

The Sentinel

Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars Newsletter
Winter 2010

Message from the ANCCCR President
Tara Lewis, BA CTR

A special thank you to all of the registrars at Caldwell Memorial, Catawba Valley, Frye Regional, Grace, Valdese, and Watauga for an excellent job of coordinating this year's annual educational conference. The meeting was well attended and the guest speakers were very informative and well prepared. The board always appreciates your feedback through the meeting evaluations. Unfortunately, we only had 23 respondents complete the evaluations from this year's meeting. Please feel free to email myself or another board member of your suggestions to help us plan future meetings. The ANCCCR board and the registrars from Wake Forest and Forsyth have already begun planning for next year's meeting in Winston-Salem. There will be more information about the meeting after the holidays.

I hope that many of you are able to participate in the NAACCR webinars that ANCCCR has purchased throughout the state. The host sites for the webinars are Pardee Hospital/Mission Hospital (west), Forsyth Regional Hospital (central), and Raleigh (east). These are an excellent way to earn CE hours and receive much needed training in coding 2010 data. ANCCCR is also purchasing the NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation & Review Webinar Series for the eligible CTR exam applicants to participate. I encourage the members to take advantage of the educational opportunities that ANCCCR offers. Please contact myself or Kim Greene for questions you may have regarding these opportunities.

I want to thank each of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for ANCCCR. Please call or email me with any ideas or concerns that you may have. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and prosperous new year!

32nd Annual Meeting of the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR)

Inez Evans, BS, RHIT, CTR
NCRA Immediate Past President

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) was held in Yokohama, Japan in October, 2010. As the immediate past president of the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA), I had the privilege to attend the conference. The presentations, made by presenters from all around the world, were very interesting. United States presenters included April Fritz who gave a presentation regarding the updates to the ICD-O-3 manual affecting incidence rates in population-based registries and Vivien Chen, the Director of the Louisiana Central Cancer Registry, gave a presentation on a study regarding factors contributing to higher mortality among black women with breast cancer in Louisiana. The United States is far ahead of other countries in cancer data collection; in the number of data fields collected and the number of cancer cases reported. In the U.S., approximately 99% of cancer cases are collected and reported.

Japan is a very neat and clean country. The people take great pride in their country, family and work. Their standards seemed very high. At the hotels, check-in and check-out was so efficiently performed. The people, throughout the country, were so nice and helpful to us. The people of Japan love rice. At least one meal each day consists of rice. Sushi is also a main food item in their diet. Most everyone in Japan is slim. But surprisingly they do love McDonalds (where students hang out and study), Starbuck's Coffee, and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Many people smoke cigarettes. They drive on the left hand side of the road. Transportation consists of trains (subway, metro, and the bullet), buses, cars, scooters, motorcycles, and bicycles. Bicycles were everywhere. They have bicycle parking lots. Taxi drivers look like professional employees in their suits and white gloves. Their taxi cars were immaculately clean. In many places, the highway system is stacked three roads high.

The land area of Japan is about the size of California. The current population of Japan is approximately 127,430,000. Compare that to the current population of the United States which is approximately 308,400,000. Space is very precious in Japan. Most apartments and houses are compact. Many people utilize their rooms as living rooms by day and bedrooms by night. Their coffee table may also be their dining room table. We should be very thankful for what we have.

Even their cemeteries are compact. Every inch of space is utilized in Japan. If you see ground, it is being utilized as space for gardens or rice paddies.

I visited Mt Fuji, Hakona, Nara, Kyoto, and Tokyo while I was in Japan. I stayed one night in the town of Hakona at the base of Mt Fuji. There was no snow cap on Mt Fuji since it was in the summer. In Nara, I visited the Deer Park, which has approximately 1200 deer that you can pet and feed. I toured through a Temple with a big Buddha located inside. In Kyoto, I visited a few of their shrines. It was fascinating that a wedding was taking place in one shrine as we walked through. In Japan, you must take your shoes off to walk through any of the shrines which are their place of worship. The two main religions in Japan are Buddhism and Shintoism. To worship there, you bow twice, clap your hands twice to get the attention of the god, pray, and then bow one more time. It was a very interesting trip and I am glad to be back in the United States.

NCRA Board
HIGHLIGHTS

November 13, 2010

- ❖ Tina Grogan,CTR has been appointed Co-liaison to the Advance Editorial Advisory Board to serve with Co-liaison Laurel Gage ,RHIT, CTR.
- ❖ Linda Corrigan has been appointed the 2011 NCRA Program Chair.
- ❖ Laurie Herbert has been appointed a member of the CSv2 Field Study Committee.
- ❖ Elaine Collins, RHIA, CTR has been appointed a member of the ICD-10-CM Implementation Team.
- ❖ Louise Schuman, MA, CTR has been reappointed to the NCRA Foundation Board to serve as Vice Chair.
- ❖ The program schedule for the 2011 NCRA Annual conference was reviewed and approved. The conference will be held May 15-18 at the Coronado Springs Resort located in the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando. There will be pre and post conferences to include NAPBC, CoC, Survey Savvy, Central Registry and SEER CSv2 workshops.
- ❖ A webinar presented by Dr. Susan Chapman to present the "Guidelines for Workload and Staffing in Hospital Cancer Registries" will be scheduled for December 14,2010.
- ❖ The Senior and Junior Treasurers reported that the Finance Committee is meeting every six weeks in order to monitor the finances. It was reported that NCRA is in good shape. They will soon begin working on a five year plan to build up our reserves.
- ❖ NCRA staff will soon be sending the 2011 NCRA Program Plan and Budget to all board members, committee chairs and liaisons. NCRA staff will create a proposed budget and send to FC for review. The FC will present the final budget to the board at the winter 2011 meeting.

- ❖ A new Program Recognition Plan was presented to the board and approved with some modifications to the existing plan. There have been 66 programs approved this year.
- ❖ NCRA currently has 5,043 members as compared to 2,500 in 2001.
- ❖ 192 candidates sat for the September CTR exam with a 67% pass rate.
- ❖ NCRA has a Facebook page and currently has 629 members.
- ❖ The Cyber Registry has been live for 8 months now for Casefinding. The abstracting g module should go live in March.
- ❖ The sites for future Annual conferences have been announced through 2017:

2011-Orlando, FL
2012-Washington, DC
2013-San Francisco, CA
2014-Nashville, TN
2015-Las Vegas, NV
2016-San Antonio, TX
2017-Washington, DC

Melanie Rogan, CTR
President Elect/Secretary