The Connection

NCRA ADVOCACY UPDATE

ADAM EBBIN, PUBLIC POLICY AND STRATEGY CONSULTANT

NCRA’s advocacy program continues to engage in promoting priorities for registries and registrars that will benefit the entire cancer community’s research and patient care goals.

Lobbying on Capitol Hill as part of OVAC

NCRA was an active participant in lobbying Congress this spring as part of the One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) coalition. In May, I joined three NCRA board members (Janet Reynolds, Leah Kiesow and Vanessa Stinson) on Capitol Hill for OVAC’s annual grassroots lobby day. More than 100 advocates from 32 states came together in Washington, DC to represent 25 member organizations.

We met with both Senate and House offices seeking adoption of key priorities:

- Raising overall federal budget caps that can limit future spending on cancer programs and research.
- Increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute.
- Increasing funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), including $19 million more for Cancer Registries.

Because OVAC has prioritized funding for a much needed, modern cloud-based system for registry data, the knowledge that we brought was particularly helpful. Cancer registries were discussed in detail; the types of data collected, data flow between hospitals and central and national registries and how the data are used. Leah Kiesow was part of a group that met with seven Pennsylvania congressional offices. She said they “highlighted the fact that there is a two to three year delay in the release of state and national data to researchers and public officials and the implications and impact this can have on research, education and outreach, participation in clinical trials and ultimately discovering the cure for cancers.”

NCRA Immediate Past President Janet Reynolds was in a delegation that visited five Texas congressional offices and cancer registries were a big part of the discussion at each office. Some were well versed about registries while others required much more information.

In summarizing the day, Leah said that, “Listening to some of the cancer survivors and the various advocates reinforced the fact that cancer research and funding is important to many people. Cancer touches a lot of lives and it was pretty awesome to see so many people come together for a shared cause.” OVAC will continue to educate lawmakers and staff on the importance of Registries in this fall.

“Listening to some of the cancer survivors and the various advocates reinforced the fact that cancer research and funding for research is important to many people. Cancer touches a lot of lives and it was pretty awesome to see so many people come together for a shared cause.”

—Leah Kiesow

NCRA Hill Follow Up

In July, NCRA Board Member Vanessa Stinson and Antoinette Stroup, PhD past president of NAACCR (the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries) were joined by our summer Policy Intern Aaron Danks and me as we followed up with additional meetings targeting key Hill offices. Staff with Chairman Roy Blount (R-GA) and the Senate Appropriations Labor and Health Subcommittee expressed interest in how current data lag time can be reduced.

“Having An Impact” Webinar

About 375 members joined us for a July webinar, “Advocacy: Making an Impact,” on NCRA’s advocacy efforts; past, present and future, with nearly 300 earning a CE.

Thanks for all you are doing to raise awareness.

Advocates assembled on Capitol Hill to advocate for increased cancer funding, including an appropriation to modernize the current cancer registries data system and make it cloud based for quicker access. (Left to right: NCRA Immediate Past President Janet Reynolds is joined by Board Members Vanessa Stinson and Leah Kiesow, along with NCRA Public Policy and Strategy Consultant Adam Ebbin.)

Learn more at www.ncra-usa.org
Dear Readers:

I feel that I must start this edition’s letter with honesty both to myself and you readers and admit: I found this month’s Letter to the Editor particularly challenging for several reasons. I typically run on high gear for the entire 7-8 months from March/April through about October. And then I feel the inevitable crash creeping up on me. While I love the change that fall brings, it always slows me down because I realize that I am completely drained by the spring and summer activities, vacationing, festivities, barbecues and parties, boating (a big hit in my family), school starting, and just all of the general busyness that the warm weather features. This year was especially taxing as I had some personal events and projects that required large amounts of time and resources going on throughout most of the year. Typically the mental decline begins in October and, although the holidays provide a much-needed boost, by January I find myself in what I call “hibernation mode”, rarely moving from the couch aside from the bare necessities that work and child-rearing require. This year thus far has been no different.

My recent mental fatigue has already spilled over in my work to some extent, and I found myself at a loss for anything to discuss with you lovely readers. I pondered and pondered what to share with you this quarter, repeatedly coming up empty. And then it hit me. Someone needs to address this very subject: the idea that it’s perfectly ok to do slow down, take a break, recharge, and do or talk about virtually nothing in the process! Modern American culture perpetuates the idea of busy-ness as both a lifestyle and an end in itself. If we are busy, our culture says, then we are popular and valuable! We are important and necessary! We matter! Viewed through this culturally entrenched lens, busy-ness serves to boost our self-esteem and give us imagined importance in the eyes of both ourselves and others. However, it’s completely unnecessary— we are important regardless of how busy we are (or are not)!

Henry David Thoreau famously asked, “It’s not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is, what are we busy about?” We all have certain unavoidable responsibilities (work, children, spouse, parents, pets, plants, church, etc….Oy!) that deserve the very best that we have to give at all times. But even the level of our best is going to fluctuate. As far as other, extraneous “responsibilities”, it is up to each of us individually to prioritize just how important these things really are. And there will be times where things simply fall by the wayside. Part of being a whole, healthy adult is understanding and even embracing these downtimes that we may deep down feel are shortcomings. We must recognize the inaccuracy of this schism. In reality, downtime and rest serves to make us better in everything we do, from registry duties to family obligations.

There are many beautiful quotes about self-care and rest out there, but I found this one particularly fitting:

“Take a rest. A field that has rested yields a beautiful crop.”—Ovid

So, with intention and love, make yourself a cup of your favorite hot drink. Cozy up under a warm blanket and give yourself some extra time to enjoy this issue of The Connection. And if you should find yourself daydreaming for an extra half hour after you’ve completed the issue—so what??

In happiness and wellness,
Laura DeFino, Editor
“Whenever we are confronted by new changes and headaches, we continue to grow. We learn as much as we can. We carry on, and mature.”

I hate it when I’m asked what my favorite season of the year is. There are people who have definite answers—they love only one of them, but I have two favorite seasons that I love equally: Spring and Fall. There’s something about emerging after a long, dark winter (I’m originally from the North) and seeing the Georgia daffodils and crocus break through the ground and bring color to an otherwise dreary landscape. I love spring planting, hate the pine pollen, but always welcome the warm days and cool nights.

On the other hand, I’m a big fan of Autumn. I love watching the leaves turn colors, feeling the autumn crispness in the air, and the melancholy feeling that I get as put away the garden furniture and pull the last of my summer vegetables out of my garden.

Life as a cancer registrar is like the two seasons I love: Spring and Fall.

Just like Spring, we are the seeds from updates sewn by any number of governing entities. We sprout new ideas and share them with one another. We continue to grow in our learning, we tolerate the weeds that occasionally pop up that can choke out our understanding, but continue to look toward the warmth of one another, as we assist, teach and learn. We grow in knowledge through our registry data, encourage the growth of other registrars and other cancer programs.

We absorb knowledge through our annual meeting and webinars, occasionally, overcome the tears that sometimes fall like rain.

After continuing to grow and learn throughout the summer, we turn toward Autumn. We become more mature in our learning. We are cool and crisp. Our abstracting becomes more colorful. We are looking ahead to the new year, and are putting our final burst of energy to get our abstracting complete, and for those in CoC accredited programs, making sure that we’ve reviewed, documented and (hopefully) are in compliance with the standards.

You might think that this is a questionable analogy but think about it. Whenever we are confronted by new changes and headaches, we continue to grow. We learn as much as we can. We carry on, and mature. We’re like gladiolus, a flower that represents strength, honor and conviction.

And we’re just as pretty.

Have a great (insert your favorite season here)!!

Paulette Zinkann, BS, CTR
NCRA President.
It’s difficult to think of a better way to honor someone than by nominating them for an award. As an organization, NCRA is privileged to have many members deserving of our respect and admiration. The NCRA Awards program offers several options for recognizing cancer registry professionals for their outstanding contributions to our profession. The Awards Committee hopes each one of you will give thoughtful consideration to nominating an exemplary member for an appropriate NCRA Award. The program provides national recognition in five award categories:

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

**April Fritz 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.

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2020

**HOW TO NOMINATE**

To nominate a candidate for an NCRA award, visit [ncra-usa.org/awards](http://ncra-usa.org/awards) to find a link to the online form. Click the link to submit 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.

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](http://www.ncra-usa.org/awards).
NCRA’s Education Committee has planned nine, one-hour live webinars for fall 2019 on important topics for cancer registrars. The list is below. Registrars can order individual webinars or purchase each series for a discounted price. Group pricing is available for six registrants or more. Detailed descriptions of the webinars, registration information, and group sales forms can be found at: www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/live-webinars.

Don’t worry if you missed any of the live webinars. Completed webinars are archived and posted as learning modules to the Center for Cancer Registry Education. Go to: www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/Learning-modules to get started.

NCRA’s Education Committee continues to promote clinical practicum activities that are now available online through the Independent Clinical Advisors (ICA) program. To learn more or volunteer as an ICA, go to www.ncra-usa.org/ICA. SEER*Educate staff reviewed the process for ICAs to work with exam candidates on virtual practicum activities. See the presentation at http://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/Independent-Clinical-Advisor-ICA-Program.

NCRA’s Education Department is also updating the CTR Exam Study Guide, online exam prep webinars, and practice test for the 2020 exam. Updates will be posted and available at www.ncra-usa.org/CTRPrep. If you have questions on any of NCRA’s educational offerings, please contact Mary Maul, Manager, NCRA Education Programs, at mmaul@ncra-usa.org.

NCRA’ FALL WEBINAR SCHEDULE

SERIES 1: Two-Part Series—Registry Data Outcomes
Excellent Excel
Webinar: Interoperability: EHRs and the Cancer Registry
Wednesday, October 2, 2019

SERIES 2: Three-Part Series—Coding and Abstracting Essentials
Webinar: Site-Specific Data Items for Case Abstracting
Wednesday, October 30, 2019

SERIES 3: Four-Part Series—Staging Cancer: Selected Sites
Webinar: Staging Kidney Cancer
Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Webinar: Staging Tricky Tumors: Top Sites
Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Webinar: Staging Prostate Cancer
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Webinar: Staging Hematopoietic and Lymphoma Cancers
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Updated!
2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules Training
NCRA has updated its 2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules (STR) training to reflect the recent July 2019 updates. The free presentations include: General Instructions: Part 1 and 2; Breast; Colon; Lung; and Renal, Ureter, Bladder, and Other Urinary. View the complimentary training at: www.CancerRegistryEducation.org/SEER

Check Out NCRA’s JRM Quizzes
Each Journal of Registry Management (JRM) includes a quiz on one of its articles. The most recent quiz is on the article, “Cancer in the HIV/AIDS Population in Iowa, 1991–2015” from the spring 2019 issue. These quizzes are a great way to earn CE; the member cost for each quiz is $25. Learn more at: www.cancerregistryeducation.org/jrm-quizzes

Free Archived Webinar!
Craft a Perfect Resume and Let LinkedIn Do the Rest
NCRA offered a free professional development webinar entitled “Craft a Perfect Resume and Let LinkedIn Do the Rest” on September 25. The presenters provided tips on creating resumes, overhauling LinkedIn profiles, and engaging networks to make your resume work for you. The webinar was archived and is available free to members at: www.ncra-usa.org/Advocacy/Workforce/Workforce-Resources
NCRA and the American Cancer Society: Working Together

A critical component of NCRA’s advocacy work is serving as the voice for cancer registrars at meetings with national organizations, standard setters, and federal agencies. The association’s goal is to promote the profession and highlight how the data registrars collect are used to better inform cancer treatment and care and screening and prevention programs. NCRA met with the staff of the American Cancer Society’s Surveillance and Health Services Research Program in July 2019 to better understand how the two organizations can work more collaboratively. A key outcome of the meeting was a commitment from the ACS to include in the acknowledgement sections of appropriate publications a statement to recognize cancer registrars. That statement is as follows:

*The authors gratefully acknowledge all cancer registries and their staff for their hard work and diligence in collecting cancer information, without which this research could not have been done.*

NCRA is grateful to the ACS for supporting the work of registrars and looks forward to identifying additional opportunities to support our shared interests and important work.

Learn How the American Cancer Society Uses Cancer Registry Data
https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org

NAPBC Engaged in Strategic Planning Focused on Quality Outcomes and Patient Care

**CYNTHIA BOUDREAX, LPN, CTR | NCAPBC LIAISON**

NAPBC Board members held a strategic planning retreat in July 2019. The intended outcomes of the Retreat were to review and apply best practices in association with strategic planning, review the results of a data-driven assessment of the NAPBC that included qualitative interviews with key leaders, board members, surveyors and accredited centers, reach a consensus on the NAPBC’s strategic foundation, identify a set of areas of strategic priorities with corresponding initiatives and outcomes, and outline next steps for action.

Eight essential opportunities emerged through the research to include defining the value proposition of accreditation, patient value and resources, global strategy, accredited center growth, strategic partnerships, data collection and dissemination, leader and volunteer engagement, and center support. The outcome of the retreat resulted in a revision of the NAPBC mission and a set of three primary strategic drivers and indicators of success.

- Define and communicate the value proposition of the NAPBC and accreditation to broaden NAPBC’s reach and impact.
- Deliver on the value proposition and enhance current and prospective center support to improve patient outcomes.
- Stimulate membership growth to reach more centers and patients.

Education and Dissemination Committee discussed priorities for the coming year. The committee will focus on the development and delivery of the NAPBC Best Practices Conference (spring 2020) and to develop content for a more advanced workshop that will address common deficiencies and highlight center-developed solutions.

Quality Improvement & Information Technology Committee discussion included a review of the list of quality measures in development for the NAPBC. The goal of the review was to review ownership for the existing measures and discuss the process for individual refinement for eventual incorporation into the NAPBC standards. In addition, the committee discussed opportunities for assisting accredited centers with complying with the quality improvement standard which included reviewing a template that centers can use to document their studies of quality to upload to the Survey Application Record (SAR).
NCRA welcomed guests from the Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine (OCCAM) in September. OCCAM is an office of NCI, and is responsible for NCI’s research agenda in complementary and alternative medicine as it relates to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and symptom management.

OCCAM hosted a delegation of 11 individuals from several universities and hospitals, most of whom are clinicians who treat patients with TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine). The delegation was visiting the US for three weeks to participate in a host of medical and scientific meetings. Nadine Walker, CTR, Board Member; Lori Swain, Executive Director; and Neisha Johnson, Membership and Database Manager, explained the role of cancer registrars, highlighted the importance of the CTR credential, and described NCRA’s work. Thank you OCCAM for a wonderful visit.

NCRA is offering a Special Membership Renewal CE Subscription Package that includes 20 pre-selected learning activities from NCRA’s Center for Cancer Registry Education (CCRE). Earn up to 20 CE hours for $180! Full value of this offer is $1,000. This special subscription is the most cost-effective way to earn all the CEs needed to maintain your CTR credential and to keep up-to-date with changes in the cancer registry profession.

The subscription runs from January 6, 2020, through December 31, 2020. It is a per-person subscription; there is no carry over into 2021. Offer ends December 31, 2019.

Renew your 2020 membership at www.ncra-usa.org/renew and select the option to add the subscription to your shopping cart. Additional details on the subscription, including the list of the 20 pre-selected items and FAQs, are on that membership renewal page.

Membership renewal questions? E-mail member@ncra-usa.org. Questions about the subscription e-mail ccre@ncra-usa.org
In my opinion, fall is the best season for so many reasons—football, pumpkin spice lattes, the impending holiday season, and so on! One of my favorite things about fall is that it is a season of changes and transitions. Tree leaves transform into gorgeous orange and yellow hues, pumpkin patches grow robustly and overflow, and the heat begins to subside by changing to cooler and more comfortable temperatures.

Speaking of such changes and transitions… the NCRA Membership Committee is undergoing an exciting transformation of its own! I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new NCRA Membership Committee Chair! My name is Kelli Aimar and I currently reside in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado with my husband, three dogs, and newborn son, Axel. I am a Cancer Registry Manager for Parallon and I work remotely out of my home. I have been working in the cancer registry since 2010, becoming certified in 2013. I have a passion for volunteering and have served as both Treasurer and Vice President for my local association. I also recently served as ATPD of the West for NCRA. I am quite eager to be volunteering as the NCRA Membership Committee Chair and have been working hard to recruit new committee members. I am pleased to say that several of the committee members are new to our profession and are looking forward to getting their feet wet with volunteering. I really look forward to the fresh perspective they will bring to the organization.

In terms of membership, the Strategic Management Plan goal is:

**MEMBERSHIP: Ensure satisfaction and increased engagement by building membership, anticipating needs, and providing exemplary programs, services, and opportunities.**

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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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| A Continue and expand member recruitment and retention activities to grow the membership and increase renewals. | 1. Work with Membership Committee to develop membership recruitment and retention plan(s). Include specific approaches for international membership, state association engagement, and other medical registry prospects.  
2. Review and assess existing membership categories and consider updates. |
| B Continue to assess member satisfaction and adjust programs and services accordingly. | 1. Regularly send surveys (or other instruments) to gauge real-time member satisfaction.  
2. Work with Membership Committee to prioritize, budget, plan, and implement changes to improve satisfaction. |
| C Enhance membership communication modes for improved reach and connection. | 1. Integrate membership outreach into NCRA’s comprehensive communications plan.  
2. Increase use of website as a resource for new member information.  
3. Explore new communication mediums to increase member engagement and outreach. |

To meet our goal, we will be tackling several tasks. One of these tasks will include surveying the membership on different topics, so be on the lookout for more information in your e-mail inboxes. We would also love to see the members utilizing the website more, so please watch for some upcoming website changes and enhancements in the next few months.

If you have any ideas on how your NCRA membership can be improved, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, Neisha Johnson, or Rita Williams with your feedback. Our contact information is as follows:

- Kelli Aimar, NCRA Membership Committee Chair, kaimarcutr@gmail.com
- Neisha Johnson, NCRA Membership Manager, njohnson@ncra-usa.org
- Rita Williams, NCRA Membership Services Coordinator, rwilliams@ncra-usa.org

I look forward to serving you all as the new NCRA Membership Committee Chair!
I cannot believe that a year has gone by since I submitted the first article for the Medical Registry Committee. During this time, Lori Swain and I have been working with the Journal of Registry Management (JRM) editorial team to review and revise the current documents on the steps and processes for publishing within the Journal for other Medical Registry Organizations.

NCRA has collected a listing of close to 200 additional Medical Registries to contact about submitting articles to the Journal of Registry Management. The Medical Registry Committee will be looking to contact and collaborate with these additional registries to encourage them to submit articles to the Journal of Registry Management. Examples of some of the additional registries are: Bariatric, Barrett’s Esophagus Patient Registry, Birth, Birth Defects, Bone Marrow, Chest Pain, Diabetes, Short Bowel Syndrome, Stroke, Trauma, and Various Congenital Diseases, just to name a few.

NCRA’s 2019-2023 Strategic Management Plan (SMP) and the Presidential Charge have been identified for the Medical Registry Committee. They are as follows:

1. **Strategic Management Plan:**
   a. Goal 3: Professional and Career Development: Create and deliver effective content, programs, products and services across career phases.
      i. Objective A: Identify current and emerging professional development needs.
   b. Goal 4: Alliances and Advocacy: Strengthen the profession’s voice by engaging proactively as a powerful advocate to raise awareness, enhance collaborative relationships and affect change.
      i. Objectives A: Identify, develop, and maintain collaborative partnerships.
         1. Task 1: Using SMP Survey results and partner outreach develop a master list of current and potential collaborative partners.
         2. Task 2: Identify existing and new relationship opportunities specific to each existing and potential collaborative partner.

2. **Presidential Charge:**
   a. Work with the JRM Editors to further expand the opportunity for additional JRM content from other Medical Registries with the goal being 3-5 articles submitted for consideration for the winter 2020 edition.

Our committee has increased with one new volunteer member this year but we are still looking for more to join in. If you are interested in helping the Medical Registry Committee in its inaugural year as a NCRA Committee, please contact Darlene Lawty at dlawty@ncra-usa.org to express your interest in volunteering. Once potential volunteers have been identified, I will reach out to discuss the committee role and define committee members. We need your assistance to make this committee great and to meet both the Strategic Management Plan and the Presidential Charge a success. Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

NCRA awarded the following ribbons for the poster winners at the 45th annual Educational Conference in Denver:

1st Place: **Quality Insiders: A Central Registry’s External Quality Improvement Plan**
Amy Cass, BS, RHIA, CTR

2nd Place: **Overcoming SCPs Barriers: Creative Staffing Solutions**
Emma Bootle, MBA; Sonya Canavan; Jody Platz, MBA, CTR; Amy Walde, MHA, MBA

3rd Place: **Health Behaviors and Other Risk Factors in Early Onset Colorectal Cancer**
Amy Waits, BS, CTR

All of the posters submitted are available for viewing in the *Journal of Registry Management, Summer 2019.*
In 2017, NCRA launched a new database and website. Do you remember what the old site looked like? Take a peek below:

While members now see a refreshed look and sign-in process, I’d like to highlight a few other areas of the website:

**NCRA Education Foundation**

Information on the Education Foundation can now be found at www.ncra-usa.org/Foundation. While the Foundation remains a separate non-profit, bringing it under the NCRA website umbrella makes it easier for both staff to update and members to access information and make donations.

**CTR Exam Webpage**

Maybe you became a CTR years ago and have since avoided this URL like the plague, but www.ctrexam.org is also now housed within the NCRA website. Previously a separate site, all of the content is now easily accessible at [www.ncra-usa.org/CTR](http://www.ncra-usa.org/CTR).

**State Cancer Registry Associations**

One of the best ways to get to know other registrars is to attend conferences and webinars. If you are unable to attend the NCRA Annual Education Conference, opportunities at state meetings also allow cancer registrars to form a network and enable individuals to grow and enhance their knowledge. NCRA has both links to the state association websites ([www.ncra-usa.org/About/State-Associations](http://www.ncra-usa.org/About/State-Associations)) and a meetings calendar that lists all the events hosted by the state associations ([http://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/State-Meetings-Calendar](http://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/State-Meetings-Calendar)). If your state has an event they want to advertise, email details to [info@ncra-usa.org](mailto:info@ncra-usa.org).

The goal of the National Cancer Registrars Association website is to provide relevant, up to date information for those in, or seeking to join, the cancer registry field. Let [www.ncra-usa.org](http://www.ncra-usa.org) be your one stop for resources. To provide feedback, please contact [info@ncra-usa.org](mailto:info@ncra-usa.org).
Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for monitoring NCRA's finances, which include accounting of all expense, income, and investments. The Finance Committee members are:

- Margaret Wight—Treasurer
- Jennifer Garvin—Treasurer Junior
- Janet Reynolds—Immediate Past President
- Paulette Zinkann—President
- Nadine Walker—President-Elect/Secretary
- Lori Swain—Executive Director
- Morgan Stanley Investment Firm
- Buchanan & Mitchell, P.C., Auditors
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Legal Counsel

Financial Statements through August 31, 2019

1. Total Income $2,237,656.03
2. Total Expenses $1,717,365.12
3. Net Income $ 520,290.91

We have recently transitioned to a new investment company, Morgan Stanley. We will continue to review our investments and investigate how to best invest for the organization in the coming years.

The process has started for budget preparation for 2020 and the budget will be finalized at the winter board meeting in February 2020.
NPCR Program: North Dakota Statewide Cancer Registry

Initiative: Successful Use of the Cancer Registry Data for Cancer Research in North Dakota

Summary: The North Dakota Statewide Cancer Registry (NDSCR) collaborated with several outside researchers to review county-level incidence rates of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and to determine any correlation with the corresponding residential radon levels in four states: Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. (Data for Iowa, Texas, and Wisconsin were available online.) Before providing the dataset to be used, NDSCR made an extra effort to confirm the accuracy of its CLL data by performing validations on a percentage of the cases in the NDSCR dataset. The final results of this study were published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Challenge: NDSCR staff did not have much experience with this type of collaborative cancer research and publishing the results in a peer-reviewed journal. In addition, prior to the investigative research study, NDSCR needed to review and validate 10% of the CLL cases from the NDSCR database. The special query included the review of lab tests to ensure the diagnoses were correct and codes were accurate. The more intense review of these cases took time and required medical knowledge.

Solution: NDSCR ran a special query by selecting cases with Histology code = 9823 for the CLL cases obtained from the reporting facilities to the NDSCR database. The query also retrieved the detailed information from the text area. NDSCR aimed to look at 10% of CLL cases and validate the accuracy of the diagnoses and coding. NDSCR then carried out the validation on those randomly selected cases by its staff. (Luckily, two of its CTRs have medical degrees and many years of clinical practice before joining the cancer registry). Among the selected cases, the majority of the diagnoses were confirmed by blood cell counts, bone marrow exams, and flow cytometric analyses. NDSCR identified four cases diagnosed as B- cell lymphoproliferative disorders (LPDs) in the pathology report. (LPDs are neoplasms of the blood and encompass lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and leukemia). When NDSCR looked further into those four cases, they found clinical diagnosis of CLL in the doctor’s notes.

Results: NDSCR looked at the case information carefully and discussed those four cases and agreed with the diagnosis made/coded by both doctors and cancer registrars. These cases were included in the study. The final results from 10% of all CLL cases in the NDSCR database provided the confidence needed for the NDSCR data to be used in this research study. After conducting the relevant statistical analyses and examining the relationships between CLL and indoor radon levels per county in 478 counties from the states referenced above, NDSCR found that CLL is significantly associated with indoor radon levels at the county level. An article on this research was published in the Future Oncology (May 2017).

Sustaining success: State cancer datasets are mainly used to generate cancer incidence and mortality rates. When submitted to the CDC/NPCR and NAACCR, these data sets must meet standard requirements. For special research like the one presented above, state registries may need additional quality assessment. The NDSCR is committed to providing the additional quality assessment on its datasets for researchers conducting special analysis and research projects.

The Registrars in Action column highlights the impact cancer registrars have on public health. Cancer registrars collect standardized data to submit to Central Cancer Registries (CCRs), and this data are then submitted to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The CDC-funded NPCR is a population-based surveillance system of cancer registries established in 1992. NPCR supports the collection of high-quality data by central cancer registries through funding, technical assistance, and the development of software for collecting and processing data. NPCR works to release the data in accessible, discoverable, and usable formats. Through NPCR, CDC supports central cancer registries in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Pacific Island Jurisdictions, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To learn more, visit: www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs. CDC’s U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool displays the official federal statistics on cancer incidence from each registry that met data quality criteria. Checkout this valuable tool at: www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs/dataviz.
New CTRs

The summer 2019 CTR Exam was taken by candidates at testing centers during the June-July testing window. Ninety-six (96) candidates passed the exam and formally became Certified Tumor Registrars. NCRA’s Council on Certification proudly congratulates all new CTRs!

Alabama
Jennie Coulter, Hueytown

Alaska
Jaylynn Backus, Anchorage
Adrienne Driskill, Anchorage

Arizona
Elizabeth Pulcini, Tucson

Arkansas
Ashley Smith, Maumelle

California
Anuradha Gundappa, Lake Forest
Julia Huguet, Los Angeles
Noreen Ray, Salinas
Kimberly Roberts, Palm Desert
Heide Shumway, Ojai
Audrey Zamora, Elk Grove

Connecticut
Christopher Bryan, Windsor

Florida
Theresa Deck, Saint Petersburg
Ana Howerton, West Palm Beach
Vicky Lam, Tampa

Georgia
Lori Burnham, Cartersville
Laura Shirley, Macon

Hawaii
Charlene Wallace, Ewa Beach

Idaho
Marianita Brown, Idaho Falls
Ana Howerton, West Palm Beach
Vicky Lam, Tampa

Illinois
Deborah Alstad Young, Edwardsville
Sydney Beck, Springfield
Barbara Caravello, Galva
Santhi Chaparala, Springfield
Carmen Flores, Chicago
Michelle Gathard, Edinburg
Laura Larsen-Smith, Wonder Lake
Megan Milos, Granite City
Janet Schneider, McHenry
Ann Zawislak, Elk Grove Village

Indiana
Hanna Starr, Medora
Katherine Wilks, Jeffersonville

Iowa
Bethany Trask, Fredericksburg

Kansas
Lindsey Busch, Topeka
Barbara Whitehead, Silver Lake

Kentucky
Chalon Davis, Fern Lake

Louisiana
Sadie Camel, Lafayette
Mercedes Hollingsworth, Harahan

Maryland
Sherry Blanchard, Frederick

Michigan
Lara Albers, Walled Lake
Lisa Barno-Winarksi, Rochester Hills
Denise Cassleman, Grand Rapids
Heather Rombach, New Lothrup
Afreen Siddiqui, Troy
Amy Stone, Davison
Marcy Watters, Fenton
Anna Ybarra, Adrian

Minnesota
Cheryl Brandner, Fountain
Mary Lehet, Sawyer
Anne Wesp, Andover

Mississippi
Erika Holloway, Collinsville
Lisa Rodgers, Byhalia

New Jersey
Erin Voleck, Ralston

New York
Beverly Chabalowski, Erial
Karen Creaney, Medford
Joia Di Stefano, Mays Landing
Elizabeth Krauss, Medford
Veronica Manning, Marlton
Karen Whelan, Belle Mead

New York
Ryan Breslin, Farmingdale

North Carolina
Kathleen Porter, Hillsborough

Ohio
Sara Catchpole, Akron
Nicholas Gibbs, Wilmington
Mary Keefer, Centerville
Heather McDaniel, Obetz
Cheryl Swope, Nashport

Oklahoma
Sandra Edwards, Stillwater

Ontario
Hussein Elsayed, Kingston

Pennsylvania
Michelle Naugle, Windsor

Puerto Rico
Karelis Pagán-Rolón, Guayama

Rhode Island
Kevin Smith, East Greenwich

Saskatoon
Lisa Newton, Saskatoon

Saudi Arabia
Fatima Almulhim, Dammam

South Carolina
Jene Bryant, Myrtle Beach
Janice Jones, Greenville
Erin Moates, Laurens

Tennessee
Shari Findlay, Knoxville
Sherry Herd, Silver Point
Felicia Wahidi, Smyrna

Texas
Hazel Capalad, Richmond
Estrella Nangcas, Sugar Land
Heather Pressgrove, Houston

Utah
Marta Davis, Fruit Heights
Skyla Lot, Penrose

Virginia
Ann Brough, Vienna
L. Scott Cassell, Staunton
Barnabas Tessema, Alexandria

Washington
Maricar Pamisa, Lacey

West Virginia
Mark Wigal, Cross Lanes

Wisconsin
Rhonda Guns, De Pere
Melissa Hodges, Beloit
Trystan Knight, Madison
Connie Koertth, Briilton
Erin Salmeron, Appleton
Cancer Registrars: 2020 Vision for the Future

Learn more at www.ncra-usa.org/ncrw

You Spoke. We Listened!

Introducing NCRA's New Member Benefit: A Professional Liability Insurance Program

- Low rates and exclusive member discounts.
- Immediate access to proof-of-coverage and policy documents (upon approval).
- Comprehensive insurance coverage of $1,000,000/$6,000,000.
- Offered by CPH & Associates, a leading provider of Professional Liability Insurance.

Learn more at www.ncra-usa.org/PLInsurance
WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED (JULY–SEPTEMBER 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Acton</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adel Alamri</td>
<td>Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligia Aldir</td>
<td>Merritt Island, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramya Arungundrum Mohan</td>
<td>Sunnyvale, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Beal</td>
<td>Colbert, OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Benvenuto</td>
<td>Yonkers, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Bier</td>
<td>Haymarket, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelse Brown</td>
<td>Fort Mitchell, AL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Bryan</td>
<td>Windsor, CT</td>
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<td>Melissa Bryson</td>
<td>Salem, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Buchanan</td>
<td>Aloha, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Bucheli</td>
<td>Upland, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonya Burns</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Calhoun</td>
<td>Inverness, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustonia Call</td>
<td>Gainesville, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Carter</td>
<td>Harbor City, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aravindu Chittumalla</td>
<td>Frazier Park, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Clayton</td>
<td>Roxboro, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Coffey</td>
<td>Chester, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wynda Collaro</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Ganz Connie</td>
<td>Lincoln, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Craigwell</td>
<td>Richardson, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camelia Cuevas</td>
<td>Middleburgh Heights, OH</td>
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<td>Ozzan Cushman</td>
<td>Schaumburg, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Davis</td>
<td>Amery, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah DeKay</td>
<td>Sayre, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatou Diallo</td>
<td>Norcross, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Dyer</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amber Edwards</td>
<td>Bella Vista, AR</td>
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<td>Senada Elkasovic</td>
<td>Peoria, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlin Elliott</td>
<td>Glen Burnie, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teddie Emmerich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Fast</td>
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<td>Karen Fink</td>
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<td>Anastasia Ford</td>
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<td>Joy Garrett</td>
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<td>Patti Halicki</td>
<td>Somerville, NJ</td>
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<td>Ginger Hice</td>
<td>Gastonia, NC</td>
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<td>Jeanne Holmes</td>
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<td>Betty Humphrey</td>
<td>Plano, TX</td>
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<td>annette johnson</td>
<td>Chicago Heights, IL</td>
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<td>Maketa Jolly</td>
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<td>Audrey Jows</td>
<td>New Columbia, PA</td>
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<td>Rami Kamzoul</td>
<td>Doha, Doha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penny Koff</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin Lambo</td>
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<td>Matthew Landry</td>
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<td>Christina Lavigne</td>
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<td>Teresa Le</td>
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<td>Tina Long</td>
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<td>Jessica Lyngaas-Clark</td>
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<td>Lynn McNeillie</td>
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<td>Obdulia Mendoza-Sotelo</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Metje</td>
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<td>Leanna Mieses Paredes</td>
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<td>Carlos Muller</td>
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<td>Lauren Neal</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Neas</td>
<td>Augusta, ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Anh Nguyen</td>
<td>Westminster, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rizwana Nouman</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Ogo</td>
<td>Saipan,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bria Orgeron</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Ouellet</td>
<td>Scarborough, ME</td>
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</tbody>
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—continued on page 16
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Kealey Owens..............................Cedar Hill, TX
rachel paul ............................San Antonio, TX
Stella Penn .............................Martinsville, VA
Cressetta Peterson .....................Chesapeake, VA
Kim Phelps ..............................Caledonia, IL
Tyler Pichee ...........................Alton, IL
Camille Pierre ..........................Philadelphia, PA
Sheila Poteat ...........................Taylors, SC
Melissa Poza ............................Miami, FL
Susana Quintero .......................Houston, TX
April Reisinger .........................York, PA
Bernice Reznick ........................Ashland, MA
Marilyn Richardson ...................Wray, GA
Ashleigh Robb ..........................Huntsville, AL
Berenice Rodriguez ....................Arequipa, Arequipa
Paulina Rodriguez .....................Miami, FL
Kelly Rondeau ..........................Mazeppa, MN
Marjorie Rosen ........................Queensbury, NY
Jill Rounds ..............................Wenatchee, WA
Jennifer Rudnicki .....................Detroit, MI
Megan Ryan ..............................Overland Park, KS
Melissa Sanders .......................Houston, TX
Ashley Savoy ............................North Bethesda, MD
Jamie Seay ..............................Clemmons, NC
Laura Semler ............................Cincinnati, OH
Susan Sibulkin ..........................Bow, NH
Julie Skora .........................Salem, WI
Mary Smart .........................Pittsford, NY
Rosa Solis ...........................Mission, TX
Cindy Soltis ...........................Cary, IL
Kristina Sova ............................Saint Clair Shores, MI
Michelle Stinson .....................Clayton, NC
Jaime Strong .........................Greenville, IN
Dung Tat .........................Houston, TX
Jennifer Thomas ......................Ogden, UT
Berdie Thompson .....................Abilene, TX
Ann Thurston ..........................Cary, NC
Ashley Utt .........................Tonasket, WA
Rose Valdez ..........................Houston, TX
Bret VanDerMark .....................Struthers, OH
Lynne Villers .........................Danville, IN
Deirdre Walker .......................Pensacola, FL
Desiree Walton .......................Klamath Falls, OR
Amy Wenzel ..........................Cedar Rapids, IA
Susan Whalen .......................Beaumont, TX
Lashana Williams .....................High Point, NC
Stephanie Wilson .....................Los Angeles, CA
NaKisha Woods .......................Amarillo, TX
Shirley Wyant .........................Westfield, IN
Peng Xue ..............................Shanghai, China
Julie Zeppetella .......................Peoria, AZ