MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Antoinette Stroup, PhD
NAACCR President
nan.stroup@rutgers.edu

Happy New Year! Was it just me or did anyone else feel like 2018 snuck up on us? Sometimes I think that we are so busy that we lose all sense of time and before we know it, it's 2018 and the AJCC 8th Edition is a reality. Ah! But, after a few deep breaths and a 10-minute mindfulness moment, I realized that we have a ton to look forward to this year. For example, our first ever Hack-a-Thon at the upcoming 2018 NAACCR Annual Conference, potentially more registries submitting data in the NAACCR XML format, positive changes to the Common Rule governing human subjects research now effective July 19, 2018, and of course two upcoming conferences.

NCRA's Annual Educational Conference is in New Orleans, Louisiana this year from May 20-23, 2018 for their 44th Annual Educational Conference. The French Quarter, yummy beignets, jazz, and cancer registrars…what can go wrong?

Then, the 2018 NAACCR Annual Conference is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from June 9-16, 2018. Pittsburgh is home to the 5-time Stanley Cup Champions, the Pittsburgh Penguins

(hockey), 6-time Super Bowl Champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers (football), and 5-time World Series Champions, the Pittsburgh Pirates (baseball).

These two iconic cities have one thing in common: revitalization after adversity – Hurricane Katrina for New Orleans and the collapse of the steel industry in Pittsburgh. It's purely coincidence, I know. But, it's cool to think that we have an opportunity to visit both these cities in the same year.

Thanks to everyone who submitted an abstract to be considered for this year's NAACCR Conference! In total, we received 161 abstracts, but don't forget that there is still time to submit student abstracts, which are not due until Monday, March 26th at 11:59pm. For more updates, see the article in this issue of the Narrative.

If your registry voting representative has not done so already, there's still time to cast votes in this year's Board election, which ends February 2nd. We have President-Elect and three (3) Representatives-at-Large as well as a Sponsoring Member Organization Representative on the ballot this year. You can learn more about the candidates on the NAACCR "Meet the Candidates" webpage.

Finally, I would like to congratulate NCRA on successfully advocating for a new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for medical registrars: Health Information Technologies and Medical Registrars. According to the NCRA website, "The new detailed occupation code reflects the increase use of data to improve medical treatment and care, and the critical role cancer registrars play in collecting that data." Among other things, it will correct salary information to aid in recruitment and retention of qualified individuals. I know that this has been a long, hard-fought achievement of NCRA under the leadership of Lori Swain and on behalf of cancer registrars. Indeed, the new SOC is a far cry from the "registry secretary" job title cited in a 1969 seminal publication by Dr. Charles Smart, Dr. Stanley Altman, and Ms. Virginia Moslander in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*[1]. For more information about this SOC change, please visit the NCRA website here.

---

[1]*Smart, C. R., Altman, S. J. and Moslander, V. (1969), Computerized tumor registries: An experiment in patient Care. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 19: 8–17. doi:10.3322/canjclin.19.1.8*

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Betsy A. Kohler, MPH, CTR
NAACCR Executive Director
bkohler@naaccr.org

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year from the NAACCR Office!

The much anticipated 2018 has arrived. Many changes in data collection will be put into place this year. For example, new site specific data items (SSDI), new staging systems, and new ICD-O-3 codes. NAACCR staff and NAACCR members from across North America have been working feverishly to make this transition as easy as possible. The SSDI Task Force and UDS Work Group doubled their meeting frequencies to twice a week and twice a month respectively to define new variables and new codes, and revise old ones. A new NAACCR Version 18 Record Layout has been released. The 2018 Implementation Guidelines Task Force released the Concurrent Abstracting Overview Statement. 2017 was a very labor intensive year for many NAACCR members who have been working behind the scenes in preparation for this transition.

Central cancer registries answer to many organizations who impose new standards and requirements on a regular basis to keep up with changes in oncology and patient care. These modifications affect both the central and hospital registries, clinics, physicians, and other sources who provide data. New standards come with new rules, new codes and new processes to be implemented in each registry. Software needs to be changed, edits developed and staff needs to be trained. It's a complicated and highly technical process. Seemingly small changes can have wide repercussions, and big changes create tsunamis! On the other hand, some changes that appear to be large may in fact be relatively easy to adapt to, at least from the perspective of coding. For example, we are hopeful that the transition from site-specific factors SSF's to site-specific data items (SSDIs) will be a relatively easy transition for coders, since for the most part the same information is being collected, and the work to update the codes and improve consistency with pathology reports may actually make the coding process easier. As with other life events, it is sometimes true that the anticipation of a forthcoming change many be more painful than the change itself, and it is important that work to support each other through any turbulence in the months ahead.

Each registry could go it alone and develop their own unique way of implementing changes. They could come up with their own codes and rules for data items. But this would be inefficient, with each registry dedicating multiple staff to solve the implementation challenges. Further, this method is counter to the concept of standardization and comparability of data, two concepts at the heart of the establishment of NAACCR by central registries.

The NAACCR work groups and task forces allow central registry staff, standard setting agencies, and software vendors to work collectively on a common problem. These groups

provide a sounding board for new ideas and efficiencies. NAACCR encourages registries to help shape the change and develop methods that will be effective in all registries.

Change has been difficult to manage within the cancer surveillance community. While we struggle to develop consistency and quality in our data collection, medicine forges ahead improving patient care and needing new and different data to evaluate progress.

As we launch into 2018 take a minute to reflect on how far we have come and what lies ahead. As the cancer surveillance community continues to work together we will make progress and ultimately reduce the burden of cancer.

You are not alone tackling the new data requirements. Your comments, opinions and ideas are always welcome! NAACCR has a Forum area on our website designed for members to express their opinions, ask questions and connect with other members. A forum on the 2018 changes may be accessed here: https://www.naaccr.org/forums/forum/2018-implementation/

Please feel free to express your thoughts and suggestions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER OF STANDARDS

Lori Havener, CTR
NAACCR Program Manager of Standards
lhavener@naaccr.org

STANDARDS VOLUME II, VERSION 18

The release of NAACCR Standards Volume II, Version 18 is delayed to March 1, 2018. The timeline below reflects what we hope to achieve for the release of Standards Volume II, Version 18.

UDS final review of Standards Volume II, Version 18	January 23, 2018
Draft submitted to NAACCR Board for review/approval	February 7, 2018

Post to NAACCR website	March 1, 2018
Version 18 Implementation	January 1, 2018

A draft of Standards Volume II, Version 18 will be posted on the 2018 Implementation Information webpage prior to the final release. A NAACCR ListServ announcement will be sent out when the Draft is posted. Please keep in mind that the Draft Volume II, V18 on the Implementation Information webpage is subject to change.

2018 IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

The 2018 Implementation Information webpage on the NAACCR website is a source for central registries, hospital registries, and software vendors. Information on the Implementation Timeline, V18 Record Layout, 2018 Implementation Webinars, and much more can be found at: https://www.naaccr.org/2018-implementation/

The 2018 Implementation Guidelines Task Force is diligently working on the 2018 Implementation Guidelines and Recommendations. The group plans to release the guidelines in March 2018.

XML DATA EXCHANGE FORMAT

The Standardization and Registry Development Steering Committee and the XML Data Exchange WG developed a plan to implement the XML data exchange standard that was approved by the NAACCR Board. The NAACCR Plan to Implement XML is posted on the NAACCR website: https://www.naaccr.org/xml-data-exchange-standard/

In 2017, the NAACCR Prep tool was updated to allow output of the NAACCR XML format for the 2017 Call for Data, there were 26 submissions in the XML format!

STANDARDS VOLUME II, VERSION 19

There is so much activity for 2018 right now it seems preposterous to even think about what is coming for 2019! NAACCR is advocating to keep 2019 changes to a minimum. However, it is imperative that folks review the 2019 Implementation Timeline below if there are any planned changes for 2019.

NAACCR 2019 IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Activity	NAACCR Deadlines	Considerations/suggestions to meet NAACCR deadlines
Proposed requests-for-change (new and changed data items) submitted to the Change Management Board (CMB)	October 1, 2017	1. Complete request-for-change forms for new and changed data items; submit to the Change Management Board by October 1, 2017.
Requests-for-change final review/approval by CMB and other groups as needed (e.g., UDS)	December 1, 2017	1. Coordinate with CMB to ensure communication with stakeholders. 2. Final requests are submitted to the UDS WG for review and inclusion in to Standards Volume II.
Convene NAACCR 2019 Implementation Guidelines Task Force	April 1, 2018	1. Materials for NAACCR Standards Volume II must be in final format for the Task Force to develop the implementation guidelines. 2. Final versions of mapping and/or conversions.
UDS Work Group reviews and updates Standards Volume II	May 2018	1. Assumes completion of all requests for changes to existing data items and requests of new data items.
Finalize NAACCR Standards Volume II and submit to NAACCR Board for review/approval	June 1, 2018	1. UDS final approval at May 2018 UDS meeting.
NAACCR Standards Volume II Released	July 1, 2018	
NAACCR 2019 Implementation Guidelines Released	August 1, 2018	

EDITS metafile release	September 1, 2018	1. EDITS Work Group will have begun development of edits metafile by February 2018.
Education and training	Ongoing as material becomes available	1. For 2019 implementation: develop and implement educational materials by summer 2018.
Implementation	January 1, 2019	

NAACCR RESEARCH AND DATA USE UPDATE

Recinda Sherman, MPH, PhD, CTR
NAACCR Program Manager of Data Use and Research
rsherman@naaccr.org

Well, we made it through another successful Call for Data (CFD) season! And the cycle of work for many of us has now turned squarely towards data use. Work on our CiNA monographs is underway, data use requests are in process, and papers using the CiNA data are under review. And I am excited to begin evaluating the supplemental tract-level, area-based social measures (ABSM) that were submitted.

Feature Your Work:

The first blog posted to the NAACCReview was on March 30, 2015, to announce that year's publication of the inter-agency collaborative, *Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer.* Since then, we have highlighted cancer surveillance-related research publications about once a month. Many of the blogs have focused on the work of NAACCR members.

We encourage you to read up on your colleagues work as well as submit your own work to be featured in NAACCReview. You may access NAACCReview using the "Useful Link" at the bottom of our main webpage or by clicking here: https://www.naaccr.org/blog/ to see our latest blogs.

To submit to NAACCReview, please send your article or report (attached or link), your headshot or employer logo, and a contextual summary of your work to me at rsherman@naaccr.org. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Call for Data Highlights:

- Using NAACCRPrep, registries had the option to submit an XML version of their submission file. We received 26 XML submissions out of 70 registries.
- We are beginning the process of evaluating 12 month data for the incorporating into the delay adjusted model. As of this writing, 42 registries have submitted their 12 month data and 12 more indicated they would submit by January 31st, 2018.
- Also through NAACCRPrep, US registries had the option to submit additional, tract-level ABSM for assessment and evaluation of an SES Index (Yost Index) as well as the development of more appropriate summary codes to evaluate the impact of poverty on poor and minority populations. These data were appended to cases that had a 2010 census tract boundary. We received this supplemental data from 52 of 57 US registries.

Geocoding Updates:

- Many registries worked fast and furious to complete geocoding in time for CFD. More than half, 35 of 57 US registries use the NAACCR Geocoder. The NAACCR Geocoder is built into SEER*DMS, so any registries, mostly SEER registries, using that system use the NAACCRGeocoder. Many worked with IMS to update batches of their cases to accommodate for the improvements in geocoding accuracy in the version released in June 2017. In addition, 28 registries not using SEER*DMS, mostly NPCR registries, geocoded nearly 6 million cases in the past 5 months. This represents *tremendous* efforts on the part of the registries.
- To obtain the highest quality and greatest coverage of the geocoded data requires manual review. Of the US registries, 31 of the 57 performed some level of manual (visual and interactive) review of cases. We plan to release our new Manual Geocoding Interface before the annual conference to assist in resolving ungeocodable cases or low quality matches that require interactive review.
- As mentioned in the previous Narrative, an in-person Geocoding Training will be available at the NAACCR Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this June. This training will provide recommended methods for data cleaning and geocoding. The course will also describe the new quality variables available in the NAACCR Geocoder, how to incorporate Alias Tables, and how to use the new "Match Status" variable and Manual Geocoding Interface.
- Sometimes our best laid plans go awry, and the same is true for the NAACCR Geocoder. We recently had a few hours of downtime due to a burst pipe in the data center where the servers are stored. When this happens, we place a notice on the MyNAACCR log-in page. So check there when you log-in for time sensitive notices.
- And a reminder about using ACCESS databases with the NAACCR Geocoder. We actively discourage the use of ACCESS databases with the NAACCR Geocoder. From a user perspective, ACCESS files are extremely slow to process. Also, Windows Updates can cause issues with for a variety of reasons. A recent Windows Update is current impacting the NAACCR Geocoder's ability to write to the ACCESS files. It will take time for our developer to investigate the update problem, so ACCESS files are not supported until the issue is resolved. Luckily, it is simple process to convert from ACCESS to a CSV and back again. However, use caution with variable definitions so that leading zeros for zip and FIPS codes are not dropped.

- As mentioned in the previous Narrative, an in-person Geocoding Training will be available at the NAACCR Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this June. This training will provide recommended methods for data cleaning and geocoding. The course will also describe the new quality variables available in the NAACCR Geocoder, how to incorporate Alias Tables, and how to use the new "Match Status" variable and Manual Geocoding Interface.

An Eye to the Future:

As we move forward with improvements in the quality and coverage of our geocoded data, NAACCR will evaluate the possibility of a new *CiNA Spatial Dataset*. Registries, that are able to participate, will provide census tract as well as the appended ABSMs. This special dataset will enable national-level geospatial research by NAACCR members with approved protocol and registry consent. If you are interesting in being part of the development process for that dataset, please contact me.

NAACCR EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

Jim Hofferkamp, BA, CTR
NAACCR Program Manager of Education & Training
jhofferkamp@naaccr.org

We just wrapped up the fifth webinar in the NAACCR webinar series! So far we have covered Prostate, Larynx, Uterus, Sarcoma, Stomach and Esophagus. For each of these we reviewed anatomy, staging, treatment and of course we had the very popular Epi Moment hosted by Recinda Sherman. We have also taken a "sneak peek" at what will be new with cases diagnosed in 2018 (Grade, Radiation, Summary Stage 2018, AJCC 8th edition, SSDI's).

I'm very excited about our Boot Camp webinar in March! During Boot Camp we try to minimize lecture and maximize time spent on quizzes. This year we are going to focus on things that are new for 2018. We will focus on Grade, Radiation, New Histology Codes, and Solid Tumor Rules.

We just finished session 3 (of 8) of the CTR Prep and Review. We have an excellent group of participants this session. Sometimes I think the support and encouragement between participants is just as important as the review of the material!

Check out the NAACCR Education and Training Calendar for a list of all of the upcoming training activities. Don't overlook the NAACCR Talks. These are free webinars presented by experts in their fields. If you miss the live sessions, we post the recordings on the Webinar Recordings page.

If you have questions about any of the NAACCR educational products or are interested in having the NAACCR Education and Training team develop a training workshop for your registry send me an e-mail at jhofferkamp@naaccr.org.

NAACCR 2017 EDUCATION AND TRAINING CALENDAR

Angela Martin, CTR
NAACCR Trainer/Project Coordinator
amartin@naaccr.org

JANUARY 2018

01/11/2018	Collecting Cancer Data: GIST and Soft Tissue Sarcomas
01/16/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 1
01/23/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 2
01/30/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 3

FEBRUARY 2018

02/01/2018	Collecting Cancer Data: Stomach and Esophagus
02/06/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 4
02/13/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 5
02/20/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 6

02/27/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 7

MARCH 2018

03/01/2018	Abstracting and Coding Boot Camp: Cancer Case Scenarios
03/06/2018	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 8

For more information about NAACCR education and training opportunities or to register online, go to the Education and Training tab on the NAACCR website (**naaccr.org**), or contact Jim Hofferkamp (**jhofferkamp@naaccr.org**).

PREPARING FOR DX YEAR 2018 IN SEER*EDUCATE

Mary Potts, RHIA, CPA, CTR
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Learn by Doing: Informing the Standard Setters

SEER is the standard setter for Extent of Disease (EOD) and Summary Stage 2018. Through SEER*Educate, SEER is making available the near-final draft documentation for EOD 2018 and Summary Stage 2018, along with over 250 coding exercises focused on the four new data items: EOD Primary Tumor, EOD Regional Node, EOD Mets, and Summary Stage 2018. The coding form look-ups use the documentation from the SEER*RSA, which is how software vendors will populate look-ups in hospital and central registry products.

We encourage trainers and quality control coordinators at central registries to take an early look at these cases, particularly for the high volume sites: breast, colon and rectum, lung, melanoma, prostate, and urinary bladder. Use the "Contact Us" feature in SEER*Educate to submit questions or comments about the disagreements you may have with the current preferred answer.

Issues identified with the coding guidelines and/or schema will be submitted to SEER to potentially update the EOD/Summary Stage manuals prior to the national release of the final versions later in 2018. This is your opportunity to identify errors, omissions, and ambiguities in the draft documentation.

*SEER*Educate is a web-based training platform for students and cancer registry professionals to learn and assess technical skills related to coding guidelines and concepts. It is a jointly funded project sponsored by the NCI and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. (NCI Contract Number HHSN26120100029C)*
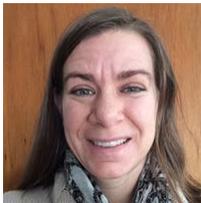
FREE TRAINING IN SEER EDUCATE

Mary Potts, RHIA, CPA, CTR
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
We are pleased to announce additional free training in SEER*Educate. The new material provides training for diagnosis year 2018 cases on Extent of Disease (EOD) and Summary Stage 2018. Please see the flyer here.

VIRTUAL POOLED REGISTRY UPDATE

Castine Clerkin, MS, CTR
NAACCR Program Manager of Virtual Pooled Registry
cclerkin@naaccr.org

Happy New Year everyone! 2018 is gearing up to be an exciting year for the Virtual Pooled Registry Cancer Linkage System (VPR-CLS). It will be a year of collaboration, implementation, discovery, and fine-tuning as we progress with the following activities:

- Creation of annual VPR-CLS linkage file (see NAACCR Call for Data Instructions), which many registries have already completed, thank you
- Development of a NCI Central IRB for minimal risk linkage studies
- Adoption of Templated IRB/Registry Application when use of the Central IRB is not possible
- Pursuit of funding for VPR participation
- Use of the new, flexible, fast, and user-friendly linkage software, Match*Pro
- Soft launch of the VPR-CLS
- Additional testing of encrypted inter-registry deduplication
- Informative webinars on many of the above topics!

I'd like to thank the registries that have worked with NCI on the U.S. Radiologic Technologist (USRT) Cohort Study. Information gathered during this VPR pilot test is informing ongoing development of the VPR-CLS. Currently, 26 registries have approved the study and 18 have released their data, accounting for 55% of the high quality matches that were identified during the initial linkage. NCI will compare the data received from the registries with information previously collected by self-report and medical record validation, giving us real-life feedback on the value of multi-registry linkages facilitated by the VPR-CLS.

I look forward to working with the registry community in the coming year and, as always, welcome your thoughts!

STEERING COMMITTEE CORNER

Susan T. Gershman, MS, MPH, PhD, CTR
Massachusetts Cancer Registry

Welcome to the Steering Committee Corner! This column will provide brief Steering Committee updates such as new reports or projects, coding changes, new data standards, requests for priority area network members for specific workgroups, and other information that NAACCR Steering Committees feel the NAACCR community should be aware of. We hope that this column helps to connect us as we continue to move forward with enhanced cancer surveillance.

Communications Steering Committee (CSC)

Co-Chairs: Laura Ruppert

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- XML workgroup messaging roll-outs.
- Web site search engine optimization project is in process to improve search capabilities.
- NAACCR Narrative new design rolled out to positive reviews.

- Social Media Campaigns
  – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Cancer Conference.
  – Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November).

Recent Reports/Publications:

- Frank Boscoe had an article in the NAACCR Narrative.
- Hannah Weir had a report on the NAACCReview Blog Site that highlighted several reports.

Other News to share with the NAACCR Community' PAN interests:

- Committee will be active with World Cancer Day 2018. Staff have worked with World Cancer Day organizers in planning process since October 2017.

Professional Development Steering Committee (PDSC)

Co-Chairs: Frances Ross and Mignon Dryden

Committee Highlights since last Narrative: **See separate article**

Research and Data Use Steering Committee (RDUSC)

Co-Chairs: Hannah Weir and Susan Gershman

Training/Education:

- SEER Tools webinar to be scheduled.

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- Cancer Control Indicators Task Force: Working with NCI to incorporate Confidence Intervals for interpreting the ranking using the NCI CI*Rank prior to releasing.
- Confidentiality Task Force: The task force will review materials and update what is on the web. Other issues include hashed data for linkages and spatial data. A conference call is scheduled for January 2018.
- Cancer Fact Sheet Work Group: This group is developing state cancer fact sheets to promote state and national level cancer surveillance education and advocacy. Additional state-level facts will be developed to assist states in fulfilling NPCR grant requirements.
- Hannah Weir was one of the editors of, *Cancer*, Volume 123 / Issue 24, December 15, 2017 Supplement to Cancer: Population-Based Cancer Survival in the United States (2001-2009): Findings From the CONCORD-2 Study.
- If you have a suggestion for a journal club or surveillance webinar topics, please contact Hannah Weir (**hweir@cdc.gov**) or Susan Gershman (**gershman@state.ma.us**).

Standardization & Registry Development (S&RD)

Chair: Mary Jane King and Lori Koch

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- Completed a revised charter and work plan.
- Requesting all task forces and work groups complete similar documents and attend a steering committee meeting to give an update on their task force or work group's progress.
- Provided the NAACCR Board with a recommendation to fully implement the XML format along with a proposed timeline.
- XML FAQ and blog now established on NAACCR site, **https://www.naaccr.org/xml-data-exchange-standard/**.
- Currently reviewing recommendations from the Registry of the Future Workshop.

NAACCR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Frances Ross and Mignon Dryden
Co-Chairs, Professional Development Steering Committee

Below are some highlights of the activities and projects currently being undertaken by the Professional Development Steering Committee:

- Continue to work with authors to update remaining PowerPoint presentations for the Survey Course which is available on our Learning Management System (LMS). Identify others who may be interested in updating or providing voice overs as needed. 13 presentations are posted on the LMS and available for membership viewing. This was formerly the "Short Course" and has proven to be a great resource for registries wanting more information on specific topics on state/regional cancer registry operations.
- Identify ways NAACCR can assist registries with Recruitment and Retention. The committee invited Lori Swain, Executive Director of NCRA, to share their progress with Recruitment and Retention on our December call. Lori suggested surveying the Central Registry directors and managers to identify topics of interest, areas of need and approaches to future educational venues for NAACCR and the Professional Development Steering Committee. This survey is under construction and will be sent out soon!
- Create a breakout session at the upcoming meeting in Pittsburgh focusing on the above-mentioned R&R survey results.
- Develop some policies and procedures for the student posters and presentations at the Annual Conference. These Policies and Procedures would provide guidelines for the Program Committee, as well as the student participants, and help ensure consistency in this program for future annual conferences. A work group was formed; they felt like many of the criteria for judging posters and presentations already existed and they formalized these into a Policy and Procedures document.
- At a roundtable discussion at the 2017 NAACCR Annual Conference in Albuquerque, while exploring ideas for Retention and Recruitment of Informatics professionals, the idea of a Hack-a-thon was introduced. Michelle Esterly has been the work group leader on this project, and she has been talking to contacts at the University of Pittsburg, setting up calls, and soliciting their participation and support for this activity. So far, there has been great interest and enthusiasm shown for this idea, and the committee secured the University of Pittsburgh for the venue. Look for more details on this exciting event to come out next month.

NAACCR 2018 CONFERENCE

Wendy Aldinger, RHIA, CTR
2018 NAACCR Program Chair

The Pennsylvania Cancer Registry is honored to host the 2018 NAACCR Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, June 9 through June 16. Pittsburgh is continually recognized as a must-see destination. Most recently, *Harper's Bazaar* named Pittsburgh one of the "Best Places to Travel in 2017." With all of the outstanding attractions including museums, art galleries, championship sports teams, award-winning restaurants and so much more, you're going to love Pittsburgh.

The theme of this year's conference is: "Bridging the Path to the Future of Cancer Surveillance." The 2018 conference's plenary sessions will cover advances in precision medicine, the legal side of cancer surveillance, new data and new data sources, clinical outcome improvement and planning for the future. Pre-conference workshops include SEER* Stat Workshops, Geocoding Operations and Match*Pro. The popular YOUNG Talks and Birds of Feather sessions will once again be offered.

The Tuesday Evening Opening Reception will include Pittsburgh inspired cuisine, a DJ spinning our favorite tunes and a photo booth to create a memento. Fun will be had by all. The program committee is also working on some fun activities for Wednesday afternoon. Stay tuned for more information.

Registration and information updates can be found on the NAACCR Annual Conference web site.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Sincerely,

Wendy Aldinger, RHIA, CTR
Manager, Pennsylvania Cancer Registry

POPULATION-BASED CANCER SURVIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES (2001-2009): FINDINGS FROM THE CONCORD-2 STUDY

Hannah K Weir, PhD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"The papers in this supplement show large, consistent and persistent racial disparities for many leading cancers diagnosed in the United States." said Hannah Weir, PhD, in CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. "These disparities underscore the need for more targeted efforts to ensure that all people receive recommended cancer screening, and that all cancer patients receive timely and appropriate high-quality treatment."

Cancer published a CDC-led journal supplement focused on cancer survival in the US. This supplement was released on Dec 5, 2017 and all articles are open access (https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/research/articles/concord-2-supplement.htm). Each of the cancer-specific papers in the supplement includes clinical and cancer control perspectives. These perspectives highlight how clinical practice may have had an impact on population-based cancer survival trends, and how states funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program can use population-based survival data, along with incidence and mortality data, to inform cancer control activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helps to support a nationwide network of population-based cancer registries that collect information regarding all patients diagnosed with cancer. These data tell a compelling story about the disproportionate burden of lower cancer survival experienced by vulnerable populations, and can be used by state and national partners to inform cancer control activities.

The supplement includes a forward, **The essential role of population-based cancer survival in cancer control in the United States (pages 4961-4962)** and an introductory article, **Population-based Cancer Survival in the United States (2001-2009): findings from the CONCORD-2 study (pages 4963-4968)**. The introduction provides survival estimates by race (black, white), state of residence at diagnosis, and stage at diagnosis for nine solid tumors in adults (stomach, colon, rectum, liver, lung, female breast, cervix, ovary and prostate cancer), and for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children. Data are from 37 statewide cancer registries that participated in the CONCORD-2 study covering 80% of the US population.

One of the original articles may be of particular interest to the cancer surveillance community, **The history and use of cancer registry data by public health cancer control programs in the United States (pages 4969-4976)**. This article covers a broad overview of the history and use of cancer registry data for cancer control programs. This article details how cancer registry data can be used to inform public health action.

NEW SOC ASSIGNMENT FOR CANCER REGISTRARS

Lori Swain, MS
National Cancer Registrars Association & NCRA Education Foundation

NCRA is pleased to announce that our work to create a more specific Standard Occupational Classification for Cancer Registrars has been successful! The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced yesterday the creation of the new distinct detailed occupation code of "Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars" in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

The new detailed occupation code reflects the increase use of data to improve medical treatment and care and the critical role cancer registrars play in collecting that data. The new code will also ensure that the statistics on the cancer registry workforce will be more accurate, providing a clearer understanding of the current and future workforce needs; correct salary information will help recruit and retain qualified individuals; and skill-appropriate personnel will be hired to fill cancer registrar positions at both the central and hospital levels.

As you have heard me speak about previously; this is something NCRA has been working on since 2004! Starting with the 2020 census cancer registrars will no longer be related as a profession to 29-2071 Medical Records and Health Information Technicians! Here is info on our new SOC location and details:

29-9021: Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars

"Apply knowledge of healthcare and information systems to assist in the design, development, and continued modification and analysis of computerized healthcare systems. Abstract, collect, and analyze treatment and follow-up information of patients. May educate staff and assist in problem solving to promote the implementation of the healthcare information system. May design, develop, test, and implement databases with complete history, diagnosis, treatment, and health status to help monitor diseases."

Illustrative examples: Cancer Registrar, Health Informatics Specialist, Health Information Analyst

Our press release on this success is attached for your information. Thanks to you for your support in helping this come to fruition.