MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

As I contemplated my first message as President, I searched for something to inspire, something that conveyed all the mixed feelings I had after all that has happened this summer, and something that might carry us forward this fall as we tackle new data requirements. As a scientist who is *not* trained in the art of inspirational writing, I looked for quotes in the vast "inter-web" by people who came before me; certain that I would find the words that escaped me. I found this:

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

This is a quote often (falsely) attributed to Sir Winston Churchill, but some believe it is a derivative of a quote by Sir Norman MacEwen, who was a senior commander in the British Royal Air Force during the first half of the 20th century. But regardless of its origins, it embodies all that I hoped to convey in this first message – thoughtful gratitude, unwavering dedication, and steadfast commitment to make life better for all who face cancer.

- It reflects the legacy of our colleague and mentor, and the 2014 recipient of the NAACCR Calum S. Muir Award, April Fritz, RHIT, CTR, who passed away on September 12, 2017. She was a leader and mentor to many of us in the cancer registry community and truly gave of her time and expertise to advance our field for more than 30 years.
- It reflects the overwhelming generosity of our NAACCR community who give so much of themselves as part of committees, work groups, and task forces across all 5 priority areas. This is true on any given day of the week, but is even more pronounced now as we prepare for the 2018 data changes. Members of the Change Management Board, Standardization & Registry Development (S&RD) Steering Committee, the SSDI Task Force, ICD-O-3 Implementation Work Group, the Uniform Data Standards Work Group, and the 2018 Implementation Guidelines Task Force are now meeting more frequently alongside the members of the NAACCR office, Jim Hofferkamp and Lori Havener, in order to get the job done! Their willingness to give their time means that all registries will be that much closer to preparing for the 2018 data changes. Please join me in thanking our colleagues at the next opportunity you have through an email or phone call or on your next NAACCR webinar or on social media (#thankyouNAACCR!). Visit the NAACCR

website for a complete list of committee, work group, and task force members under S&RD.

- Finally, this quote reflects how I personally feel about the NAACCR community. Many of you know that Kevin Henry and I were married this past summer on July 22nd. What you may not know is that Betsy Kohler served as our Officiant! It was a wonderful, personal touch and we thank her with all our hearts for making our day super special. Also, many friends and colleagues wished us good luck and even threw me a surprise bridal shower in New Mexico (ahem…what happens at the bridal shower, stays at the bridal shower!). Anyway…Kevin and I wanted to say thank you to everyone who made our summer so memorable, giving us all your heartfelt love and support! We hope to give back as much as we have been given. See below for the photos from the wedding and the bridal shower (at least the ones I could share :-)).

– Nan

Photos

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

I am pleased to introduce a new format for the *NAACCR Narrative*. The new look and layout are the work of the Communications Steering Committee. This edition is full of important updates, and a few personal communications including a memorial to April Fritz, and photos of a NAACCR wedding!

I am also pleased to report that NAACCR was well represented at the 39th Annual Conference of the International Association of Central Cancer Registries in Utrecht, Netherlands. About 20 NAACCR members attended, and gave oral presentations and submitted several posters on our collective work.

Many NAACCR members and their families have been touched by the numerous national disasters that have affected the U.S. this fall and they are in our hearts and thoughts. The Board of Directors will be discussing ways to help those affected by these disasters and we will be sharing more information with you soon.

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. The timeline below reflects what we hope to achieve for the release of Standards Volume II, Version 18.

STANDARDS VOLUME II, VERSION 18 UPDATED TIMELINE

UDS final review of Standards Volume II, Version 18	November 14, 2017
Draft submitted to NAACCR Board for review/approval	December 1, 2017
Post to NAACCR website	January 1, 2018
Version 18 Implementation	January 1, 2018

2018 IMPLEMENTATIONS AND TIMELINES:

NAACCR and the standard setting agencies developed the *2018 Implementations and Timelines* document that includes the timelines for the 2018 implementation of:

- AJCC 8th Edition Chapters Updates to Histologies
- ICD-O-3 Histology Revisions
- Standards Volume II, Version 18
- New and revised histology terms and/or codes
- CoC 2018 STORE Manual
- SEER Summary Stage 2018
- SEER EOD 2018
- MP/H Rules (solid tumor manual)
- EDITS
- 2018 Implementation Guidelines

All agencies are diligently working to meet the deadlines in the timeline. Updates to the *2018 Implementations and Timelines* will be submitted via the NAACCR ListServ. A list of the new data items for Standards Volume II, Version 18 was released with the *2018 Implementations and Timelines* V1.3.

STANDARDS VOLUME II, VERSION 19:

There is so much activity for 2018 right now it seems crazy to even think about what is coming for 2019! The basic timeline below is a simplified version for Standards Volume II,

Version 19 to let folks know when new and/or revised data item requests should be submitted to the Change Management Board.

<div align="center">STANDARDS VOLUME II, VERSION 19 TIMELINE</div>

All new/revised data item requests submitted to the Change Management Board	November 1, 2017
Standards Volume II draft submitted to NAACCR Board for review/approval	June 1, 2018
Post to NAACCR website	July 1, 2018
Version 19 Implementation	January 1, 2019

XML DATA EXCHANGE IS COMING!

The Standardization and Registry Development Steering Committee and the XML Data Exchange WG proposed a plan to implement the XML data exchange standard (https://www.naaccr.org/xml) starting with this year's NAACCR Call for Data. For more information read the XML article in this newsletter.

NAACCR RESEARCH AND DATA USE UPDATE

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

It feels like summer here in Southern California—record high temperatures with baseball and fires dominating the news. But the calendar says it is, indeed, Fall, so even in SoCal it is all about the NAACCR 2018 Call for Data.

CALL FOR DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- We have a new on-line submission system. The Data Assurance Agreement and the Consent Forms will be downloaded and uploaded on-line. But on-line document signing won't be available until next year.
- We are collecting new, supplemental, tract-level area based social measures (ABSM). As with other tract-level derived data, the ABSM are calculated based on census tract using NAACCRPrep and then the tract id is stripped before submission to NAACCR. *NO supplemental data will be released to outside researchers.* However, additional research variables will be developed, evaluated, and presented to the NAACCR community prior to use and/or approved release. The data will be used to create and evaluate an SES Index, the Yost Index, as well as to develop and evaluate race/ethnic based cut-points to enable research on poverty for minority groups. Other potentially valuable research variables will be assessed for uniqueness and Fitness for Use with registry data.
  More details and a full list of the variables being derived is available on our website: https://www.naaccr.org/call-for-data/. Registries have the option to include or exclude the supplemental data within NAACCRPrep.
- **Geocoding** Some registries are still geocoding their cases for CFD. We will be asking questions about your geocoding operations during the submission process including years of data processed and if you are using the NAACCR Geocoder. The questions can be printed out and provided to the person who geocodes your cases, since the person who submits the data is not necessarily the same person geocoding the data.

GEOCODER UPDATES

- **Alias Tables** The NAACCR Geocoder can now accommodate Alias Tables for cities/towns. It is recommended that you test your Alias Tables first. Using Alias Tables benefit registries with areas that have regional or historic names for towns that are still in use locally but are not the standard address name. Alias Tables can also be used to accommodate for nonstandard but common abbreviations in city names or common misspellings. If you find you conduct a lot of repeated, manual correction of city names, it would be efficient to create an Alias Table for your registry. The Geocoder will be able to accommodate other place names, such as vanity street names or facility names that are entered into the street address rather than the supplemental field. *Please contact me at rsherman@naaccr.org if you would like to provide an Alias Table for the NAACCR Geocoder. We will provide guideance on how to test your Alias Table.*
- **MicroMatch Status** We are now in the process of testing the MicroMatch Status variable. We know the Beta version is not specific enough and is labeling more cases "Needs Review" than is useful. *Please contact me at rsherman@naaccr.org if you would like to test the MicroMatch Status variable.*
- **Penalty Score** In order to understand how the MicroMatch Status was selected, we have another new variable, the Penalty Score. This is a 13 digit coded field that provides information on why a case was coded as "Needs Review" prior to use for sub-county analysis. This will be useful for identifying global geocoding problems in

your data as well as being crucial to improving the selections for the MicroMatch Status. The variable will be incorporated into the NAACCR geocoder by early next year.

- **Manual Geocoding Interface** We have a new tool to assist NAACCR Members in resolving ungeocodable and "Needs Review" cases for sub-county analysis. A version has already been incorporated in the SEER*DMS system. As mentioned previously, this interface uses the additional address information available from "Exhaustive Search" to interactively correct and geocode problem addresses. Once the Penalty Score is incorporated in the NAACCR Geocoder, we will release an on-line version along with a set of instructions.
- **Geocoding Training** We will provide a pre-conference workshop on Geocoding at the NAACCR 2018 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. The training will provide details of the recent improvements and and hands-on experience with the new Gecoding features.

NAACCR EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

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

We just finished the first webinar NAACCR in the 2017-2018 webinar series! The topic was Prostate. We reviewed anatomy, staging, treatment and of course we had the very popular Epi Moment hosted by Recinda Sherman. We also spent a fair amount of time discussing what will be new for prostate cases starting with cases diagnosed in 2018. Our November webinar will be on Larynx.

We are gearing up for next CTR. Pre-Registration should open in mid-November. One of the things I really like about the series is the interaction between the participants. 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 NACCR 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

OCTOBER 2017

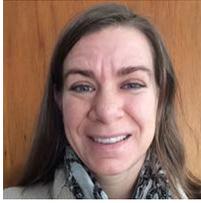|	
10/05/2017	Collecting Cancer Data: Prostate
10/10/2017	CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series Session 8
10/19/2017	NAACCR Talk: Cancer in Vulnerable Populations

NOVEMBER 2017

11/02/2017	Collecting Cancer Data: Larynx

DECEMBER 2017

12/07/2017	Collecting Cancer Data: Uterus

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).

VIRTUAL POOLED REGISTRY UPDATE

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

The beauty of fall has arrived to my telecommuting location in New Hampshire. This time of year elicits a desire to slow down, but things are busier than ever, as I know is true for all registries as they prepare for the various calls for data. I'm sure we will all welcome a bit of a reprieve as the holidays approach!

I'd like to thank everyone who responded to the Virtual Pooled Registry (VPR) survey about future use of a Central IRB as well as use of the templated IRB/Registry form and templated data use agreement. We are looking forward to reviewing your feedback, updating the templates, and getting a better sense of what is possible in each registry.

Various aspects of the VPR system continue to be developed as we prepare for a soft launch of the system in early 2018. In December, we will host a webinar to provide details on the VPR vision and how the system will function. In the meantime, I hope you are getting excited about some of the benefits that the VPR will offer cancer registries, including:

- Initial feasibility and technical review of VPR linkage requests by a committee of your peers
- A single portal for sharing files (excluding individual-level registry data)
- Availability of dedicated Central IRB for reviewing minimal risk linkage studies
- Receipt of standardized cohort files validated by IMS
- New flexible, fast, and user-friendly linkage software
- Future funding for VPR participation

On another note, a second test of the hashed (encrypted) inter-registry matching process was performed and compared to the gold standard probabilistic linkage. This linkage occurred between three large registries with shared state borders (CT, NJ, and NY). In addition to reviewing person-level matches, staff from these registries met in person to review tumor-level matches and attempt to determine some automated rules for match adjudication. It was a very fruitful meeting and the results will help determine next steps for this initiative.

As always, I encourage your ongoing feedback and perspective regarding development of the VPR. Any questions or comments can be sent to me at cclerkin@naaccr.org.

NAACCR PLAN TO FULLY IMPLEMENT XML BY 2020

Mary Jane King, MPH, CTR
NAACCR Standardization and Registry Development Steering Committee Co-Chairperson
MaryJane.King@cancercare.on.ca

Isaac Hands
NAACCR Board Representative-At-Large
isaac@kcr.uky.edu

NAACCR is now firmly committed to changing its Volume II data exchange format from fixed-width to an Extensible Markup Language file format (XML) by 2020. A plan and timeline for this change was approved by the NAACCR Board of Directors at their September, 2017 meeting based on recommendations from the NAACCR XML Workgroup and the Standardization and Registry Development Steering Committee.

The move to adopt an XML-based data exchange format addresses the rigidity and extensibility limitations of the current fixed-width format as the NAACCR community seeks to provide leadership in an era of personalized medicine, increasing pace of scientific breakthroughs, and rapidly changing data standards. XML will provide greater flexibility in defining and transmitting NAACCR data items, allowing cancer surveillance to keep pace with the rapidly changing needs of the clinical, research, and cancer surveillance communities. XML will also eliminate the loss of data due to restrictions in the fixed-width format for large data items critical to cancer surveillance, such as clinical text. In addition, it will enable greater semantic interoperability with healthcare data standards that have already moved to XML.
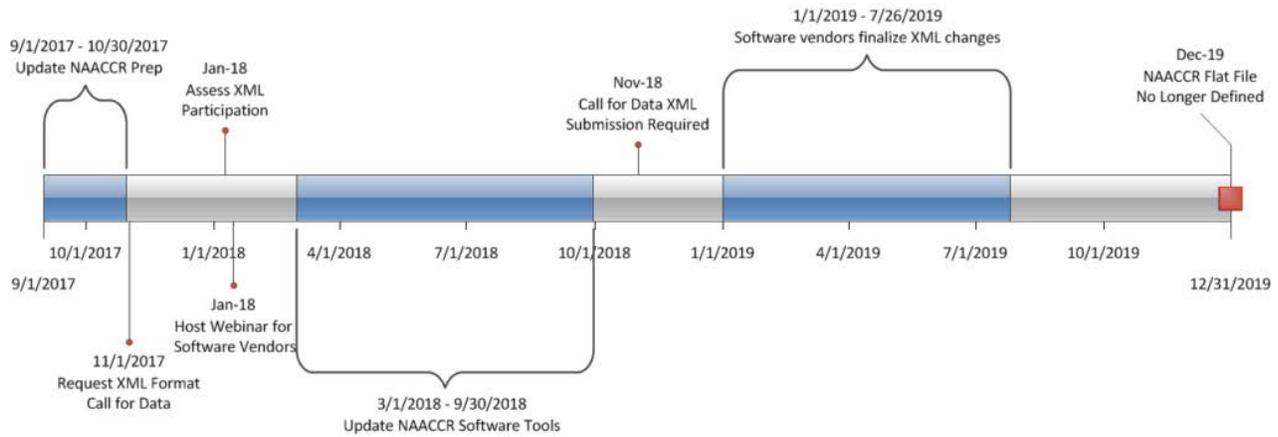
Transitioning from the fixed-width data exchange format to NAACCR XML will require a coordinated effort throughout the NAACCR Community, including input from many Steering Committees and Workgroups. Initial discussions between the NAACCR XML WG, the NAACCR Standards and Registry Development Steering Committee, and the NAACCR Communications Steering Committee have already begun.

The NAACCR organization will be focused on meeting the needs related to this important transition to XML for the various cancer registry, cancer surveillance, and standard setter stakeholders. NAACCR will provide communication, webinars, documentation, and other training, tools, FAQs to support the rollout timeline.

Important milestones on the XML rollout timeline:

- NAACCR will strongly encourage, but not require, the 2017 NAACCR Call for Data submission files to be submitted in the most recent NAACCR XML format (currently v1.3).
- NAACCR will require the 2018 and all later NAACCR Call for Data submission files to be submitted in the most recent NAACCR XML format.
- Starting with the 2020 Volume II Data Dictionary changes (typically planned in 2019 for 2020 diagnoses and later), NAACCR will no longer support fixed-width formatting.

Fixed-width format references will be removed entirely, and cancer registry vendors will need to adapt their products to XML for use at every level of reporting, including hospital and jurisdictional levels.

STEERING COMMITTEE CORNER

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 and Robin Malicki

Training/Education:

- Dustin completed the recording of the Causeway Tutorial

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- Social Media Campaigns
- World Cancer Day
- National Cancer Registrars' Week
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Cancer Conference
- NAACCReview
- 2017 NAACCR Conference
- Pre-conference activities
- Calum Muir/Constance Percy Awards
- Annual Report to the Nation
- NAACCR CEO Gold Standard
- New Website Design
- Passing of April Fritz
- *NAACCR Narrative* Prototype approved
- Certification Press Release
- 168,000 headline impressions, 1055 actual reads

Recent Reports/Publications:

- NAACCReview Blog Site-18 articles

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE (PDSC)

Co-Chairs: Frances Ross and Mignon Dryden

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- Work to update the Survey Course, "Understanding Population Based Cancer Registries" to web-based learning modules is almost complete. The last of the modules needing the Voice-Over portion of their PowerPoint presentations are being done. A gradual release is planned.
- The Learning Management System (LMS), successfully in use with the CTR Prep Course, will be utilized for the Survey Course.
- The NAACCR Member Awards Program is now under the Professional Development Steering Committee as of June 2017. This will help showcase the benefits that come from volunteering and actively participating in NAACCR Work Groups and projects.
- Work on updating the Policies and Procedures for the NAACCR Student Posters and Presentations was started by a small workgroup with the goal of having a draft P&P to present for Board review in October.

Other News to share with the NAACCR Community:

- Discussion on developing and implementing strategies for Recruitment and Retention in Central Registries continues to be a major priority. Efforts are focused on two major careers (Registrars and Epidemiologists).
- Work continues on developing a specific action plan to increase awareness and employment in these fields.

- A round table discussion on IT and Informatics Recruitment and Retention was held at the NAACCR Conference with good discussion and a recommendation to hold a Hack-a-thon at next year's NAACCR Conference in Pittsburgh.

RESEARCH AND DATA USE STEERING COMMITTEE (RDUSC)

Co-Chairs: Hannah Weir and Susan Gershman

Training/Education:

- *Identifying Target Areas for Colorectal Cancer Screening in Louisiana through Geospatial Analyses* presented July 20, 2017.
- *Online Interactive Tool to Improve the Understanding of Cancer Survival Statistics* presented September 14, 2017

Committee Highlights since last Narrative:

- Cancer Control Indicators Task: 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.
- Fitness for Use Matrix: Using the information from the Data Assessment Workgroup, create a matrix of the capacity for research by registry by research type. The matrix will improve and expand upon what is currently available: https://www.naaccr.org/research-capabilities-by-registry. This assessment of research capacity may highlight additional elements for consideration in NAACCR Certification.
- 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.
- 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)

Co-Chairs: Mary Jane King and Lori Koch

Other News to share with the NAACCR Community:

- XML Implementation Plan (XML WG) for Volume II format was approved by NAACCR Board at their September meeting. Particulars coming soon.
- In process of obtaining Charters and Work plans from each S&RD work group and task force. Hopefully these can become interactive with a steering committee summary page. If it works, we'll share.

- Twice a year each workgroup and task force will be invited to give a live report to the steering committee monthly call. Starts this October.
- ROAG, the Registry Operations Advisory Group, has been formally disbanded. ROAG-like task forces can be struck when necessary.

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

NAACCR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Greetings to All NAACCR Members!

Have you been looking for a new challenge? Are you seeking a new way to contribute to the cancer surveillance community? Would you like to contribute to NAACCR decisions in a new way? If you answered "yes," or even "maybe" to any of these questions – keep reading – we can help.

This time of the year is very important time for our organization as we start the process of identifying volunteers to serve on the NAACCR Board. The NAACCR Nominating Committee is seeking nominees to run for election in five key leadership roles in 2018: President Elect, three (3) openings for Representative-At-Large, and a Sponsoring Organization Representative.

NAACCR has been a unique and innovative partner in the cancer registration world for over 30 years and volunteers have been a mainstay of our organization's success. One of the many important ways that volunteers contribute to NAACCR is by serving on the Board of Directors. Through guiding existing programs and identifying future opportunities, Board members play a pivotal role in governing NAACCR affairs and moving the organization forward.

NAACCR recognizes that it is fortunate to have knowledgeable, dedicated, and progressive members who volunteer each year to serve on the Board. These members of the NAACCR community generously contribute their time and expertise, allowing NAACCR to make significant, valuable contributions to cancer surveillance.

Please consider recommending a qualified colleague for one of the four 2018 vacancies. Or, nominate yourself! For additional information on duties and eligibility, please click **here**.

The Nomination Form is available **here**. If you have issues with this form please contact Dustin Dennison (**ddennison@naaccr.org**).

The deadline for receipt of nomination forms is *5:00 PM, Friday, December 8, 2017*.

Nominating Committee Members:
Kyle L. Ziegler, Chair
Cancer Registry of Greater California
kziegler@crgc-cancer.org
Ginger Williams

New Mexico Cancer Registry
vwilliam@nmtr.unm.edu

Sarah Nash
Alaska Native Tumor Registry
shnash@anthc.org

CAP PATHOLOGY ELECTRONIC REPORTING UPDATE

The PERT committee met September 11-13, 2017, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. This in-person meeting covered a great number of topics including updating the goals and strategy of the committee and reviewing work done by the Reporting Workgroup on template formatting and margins. Other topics of interest to the NAACCR community included updates on the following:

- The **June 2017 CAP electronic Cancer Checklist (eCC) release** which incorporated updates from the latest CAP Cancer Protocols including the new AJCC 8th Edition Cancer Staging Manual requirements. These include 53 eCC resection templates with over 7300 changes (updates to stage classification, tumor extension, margins, lymph nodes, and total protocol revision in some cases).
- **Biopsy templates** released September 25, 2017.
- **Autopsy template** PERT is working in conjunction with the CAP's Autopsy committee on the Autopsy data entry form project, with Autopsy committee providing the content and PERT working on formatting for eCC structured data capture.
- **California Cancer Data Modernization Consortium Project** – work continues on meeting requirements of new state law requiring all pathologists to report electronically to the California Cancer Registry by January 1, 2019, with the Implementation Guidelines released in July and the registration portal now open.
- **Texas Cancer Registry** Josephs in Lubbock is introducing eCCs as they have done successfully in California. The Texas Society of Pathologists has an ad hoc committee looking into the impact of using eCCs and/or some form of synoptic reporting. The Texas Cancer Registry would like receive as much structured data as possible in order to maximize automation.
- **ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncologists) CancerLinQ** – aims to organize and make usable the data from the 97% of patients that don't go into clinical trials. 100+ oncology practices signed up to date. Working with CAP to integrate eCC more formally into CancerLinQ.
- **Cancer Synoptic Reports and SNOMED CT Harmonization** – a cancer protocol mapping project discussed by Dr. Scott Campbell.
- **Cancer Care Ontario's** 8th Edition eCC and new XML format adoption in Ontario – their success and future work.
- **Ask The Pathologist (ATP)** activity including the number of questions per month, the number by primary site (breast was the most frequent site) and the turn-around time for answers.

Mignon Dryden, CTR
NAACCR Liaison to PERT

AJCC 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Report to the NAACCR Board of Directors | September 7-8, 2017

The first session was the Executive Committee meeting, which started with a discussion of updates to the AJCC Staging Manual 8th edition, which have occurred since the first printing in the fall of 2016. The delay in implementation from January, 2017 to January, 2018 allowed the AJCC the opportunity to work with the cancer surveillance community, the pathology community, and the clinical decision support software developers to make improvements that will help all audiences – from registrars to clinicians to software developers. Using an additional year of data from the NCDB, the AJCC Breast Expert Panel has significantly revised the Prognostic Stage tables, and thus the critical content of the Breast Chapter. Other significant updates include revisions to the Head and Neck chapter sites, and to the histology inclusion list in all chapters. In order to communicate these changes widely to the community, and to ease the burden on those who purchased the first printing of the manual, the entire Breast Chapter will be made publicly available online in October, 2017, and replacement pages for all updates and corrections made to the entire manual will be available in December, 2017. A statement to this effect was drafted and approved by the Committee, with minor wording changes, and is set for release by the end of September.

A good deal of discussion followed regarding a communication strategy for the broad dissemination of revisions and updates to the AJCC Staging Manual. AJCC plans to post these on their web site, and send an email notification to all members of the Commission on Cancer as well as the AJCC members. The liaisons to the various partner organizations of CoC and AJCC will be expected to convey the notification of the changes and postings to their organizations. Most of the updates are expected to be finalized by October, but all will be posted by December. All of these changes will be included in the AJCC's API for licensed users by December, as well.

The next topic addressed was the implementation of the 8th edition Manual. All required data items for staging have been finalized. An issue with the histology inclusion lists for each chapter, which would have resulted in approximately a 29% drop in stageable cases, had been brought to the attention of the AJCC. Efforts to review and revise these lists are almost completed, and will be communicated along with the other updates mentioned above. AJCC is also working with representatives of CAP and NCCN in order to facilitate the implementation of AJCC 8th edition contents with CAP protocols and NCCN guidelines for patient care.

AJCC is collaborating with its partner organizations, particularly NPCR, SEER, NCRA, and NAACCR, to provide education and training on AJCC staging principles and classification schemes for the entire cancer community. They have just recently posted five new disease site webinars for AJCC 7th edition staging of prostate, breast, lung, melanoma, and colorectal cancers. Donna Gress, RHIT, CTR, of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) has recorded a series of webinars developed for and delivered to the NPCR Education Training Coordinators (ETC). NPCR has agreed to share these recordings and handouts with the registrar community. These webinars provide information on the

assignment of stage, clarification of classification criteria with procedure/treatment differences and highlighting common questions and case scenarios.

The next topic was the AJCC Application Programming Interface (API) maintenance and updates. This is a new area for AJCC, as their past publications have always been in a printed book format. The API is offered to software developers through a licensing agreement, and, once licensed, the software vendor may access the API through a web portal. This has required a transformation of the 8th edition contents into unambiguous and discrete information for program developers. They have been getting familiar with interoperability standards and using XML in the API. They has participated in the ACoC Interoperability meetings with clinicians, oncologists, and modelers to pilot real world work flow processes with a goal of moving to HL7 for balloting and acceptance.

Finally, the Executive Committee reviewed a draft of an AJCC Cancer Staging Content Governance Plan. Recognizing that the 'content' of the AJCC staging system also refers to such items as data elements, measurement ranges, terminologies and other aspects of cancer staging that may be used in data collection and the development of clinical decision support tools.

The strategy for the Content Governance Plan is to maintain and improve the 8th edition committee infrastructure, re-engage the expert panels and identify new contributors, include additional partner organizations, continuously evaluate the science underlying the staging classification system, and develop a regular production cycle that considers external stakeholder requirements. The draft of the Content Governance included an action plan as well as short and long term goals. The plan was well received by the Executive Committee and was presented to the other AJCC committees during the rest of the meeting.

After the Executive Committee meeting, the other committees (Finance, Education, and Informatics) all met to discuss the same topics, but in more detail, highlighting the work accomplished by each of the committees. The draft of the AJCC Cancer Staging Content Governance Plan was presented to the full membership at the end of the day. On the second day of the meeting, the AJCC members joined the Commission on Cancer sponsored Cancer Programs Conference and presented a session on the AJCC's mission and structure. An update on the AJCC Manual 8th edition, and an overview of the Content Governance Plan for 2018 and beyond was also presented to the larger CoC audience.

Frances Ross, CTR
NAACCR Liaison to AJCC

PUBLICIZE YOUR WORK

Francis P. Boscoe, PhD

NAACCR Board Representative-At-Large
francis.boscoe@health.ny.gov

You've published a paper. Congratulations!

You may feel relief that you've reached the finish line. You may immediately want to move onto the next interesting idea. But there is still one thing to do – fortunately, it's easy: publicize your work in the NAACCReview blog.

In doing so, you will make your work known to thousands of members of the cancer surveillance community, most of whom would not otherwise see it. You'll also be helping to publicize the many creative and innovative ways that cancer registry data are used in research. You might think that people will find it on their own, by browsing through the journal tables of contents or finding it through a database search. But let's be honest, few of us make the time to do this very often. A search for "cancer registry," "cancer registration," or "cancer surveillance" in the Scopus database yields 1,303 papers from 2017 alone – five per day. And that's only three search terms.

Taking advantage of the NAACCReview is a surer process. All you need to do is provide a link to your article and write an abstract-length summary of your work understandable by an educated layperson. We also ask for a recent photo (optional), for a personal touch. If you've published a paper in 2017, please submit it here. Please reach out to Rebecca Cassidy (rcassady@llu.edu) or Recinda Sherman (rsherman@naaccr.org) with any questions.

NAACCR TALKS NOW AVAILABLE!

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

The most recent NAACCR Talks are now posted!

- 7/20/2017 – Geocoder Webinar
- 09/14/2017 – Online Interactive Tool to Improve the Understanding of Survival Statistics
- 10/19/2017 – Cancer in Vulnerable Populations

The slides as well as the recordings are available here https://education.naaccr.org/

You will need to log in using your MyNAACCR login information. The log-in button is at the top center of the screen.

Once logged in, click on the NAACCR Talks button and a list of NAACCR Talks will appear.

Move your curser over the title of the webinar you want to view. Two blue boxes should appear. One says "register," the other says, "more information." Click on the one that says register. The product page will open.

Once the product page is opened the recording of the webinar will be located on the left side of the screen. The slides will be available in the Handouts tab.

Click on Webinar and a blue tab will appear that will say, "Click to View recording." Click on it and it will start playing for you.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are using Microsoft Edge you will need a different browser to view the webinar. Cisco WebEx does not support Microsoft Edge.

IN REMEMBERENCE – APRIL FRITZ

Fall 2017 NAACCR Narrative

APRIL GRAHAM FRITZ

November 19, 1949 – September 12, 2017

April Fritz passed away at her home in Reno, Nevada on September 12, 2017.

April Christine Graham was born in Rochester, Minnesota on November 19, 1948. She grew up in Moline, Illinois and attended local schools there. In high school, she participated in debate, the literary magazine, and the school orchestra. She was an accomplished cellist.

April graduated from Knox College in 1970 with honors in English literature. She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. At Knox, she met Bob Fritz. They were married in October of 1971. April spent 28 years as an Army spouse after Bob was recalled to active duty in 1976.

While living in Milwaukee in 1972, April was accepted for a position in the medical records department at Columbia Hospital. She soon came to specialize in tumor registry and earned certification as both a registered health information technician (RHIT) and as a certified tumor registrar (CTR). She is a past president of the Wisconsin Cancer Registrars Association and the National Tumor Registrars Association.

She eventually went to work for ELM Services where she traveled around the country training customers on the company's cancer data software system. In 1995, she accepted a position with the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program at the National Cancer Institute where she focused on data management and training. She was also the lead author of the International Classification of Disease for Oncology when the World Health Organization published a new edition in 2000.

Upon retiring from the NCI, April founded her company, A.Fritz and Associates and began offering training courses for registrars. April excelled in the classroom where she was able to organize and convey complex information to hundreds of students over the years. She had a wonderfully wry sense of humor. She published several books, including a two-volume desk reference for tumor registrars, which is also being used as a textbook at a number of colleges in their cancer information management programs.

April was a sought-after speaker for state and national tumor registry conferences. She also participated in training events around the world, including Australia, Japan, Singapore, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Kingdom.
Cancer was more than a matter of classification and statistics to April. She was a 25-year survivor of breast cancer and had been fighting pancreatic cancer for the last three and a half years.

April enjoyed travel, ballet, classical music, reading, cooking for and entertaining friends, and spending time with her rescued dogs. She also was on the Board of Directors of Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training (GRREAT) in Maryland for many years and edited their newsletter.

She is survived by her husband, Col. Robert G. Fritz and her sister, Robin Graham of East Moline, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that memorial donations be made to the NCRA Education Foundation. The family is working with NCRA to create a scholarship or educational program in April's name with the details being announced at the NCRA Annual Meeting in May.

Checks with "April Fritz Memorial" in the memo line may be sent to the NCRA Educational Fund, 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 520, Alexandria, VA 22314 or you may make an online donation in April's memory at https://tinyurl.com/April-Fritz-Memorial. Be sure to type April's name in the "in memory of" block.

Joint Statement by the National Cancer Registrars Association and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries in Memory of April Fritz, RHIT, CTR

April Fritz's name is interwoven throughout the story of cancer surveillance. We lost April yesterday to cancer, the disease to which she devoted her life's work.

As an employee in both the public and private sectors and as a volunteer to many nonprofits, April played a pivotal role advancing cancer surveillance and, in turn, improving public health. Both NCRA and NAACCR benefited from April's devotion and both organizations recognized her work and dedication with their highest honors.

Please join us in remembering April by keeping her family in your thoughts and continuing your hard work along the path that April helped build. We will continue to share information about formal remembrance events as they become known.

Betsy Kohler, MPH, CTR
Executive Director, NAACCR
Lori Swain, MS
Executive Director, NCRA

Submitted by:
Annette Hurlbut, RHIT, CTR
Elekta