

# The Sentinel

*The Newsletter for the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars*

Jan/Feb 2005

## **Message from the President: Elizabeth Tucker, CTR**

Hello everyone,

Christmas is over, we've taken down all the decorations and they are safely tucked away for another year. Now we wait!!! The groundhog in PA saw his shadow shadow! But whoever would listen to a groundhog? Weekend before last and last weekend we were 'wintered' in, this weekend it should be near 60 degrees. Weather is like the registry, if you aren't please with the way you must abstract, code etc, wait a while---it will change!!!!

Now that we have all those NCDB submissions and edits behind us, we can take a deep breath! Is that not a beast of a job! Please let me know if Your Registry is on its way to a Commendation (data submitted on time without errors)!

New Orleans is the site for the 2005 NCRA's annual educational meeting. The three-day program will be filled with opportunities for education and information. The 2005 conference opening session is on Monday morning. Linda Lee, Program Committee Chair tells us "that there will educational offerings such as research presentations, specialized tracks, hands-on workshops, physician presentations and much more." There will also be pre and post conference workshops. On Sunday and in the evenings there are several side trips available, or you can explore yourself! From April 8-10, there is a "French Quarter Festival". There will be free entertainment, musical performances on fifteen stages and nearly 60 food and beverages locations. In Jackson Square, Woldenberg Riverfront Park and Louisiana State Museum's Old US Mint will make up the World's Largest Jazz Brunch. Check the New Orleans web site for more ideas. Also, I thought it would be great if the NC registrars could have dinner together one night. Let's plan to meet in the lobby at 6:30 on Tuesday evening. We will find a great place, reasonable cost, and New Orleans atmosphere! Let me know how many of you are planning to attend the meeting. There are some issues with reservations at the Sheraton, if you have difficulty, please call me. I am working on a solution. I look forward to seeing you there!

Judy Robinson has served our organization very well over the last eight years with the A4C. Judy, we appreciate all that you have done by representing ANCCR these many years. Cathy Rimmer has been appointed to fulfill the term ending in August 2006.

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On another note-we have several members that are running for National Office. Inez Evans and Carol Burke are on the ballot for nominating committee. Linda Mulvihill is running for the position of Recruitment and Retention Director. Make sure you support our ANCCR representatives!

Remember that our CEs hours are due no later than February 28. You can complete the form on the web site of NCRA. Remember to save your paper work, in case of an audit.

I think it would be a great idea if those of you have been surveyed in the last year would write an article about your experiences. If I can be of any help to anyone preparing for the survey, give me a call. I have been trained as an Independent Consultant for the CoC/ACoS Survey, perhaps that might be help.

Let's hope for an early spring.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Tucker, CTR  
Cancer Program Coordinator  
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### 2004– 2005 ANCCR Board

<p><b>President:</b> Elizabeth Tucker <a href="mailto:Etucker@hprhs.com">Etucker@hprhs.com</a></p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> Carol Burke <a href="mailto:Carol.burke@pardeehospital.org">Carol.burke@pardeehospital.org</a></p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Noelle Vargas <a href="mailto:Noelle.vargas@mosescone.com">Noelle.vargas@mosescone.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Deborah Thorne <a href="mailto:Deborah.thorne@wilmed.org">Deborah.thorne@wilmed.org</a></p> <p><b>NCRA Liaison:</b> Linda Mulvihill <a href="mailto:Linda.mulvihill@ncmail.net">Linda.mulvihill@ncmail.net</a></p> <p><b>NCCCR Liaison:</b> Carol Dickinson <a href="mailto:Carol.dickinson@ncmail.net">Carol.dickinson@ncmail.net</a></p> <p><b>A4C Liaison:</b> Judy Robertson <a href="mailto:Judy.robertson@ncmail.net">Judy.robertson@ncmail.net</a></p> <p><b>Bylaws:</b> Leta Vess <a href="mailto:lvess@firsthealth.org">lvess@firsthealth.org</a></p>	<p><b>Education:</b> Inez Evans <a href="mailto:Ievans@wfubmc.edu">Ievans@wfubmc.edu</a></p> <p><b>Grants &amp; Vendors:</b> Paige Tedder <a href="mailto:Ptedder@northeastmedical.org">Ptedder@northeastmedical.org</a></p> <p><b>Historian:</b> Sheri Breitenbach <a href="mailto:Sherilyn.Breitenbach@rexhealth.com">Sherilyn.Breitenbach@rexhealth.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Deborah Carrethers <a href="mailto:dgcarrethers@novanthealth.org">dgcarrethers@novanthealth.org</a></p> <p><b>Nominating:</b> Blanche Sellars <a href="mailto:Annie.sellars@rexhealth.com">Annie.sellars@rexhealth.com</a></p> <p><b>Program:</b> Carol Burke <a href="mailto:Carol.burke@pardeehospital.org">Carol.burke@pardeehospital.org</a></p> <p><b>Publications:</b> Adaline Brown <a href="mailto:Adaline.brown@mosescone.com">Adaline.brown@mosescone.com</a></p> <p><b>Ways &amp; Means:</b> Kelly Lowrance <a href="mailto:Lowranck@gmh.org">Lowranck@gmh.org</a></p> <p><b>Web Site:</b> Cathy Rimmer <a href="mailto:Ccrimmer@novanthealth.org">Ccrimmer@novanthealth.org</a></p>
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## HOSPITAL PROFILE

### Rex Healthcare

Raleigh, NC 27607

Rex Healthcare was founded in 1894 and is a private-not-for-profit hospital located in Raleigh, NC. The 394-bed facility offers progressive yet personal healthcare services through comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care. Although Rex Hospital has occupied its current site at the corner of Lake Boone Trail and Blue Ridge Road since 1980, the Rex Cancer Center officially opened September 13, 1987. Rex has long been the number one choice for those in Wake County who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Rex Cancer Registry has a staff of 4 full-time and 2 casual-time registrars, and all six have achieved their CTR credentials. Our software is OncoLog. Rex Cancer Program is approved by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program. Our last ACoS survey was in May 2002 resulting in a 3-year approval with an excellent review and no contingencies. Our next survey will be in May 2005.

The registry accessioned 1759 cases last year bringing the total number of cases in the database to over 31,000 since our reference date of 1988. Our Cancer Registry staff consists of:

#### **Sheri Breitenbach, CTR - Coordinator**

Years of registry experience: 9

*Outside interests: I've been married to Larry for 31 years and we have two sons, Zach (25) (who graduated valedictorian from NC State plus was selected their most outstanding male athlete his senior year—but I NEVER brag) and Nate (23) (presently serving in the Coast Guard in Cape Cod). I enjoy photography, singing and playing the Autoharp, and painting (mostly clay pots).*

#### *Blanche Sellars, CTR*

Years of registry experience: 35

Recipient of Luna M. Woods Award: 9/2003

*Outside interests: I enjoy being with Ed, my husband of 40 years; spending time with my children John and Debbie and my grandchildren Jesse (13), Heather (9) and Cole (4). I enjoy reading and vacationing at the beach and mountains.*

#### *Angela Bates, CTR*

Years of registry experience: 7

*Outside interests: I married in May 2000 and moved to Raleigh from Johnson City, TN, in July 2001. I enjoy snow skiing, traveling, and spending time with my husband, Jason. We are hoping to start a family soon.*

*Dawn Williams, CTR*

Years of registry experience: 6

*Outside interests: I like spending time with my three sons and my grandchild. I also enjoy singing, reading, walking, and watching movies.*

*Melanie LaRusso*

Years of registry experience: 10

*Outside interests: I have been married to my husband, Larry, for 9 years. We have two daughters, Mallory (5) and Olivia (2). I enjoy reading, playing the flute, gardening, going to the movies, and being with my family.*

*Jane Brown, CTR*

Years of registry experience: 9

*Outside interests: Enjoy spending time with husband William and four spoiled cats. Also enjoy three "spirited" grandsons Tyler (7), Sam (4) and Jackson (2). Enjoy reading, movies, and travel when we can get away.*



From Left to Right: Dawn Williams, Sheri Breitenbach, Blanche Sellars, Angela Bates

## Letter from the Editor

It's hard to imagine that Cancer Registry Week, April 4-8 is just around the corner. Even though we only celebrate cancer registrars once a year, we should take confidence in knowing that what we do really does impact a lot of lives and we really do make a difference in people's lives everyday!

Congratulations again to all the programs that were surveyed in 2004 and passed. If you were surveyed in 2004 and were not able to meet commendation levels at the time of survey, don't forget to send in your documentation to upgrade your rating compliance to a 1+ to show compliance that your program met the Commendation standards by March 15, 2005.

Please let me know if there are any articles or any items of interest that you would like to see published. All members are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter. The deadline for submission of articles for the Mar/Apr 2005 newsletter is March 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to see your hospital profiled in one of our upcoming newsletters, please let me know. Feel free to call me at (336) 832-0832 or e-mail at [adaline.brown@mosescone.com](mailto:adaline.brown@mosescone.com).



### New Resources Available on the Web at CoC:

New changes and revisions to the standards for approved programs:

<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/standards.html> and  
<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/programstandards.html>.

Abridged version of the CAP Protocols Document:

<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/approval.html>

### Seer Registry Resource Available

The new SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2004 (Fourth Edition) can be downloaded or ordered from SEER free of charge at: <http://seer.cancer.gov>.

### Important Dates to Remember

NCRA National Conference: April 10-13, 2005, New Orleans, Louisiana (Early registration deadline is March 10, 2005)

Training in Cancer Data Collection-Summer 2005: August 1-5, 2005, Asheville, North Carolina

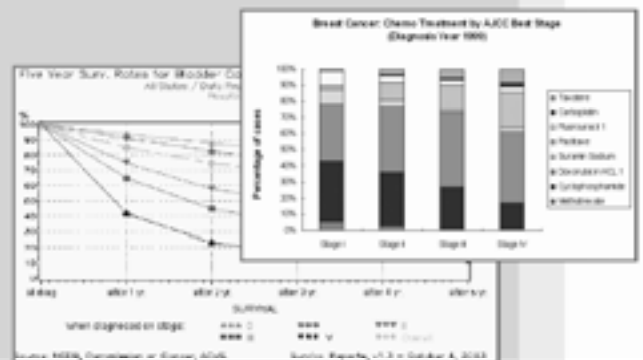


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