The Sentinel

The Newsletter for the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars

Spring 2023

Message from the President:
Angela Rodriguez, CTR

To My Fellow ANCCR Members-

It is finally starting to warm up in North Carolina, and I hope you are enjoying this time with your families.

ANCCR is working hard and bringing back our hybrid annual state meeting this October! This year we are going to be oceanfront in Wrightsville Beach. I hope to see a lot of you there. It is going to be nice to be able to network again and see familiar faces from our North Carolina CTR community.

Elections for the upcoming ANCCR board are coming up. If you are interested in running for a board position, please reach out to Isaiah Zipple at zisaiah@gmail.com

A big congratulations to Carol Brown (Pardee Hospital) and Colleen Lane (Duke) on submitting and winning the educational scholarship to attend the NCRA National Conference in San Diego! We can find their essays in this issue of the Sentinel.

A few reminders:

Membership dues can now be paid online. Please go to https://ncregistrars.com to pay those dues so you have access to the NAACCR webinars, job postings, and any important announcements.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let me know. We would love to see fresh faces and have fresh ideas on our committee boards. Please email me if you would like information on any of the committees we have.

During my tenure, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at President@ANCCR.onmicrosoft.com

Angela Rodriguez

ANCCR's Executive Board 2022-2023

Office	Name	Email
President	Angela Rodriquez, CTR	angela.rodriguez@adventhealth.com
Immediate Past President	Amy Arnold, BA, CTR	aarnold@mycrstar.com
Vice President	Cathy Rimmer, BA, MDiv, CTR	ccrimmer@novanthealth.org
Secretary	Carol Brown, CTR	carol.brown@unchealth.unc.edu
Treasurer	Laura Alberti, CTR	lsalberti@novanthealth.org
Committee	**Name**	**Email**
Bylaws	Adaline Brown, RHIT,CCS,CTR	abrown@q-centrix.com
Education	Kimberly Swing, CTR	kimberly.swing@duke.edu
Educational Scholarship	Inez Inman, BS, RHIT, CTR	iinman@wakehealth.edu
ANCCR Resource Manual	Melissa Pearson, CTR	melissa.pearson@dhhs.nc.gov
Facebook Administrator	Angela Rodriguez, CTR	angela.rodriguez@adventhealth.com
Grants & Vendors	Jonathon Rakestraw, BS, CTR	jrakestraw@mycrstar.com
Historian	Deborah Poovey, CTR	dpoovey7@gmail.com
Membership	Jenean Burris, RHIT, CTR	jburris@wakehealth.edu
Nominating	Isaiah Zipple, CTR	isaiah.zipple@unchealth.unc.edu
Program Director	Kelly Lowrance-Shaw, RHIT,CTR	kalowrance@novanthealth.org
	Paige Tedder, RHIT, CTR	paige.tedder@atriumhealth.com
Publications	Inez Inman, BS, RHIT, CTR	iinman@wakehealth.edu
Web Site Coordinator	Cathy Rimmer, BA, MDiv, CTR	ccrimmer@novanthealth.org
Ways & Means	Kisha Raynor, CTR	kisha.raynor@carolinashealthcare.org
	Kim Maloney Bobbitt, BS, CTR	KM0180@novanthealth.org
Liaisons	**Name**	**Email**
A4C Liaison	Deanna Gibson, CTR	deanna.gibson@mercy.net
NCRA Liaison	Angela Rodriguez, CTR	angela.rodriguez@adventhealth.com
NC CCR Liaison	Melissa Pearson, CTR	melissa.pearson@dhhs.nc.gov
ANCCR Resource Manual	Melissa Pearson, CTR	melissa.pearson@dhhs.nc.gov

Upcoming Annual Educational Conferences

ANCCR Educational Fall Meeting / In person & virtual
2023 – October 23-24, Shell Island Resort, 2700 N Lumina Ave.
Wrightsville Beach, NC
Room rates: $129.99 plus tax, Oct 22-24
Two queens or one king, 1.5 baths, living room, kitchenette,
And ocean front balcony.
Registration fee/in person: $175 for members, $200 non-members
Registration fee/virtual: $75 for members, $100 non-members

NCRA Educational Conference
2023 – May 7-10, San Diego, CA
2024 – Indianapolis, IN

TREASURER REPORT
Laura Alberti, CTR

ANCCR 2023 First Quarter Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance 12/31/2022:

Checking:	$33,211.39
Money Market:	$21,631.11
Total	$54,842.50

Deposits:

Membership Dues Income Jan-March	$3,827.00
2022 Fall Virtual Conference Registration	$1,951.00
2023 Fall Conference Vendor Registration	$350.00
2023 Fall Conference Registration	$3,325.00
Bank Interest Earned	$5.33
Website Job Posting	$150.00

Expenses:

Education Scholarship-NCRA Registration	$990.00
Website Fees	$1,830.13
Fall Conference Expense	$500.00 Hotel
Software Fees	$93.00 Microsoft & Quickbooks
President NCRA Conference	$1,860.40
Bank Statement Charges	$225.06

Total Deposits Checking	$9,603.00
Total Deposits Money Market	$5.33
Total Expenses Checking	$5,498.59
Total Expenses Money Market	$0.00

Ending Balance 03/31/2023:

Checking:	$37,315.80
Money Market:	$21,636.44
Total	$58,952.24

MEMBERSHIP
Jenean Burris, RHIT, CTR

As of 4/11/23, we have 170 members!
WEBSITE REPORT
Cathy Rimmer, BA, CTR

ANCCR has a reciprocal arrangement with the SC Association to post jobs and promote each group's meetings for free.

Policies and Procedures
Work continues with Policies and Procedures. The wording change has been submitted to the Bylaws Chair.

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BYLAWS REPORT
Adaline Brown, RHIT, CCS, CTR

Proposed bylaw changes for 2023

1st proposed change

ARTICLE IV
Officers
Section 2. Eligibility (under number 2.)
Current: To be eligible to serve as President, the active member must be a CTR and shall have previously held an office.
Proposed change: To be eligible to serve as President, the active members must be a CTR and shall have previously served on the Board as a committee member or held an office.
Rationale for change: The change will give a lot more members to be able to run for the president of our organization.

2nd proposed change

ARTICLE IV
Officers
Current: Section 6. Terms of office. The president, vice president and secretary shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. Treasurer shall be elected for term of two (2) years.
Proposed change: Section 6. Terms of office. The president, vice president and secretary shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. Treasurer shall be elected for term of three (3) years with the option to be elected for a second consecutive term.
Rationale for change: Due to the all the changes that are required when a new treasurer is elected not only getting names changed at the bank but with all the reporting rules for the IRS in addition to learning how to balance the books, etc once a new treasurers is elected it will help that particular person be more knowledgeable and fully understand all the changes before teaching someone else.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Isaiah Zipple, CTR

ANCCR is searching for volunteers. Please consider nominating yourself or another member for one of the following positions:
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Get involved, grow in your profession, show your skills, and have fun at the same time!

Contact Isaiah Zipple at isaiah.zipple@unchealth.unc.edu

ANCCR Officer Duties:

President:
- 1-year term with one re-election opportunity
- Facilitate quarterly ANCCR meetings
- Publishes article in each Sentinel newsletter
- Liaison between NCRA and NCCR

Vice President:
- 1-year term with one re-election opportunity
- Assumes duties of President in his/her absence
- Chairs the Program Committee

Secretary:
- 1-year term with one re-election opportunity
- Constructs agenda for ANCCR meetings
- Records attendance and minutes at each ANCCR meeting

Treasurer:
- 3-year term with one re-election opportunity
- Utilizes QuickBooks for record keeping
- Custodian of funds, securities, and financial records of association

A4C Liaison
Deanna Gibson, CTR

The A4C Committee had a subcommittee workday only on Friday March 3rd. Our 2022-2023 Goal is to, "Improve the knowledge, understanding and delivery of cancer supportive care among health care professionals in rural North Carolina" as this relates to NC Cancer Plan Goal 4. We just continued discussions regarding palliative care educational opportunities. We will be meeting again on Friday, May 19th. I have enclosed attachments for both the Woman's Health Awareness flyer, and the March 2023 issue of the News Flash.

The 9th annual woman's wellness conference is hosted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) at North Carolina Central University will be on Saturday, April 15th, 2023. This conference has a jammed packet agenda and will be providing free on-site health screenings. There will on-site registration available the day of the event.

The Care and Treatment Subcommittee of the N.C. Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control is pleased to share the March 2023 issue of the News Flash. This has information on upcoming training opportunities and additional sources for cancer care and treatment best practices. Please share the attached News Flash with your staff, coworkers and partners that may benefit from the resources.

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March 2023 News
Flash Revised.pdf

EDUCATION REPORT
Kimberly Swing, CTR

Educational Opportunities:

NCRA Center for Cancer Registry Education - http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/
Access to high-quality educational programming to support both seasoned professionals and those new to the field, included are programs related to AJCC 8th Edition. Most are fee based.

NCRA Registry Resources - http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr
A series of informational abstracts and presentations that show registrars how to use these important resources, these site-specific abstracts provide an outline to follow when determining what text to include. FREE

SEER Educate - https://educate.fredhutch.org/LandingPage.aspx
Improve technical skills through applied testing on the latest coding guidelines and concepts. Complete practice abstracts and earn up to 20 CE credits per cycle. FREE

NCRA's Mini-Learning Shorts- Great guide for new registrars-
http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/best-practices?fbclid=IwAR1bfhzNf844uTRZKbhelHvK0G2MSBumIlQH0o4K1hYqe46BmmmxPrnIVfY and
http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/introduction-to-the-cancer-registry

https://education.naaccr.org/freewebinars - NAACCR Talks are free webinars on topics of concern to the NAACCR membership. View recordings of the live webinars for no charge.

Tumor Talk- sign up to receive webinar invitations presented by Omega Healthcare, formerly Himagine Solutions at Events & Webinars - Omega Healthcare (omegahms.com) Tumor Tips at News & Blog - Omega Healthcare (omegahms.com)

Registry Partner's Coding Break- Educational presentations on YouTube created by Registry Partners https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFePdWVva8gfosv7jL11tyQ

American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer Webinars-
https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/events , Free courses: Courses | American College of Surgeons | Online Learning (facs.org), Registrar's guide to Updating Radiation Data items- Registrar's Guide to Updating Radiation Data Items | American College of Surgeons | Online Learning (facs.org)

CAnswer Forum LIVE Webinar: CAnswer Forum LIVE | ACS (facs.org) **1** CE
hour awarded

ACOS- Cancer Program Calendar- The Latest from Cancer Programs | ACS (facs.org)

AJCC:
View recordings of the live webinars for no charge.

8th Edition Webinars- AJCC 8th Edition Webinars (facs.org)
AJCC Version 9 Webinar- AJCC Version 9 Webinars (facs.org)
AJCC Curriculum for Registrars- AJCC Curriculum for Registrars (facs.org)

ANCCR Association of NC Cancer Registrars   http://www.ncregistrars.com/

NC State Cancer Registry purchased a subscription to the NAACCR Cancer Registry & Surveillance Webinar Series. Each webinar is three hours (3 CE's) and after the LIVE version, a link to the webinar will be available to ANCCR members on the ANCCR website, as soon as it is available each month.

NAACCR webinar schedule:

5/4/23 Lower GI 2023 Part 1
6/1/23 Lower GI 2023 Part 2
7/13/23 IT Worked for Me: In "FUN"matics in the Cancer Registry
8/3/23 Melanoma 2023
9/7/23 Coding Pitfalls 2023

Coding, Staging and Abstracting Resources:

***Online version of IDC-O-3** -IACR - International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O), ICD O 3 Coding Updates (naaccr.org)
***SEER 2023 updated case finding list**- Casefinding Lists - SEER (cancer.gov)
***SEER RX**- https://seer.cancer.gov/seertools/seerrx/
***SEER*RSA**- https://staging.seer.cancer.gov/
SEER Training- Cancer Registrar Training - SEER Registrars
* **EOD General Coding Instructions**- Extent of Disease (EOD) 2018 General Instructions (cancer.gov)
***Ask a SEER Registrar**- https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html
***CAncer Forum**- http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/help, also see ask the pathologist Cancer Forum
***Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Database**- Hematopoietic Project - SEER Registrars (cancer.gov)
***Solid Tumor Rules 2023-** 2023 Solid Tumor Rules (cancer.gov)
***NAACCR- Site specific data items (SSDI/GRADE)**- Schemas | SSDI Data | (naaccr.org)
***NAACCR- Version 23 Reference page-**Version 23 Reference Page - NAACCR
 ***STORE**- Updated, effective for cases dx 1/1/2023 store-manual-2023.pdf (facs.org)
***AJCC- Errata for 8th edition AJCC** Updates and Corrections (facs.org) also on Amazon-Version 9 of the AJCC Cancer Staging System (4 book series) Kindle Edition (amazon.com)
***Informational Abstracts**- http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr
***NCI Cancer Types**- https://www.cancer.gov/types
***CTR Guide to Coding XRT**- Revised Guide 2022- case-studies-for-coding-radiation-treatment-v4-0-_20220509104726.pdf (facs.org)
***NCDB- The Corner Store**- https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/news
***NCDB- Call For Data**- NCDB Call for Data | ACS (facs.org)
***American College of Surgeons**- Subscribe to the newsletter *The Brief* at http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?ACSORG or view articles at http://multibriefs.com/briefs/ACSORG/index.php
***SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2023**- SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual (cancer.gov)
* **SEER Abstracting Tool**- https://seer.cancer.gov/seerabs/
***SEER COVID 19 Abstraction Guideline**- https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/covid-19/COVID-19-Abstraction-Guidance.pdf
***NCCN Guidelines**- https://www.nccn.org/guidelines/category_1
***2020 COC Standards- updated 2/2023**- Optimal_Resources_for_Cancer_Care_Feb_2023.pdf (facs.org)
***US Cancer Statistics Data Visulizations tool**- USCS Data Visualizations - CDC
Summary stage 2018- version 2.1- Summary Stage 2018 - SEER (cancer.gov)
Cancer Registry World Podcast- series hosted by Dr Frederick Greene- Cancer Registry World on Apple Podcasts

- Tumor tip from Omega Healthcare: External Beam Radiation Planning Technique -FiF =Field-in-Field Technique = 3D/Conformal Therapy Tumor Tip 03-17-23 APP. R CTR Guide to Coding Radiation Therapy Treatment - Omega Healthcare (omegahms.com)

- Tumor tip from Omega Healthcare: How will you code Macroscopic Evaluation of the Mesorectum? Tumor Tip 02-17-23 Macroscopic Evaluation of the Mesorectum - Omega Healthcare (omegahms.com)

- Biomarkers Show Promise for Identifying Pancreatic Cancer Risk Early- Biomarkers Show Promise for Identifying Pancreatic Cancer Risk Early | Duke Cancer Institute

- Hormone Therapy Plus Current Treatments Improves Survival in Prostate Cancer Hormone Therapy Plus Current Treatments Improves Survival in Prostate Cancer - News Center (northwestern.edu)

REPORT FROM THE NC CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY
Melissa Pearson, CTR

CCARM 2023 is now available!

The **CCARM 2023** is now available on the CCR website.
https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ccr/reporting.htm

There are SIGNIFICANT CHANGES! The sections to be sure to read are:
- Summary of 2023 Changes
- Differences in Reporting Requirements between the NC CCR and the CoC
- Coding and Estimating Dates

It is critical that you use the CCARM for reporting to the NC CCR as there are differences between CCR and CoC requirements. 2023 changes that I want to specifically point out are:
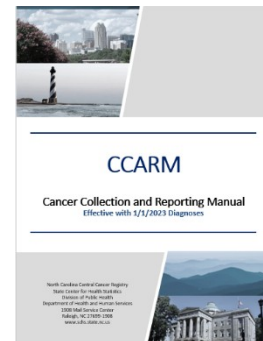
LCIS IS REPORTABLE TO THE CCR:
While the CoC made Lobular Carcinoma In Situ of the Breast (LCIS) not reportable, LCIS **IS REPORTABLE TO THE CCR**. Assign Class of Case according to the relationship between the patient and the reporting facility.

Text:
Most text fields that were previously 1000 characters now allow up to 4000 characters.
IMPORTANT: Text should contain a summary of pertinent facts to support and validate coded data items and explain the circumstances surrounding the case. **DO NOT COPY entire reports from the EMR into the text field!**

DATE FLAG fields:
All DATE FLAG fields have been retired and are no longer required for ANY case abstracted after conversion to v23. Below are specific instructions for coding dates for submission to the NC CCR:
- Date of Birth, Date of Diagnosis, Date of First Contact and Date of Last Contact CANNOT BE BLANK. Further investigation must be done, if needed, to determine the date.
- For analytic cases, Date of Diagnosis must be a full, complete date. If any part of the date is unknown, and further investigation did not yield sufficient information, it MUST be estimated.
- When treatment is given, the treatment start date cannot be blank. It is important to be able to differentiate between when the date was inadvertently omitted from the abstract, and when the exact date was unknown. Therefore, the N.C. CCR will require that if treatment was given, a start date must be entered. Since Date of Diagnosis cannot be left blank, use the Date of Diagnosis to estimate the treatment start date if necessary.

Coding UNKNOWN DATES:
Every attempt should be made to determine the complete, exact date. If it is impossible to determine the exact date, then the date should be estimated. The requirements differ for analytic and non-analytic cases when an exact date is unknown. Refer to the section on Coding and Estimating Dates in the CCARM for guidance on how to estimate the date when an exact date is unknown.

REPORTING TIP SHEETS:
4 NEW reporting tip sheets have been added to our website:
https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ccr/reporting.htm

One is for data reporters and cancer registry managers that are new to reporting in NC. If there is a new abstractor at your facility, or your facility uses contract labor that may have worked in other states where state reporting requirements were different, be sure they are familiar with the CCARM and that they have reviewed this PDF. It is important that all cancer registry staff understand the specific reporting requirements for the NC CCR.

There is also a tip sheet for coding unknown dates without flag fields, 10 tips for terrific text, and collecting occupation and industry data. Be sure to check these out!

CCR Reporting Requirements

Reporting Quick References

Central Cancer Registries have reporting requirements that differ from other standard setting agencies. Data reporters in NC facilities must ensure they are meeting the requirements of the NC CCR in addition to any other agency requirements. The following posters highlight key topics specific to the NC CCR. Click on the image to review and download the document.
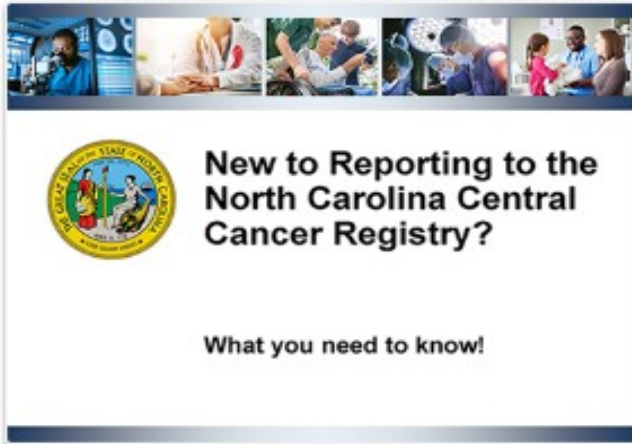
New to Reporting to the CCR

Coding Unknown Dates

10 Tips for Terrific Text

Collecting Occupation and Industry Data

Conversion to Version 23

The NC CCR is now accepting v22 and v23 XML file formats. We are no longer accepting files in v21 format. When your vendor has your upgrade to v23 ready, the NC CCR has no restrictions on implementing the upgrade. However, you should:

1. Communicate with your CCR Representative on the status and plans for conversion to v23.
2. Complete as many 2022 and earlier cases as possible and do one final upload in v22 to the CCR before you convert to v23.
3. Continue uploading your submission files according to your usual schedule, regardless of your software version. Any files received in v23 will be held and imported into our database after we convert our database to v23.
4. Make sure all files, regardless of version, pass all edits in the corresponding version of the NC edit metafile. The v23A NC Edit metafile is now available on our website: https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ccr/reporting.htm. If needed, work with your vendor to make sure you are running the appropriate and most current NC edits.
   a. Note: It is highly recommended that you wait until you can use the v23A metafile before attempting to create a file in version 23 for submission to the CCR. There are fixes in the v23A metafile that will make the process of ensuring all edits are cleared much easier!
5. We will be running all files (v22 and v23) through the latest version of the corresponding edits upon upload. Any files with edit errors will be rejected.

WebPlus Portal upload options

Our portal can now accept v23 files. Be sure to pay attention to the version options and select the correct one based on the version of your file:
- If submitting files in v22 format, select the NAACCR V22.x XML File button.
- If submitting files in v23 format, select the NAACCR V23.x XML File button.

Cancer Registry World Podcast - https://www.mycrstar.com/cancerregistryworld/ [mycrstar.com]

Join Dr. Frederick L. (Rick) Greene each month as he hosts the only podcast dedicated to cancer registrars, **Cancer Registry World™**, focusing on the role of cancer registrars and

cancer registries in the universal treatment of malignancy. Each segment will feature cancer registrars, clinicians, organizations, administrators, researchers, and representatives of all healthcare groups who contribute to and benefit from data that are derived from cancer registries. Cancer Registry World™ episodes are available on the ERS website - https://www.mycrstar.com/cancerregistryworld/ [mycrstar.com] - and wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts, including AplePodcasts [podcasts.apple.com], Spotify [open.spotify.com], Stitcher [stitcher.com], iHeartRadio [iheart.com] and TuneIn [tunein.com]. Sponsored by ERS, Inc.

Educational Scholarship
Inez Inman, BS, RHIT, CTR

CONGRATULATIONS to Carol Brown (Pardee) and Colleen Lane (Duke) for winning ANCCR's educational scholarship to attend the in-person NCRA Conference in San Diego, CA!!

Below are their winning essays:

<p style="text-align:center"><u>My New Horizon</u>
Colleen M. Lane, BBA, CTR</p>

What is a horizon? Beyond the literal definition of a line that separates the earth from the sky, according to Merriam-Webster, it also means "to increase one's interests, skills or experiences beyond their current range".

I have worked in hospitals for over 30 years now, and like many CTRs, I did not start out in the Cancer Registry field. With a degree in business administration, I set out to carve a business career and getting my foot in the door of a local hospital billing office was my starting point.

Being new to the healthcare industry, I had a lot to learn. Medical terminology might as well have been another language to me! However, I was fortunate to have great co-workers who were more than willing to help me navigate the nuances of medical terminology related to billing. As my understanding of medical knowledge grew, so did other opportunities within the organization, and I was able to transfer to a position in the IT department into a role of software support for both clerical and clinical staff. My skill set, and prospects, were broadening, and I was on the business career path I had planned for myself.

Several years later, a colleague of mine went to work in the hospital Cancer Registry assisting in the implementation of a new registry software. A Cancer Registry, what is that and what do they do? I had to find out, because I was looking for a new challenge as I was beginning to feel stagnant in my current position and was searching for a change. The Registry at my facility did not need any additional software support, but they were in desperate need of CTRs. Then and there, that became my focus, my new objective, or rather, my new horizon. Luckily for me, they were willing to hire me with the requirement that I obtain the CTR certification within 2 years. Challenge accepted!

My first step in pursuit of the coveted CTR credential, was to enroll in an accredited Cancer Registry program. Taking online courses was informative, however, working in a local hospital registry was invaluable. Practical application of what I was reading and studying in all of the

required registry manuals was priceless. With the help of experienced and seasoned CTRs in the registry department, I was able to pass the CTR exam on the first try. I had achieved my goal of becoming a CTR, I had reached my new horizon.

I learned fairly quickly however, the Cancer Registry field was not in a state of inertia, but rather a state of constant momentum and innovation. Oncology diagnostic procedures and treatment regimens continued to evolve and progress over the years, becoming more and more complex and sophisticated. In order to keep up with all of these advancements, cancer registries and CTRs had to adapt to what at times, seemed to be constant changes, in order to continue to provide useful and meaningful data.

Since its inception, the data provided by Cancer Surveillance Programs has continued to be a major contributor to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. The collection of timely accurate data plays a vital component in this endeavor. In the years since becoming a CTR, I have seen the impact quality data has had, and continues to have, in improved patient outcomes. These improved outcomes have the ability to provide all cancer patients with hope and opportunities for many more new horizons.

How Becoming a Cancer Registrar Was My New Horizon
Carol P. Brown, ABA, CTR

The horizon is where the earth meets the sky, where the earth separates from the sky. When I applied for and was hired to be our hospital's cancer registrar little did I know that "work" would no longer be work, but would be my passion for the next 28 years. This was where the earth met the sky for me.

Our medical records department had been the host site for a Health Information student from a local university and at the end of her internship she was hired as our cancer registrar. Her desk was close to mine so I could observe some of the work she did and found it to be very interesting. When she told us she was leaving, I immediately put my name in the hat for the job and immediately was met with resistance from our cancer committee chair. She was adamant that the job had to be filled by a CTR and I did not have that credential but was certainly willing to work toward getting it. They interviewed several CTRs and ultimately offered me the job. They sent me to Washington, DC to a conference to learn more about the profession and everything I could about cancer.

The first thing I remember learning was that there were many different types of cancer. I thought cancer was cancer. Learning the anatomical sites and which cancers tend to occur in those sites was fascinating, along with the prognostic factors, genetics, staging and treatment. I knew that cancer patients often had bad outcomes but learning what was behind those outcomes made me determined to learn all that I could to help fight this disease.

When I got back to work and finally was able to begin digging my heels in and looking for every little detail that might help find a cure for cancer or new treatments my passion for the job grew even more. Meeting the registrars in the communities nearby and in our state association is one of the most valuable parts of the job and I will forever treasure those relationships.

As the old saying goes "the devil is in the details" and if a registrar is anything, they are focused on every little detail. Details hopefully make a difference in outcomes for outpatients and that is why we focus so intently on finding every bit of information we can on our patients.

The hardest abstract I ever had to complete was my Mom's. She had a screening mammogram which ultimately led to diagnostic studies, surgery, radiation, and anti-hormone treatment. Fortunately, I knew the details such as family history, birthplace, occupation, smoking, alcohol use, etc. These little details make a huge difference for researchers and statisticians.

The data that the researchers and statisticians work with must be the absolute best and it is an honor and a privilege to be able to mine the data from the medical record, physician letters, other registries, etc. and submit it to the state and national databases. It is our responsibility to dig as deep as we can, be persistent, and communicate the best we can with our fellow registrars, hospitals, etc. and collect good data on our patients.

If we do this diligently, we can be assured that the horizon will be brighter in the future for cancer patients and that we will make a difference in the outcomes of our patients, family, friends, and those we don't even know. Twenty-eight years later and I would not change a thing about being a cancer registrar. When we have new people do their orientation with me they seem shocked that I never dread coming to work. I truly look forward to it every day. During the early days of Covid, I was screening patients at the entrance to our cancer center and it put things in a whole new perspective for me seeing what the patients went through daily. One little lady was waiting in her wheelchair, and I asked her if I could do anything for her. Her response was "my husband died this morning, but I know he would want me to still get my chemotherapy, so I came on in".   That is why each and every day I promise to do my absolute best to gather the data that will help find the cure for cancer. Keeping our eyes on the horizon is of utmost importance.