members-only” NCRA Membership Directory to connect with other cancer registry professionals.
• Complimentary subscriptions that help you stay current: The Update, NCRA's bi-weekly e-newsletter, The Connection, NCRA's quarterly newsletter, and the Journal of Registry Management, the only peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to the cancer registry profession.
• And much more!

Three easy ways to renew:

• Online at www.ncra-usa.org/renew. You will need to log-in to access your account.
• Fax or mail the Membership Dues Invoice (mailed to you early October). Can't find your copy? Call 703-299-6640, ext. 310 or e-mail member@ncra-usa.org.
• Renew by phone. Call 703-299-6640, ext. 310.

While renewing your membership, please review and update your member profile to ensure that you continue receiving valuable information from NCRA. To update your profile, log-in to the “Members-Only” section of the NCRA website (www.ncra-usa.org) and click the “Edit My Profile” link.

Questions?
Contact member@ncra-usa.org or call 703-299-6640, ext. 310 or 319.

****Special Offer for Renewing Members****
2015 Annual Subscription to the Center for Cancer Registry Education for $179
Learn More: www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/Special-Subscription
WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED MAY - AUGUST 2014

Angela M. Anderson  Spokane, WA
John Bianchi  Pasadena, CA
Julie D. Bignell  Wylie, TX
Catherine W. Bolton  Independence, MO
Kristina L. Bridgeman  Gloucester, VA
Becky Briggs  Madison, WI
Tamera L. Brown  Lapeer, MI
Emily A. Brown  Independence, MO
Monica R. Brown  Jacksonville, FL
JoAnn Buonocore  Staten Island, NY
Mary Ann Burger  Magnolia, TX
Christine M. Buschaw  Rochester, MN
April D. Byrd  Fayetteville, NC
Amanda Cairns  Clyde, TX
Elizabeth A. Campbell  West Chicago, IL
Dimetrius L. Campbell  Woodridge, IL
Claudia A. Campbell  Bountiful, UT
LeAnn Capps  Terre Haute, IN
Carrie R. Cerny  Cary, NC
Diana K. Coats  Hampton, VA
Jo Hannah P. Cook  Louisville, KY
Alicia B. Cramer  Wichita, KS
Maurice Davidson  Takoma Park, MD
Glenda S. Davison II  Yukon, OK
Hanh T. Dinh  Centreville, VA
Heather M. Ferguson  Virginia City, NV
Megan L. Flynn  Bloomington, IN
Sandra Fulgencio-Delmonte  Forest Hills, NY
Connie M. George  Kansas City, MO
Renee Gerardi  Salt Lake City, UT
Jeremy T. Goins  Littleton, CO
Marcia A. Gordon  Lancaster, OH
Leah M. Grigsby  Castaic, CA
Susan Hall  Mt. Pleasant, SC
Rachel Hatch  Pinellas Park, FL
Stacey L. Hibbets  Oldham County, KY
Deanna K. Hickman  Spring Hill, TN
Melissa K. Horn  Richlands, VA
Gretchen B. Hoy  Spokane Valley, WA
Michelle N. Irvine  Worthington, OH
Mary A. Jeffs  Gilbert, AZ
Elizabeth B. Jernigan  The Villages, FL
Edward Joe-Kamara  Hamilton, NJ
Cynthia G. Johnson  Americus, GA
Karen S. Jones  Hixson, TN
Robin W. Karl  Ventura, CA
Heather N. Kelly  Milwaukee, WI
LuAnn T. Kittredge  Dover, FL
Abington, PA
Renee M. Kozez  Holdem, MO
Stacie L. Kreinbrink  Sylvania, OH
Wendy Lee  Honolulu, HI
Melody L. Lewis  Americus, GA
Lisa Lindsay  Portage, IN
Lowdermilk  Colorado Springs, CO
Peggy Luedke  New Berlin, WI
Jillian Mangrobang  Shoreline, WA
Jenny Martinez  Pembroke Pines, FL
Husna Maryam  Calgary, AB
Sandra McDonald  Tucson, AZ
Melissa McGowan-Lyons  Lantana, FL
Jared P. Meche  Houston, TX
Kelly W. Merriman  Houston, TX
Maritza Navarro-Blue  Castro Valley, CA
Allen Null  Lakewood, OH
Kari K. Olinger  Naples, FL
Teresa A. Oman  Wyoming, MN
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