



Oregon Cancer
Registrar's Association

OCRA Newsletter

2021 Fall Quarterly

Issue 4

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The Presidents Message

Sunset Beach, Coos Bay, Oregon

Under normal circumstances this would be my last letter to you as your OCRA President and Bonnie Kubli would be taking the reins for 2022. We must change and adapt as things change around us. This year due to the lack of 2022 position candidates; the OCRA Executive Committee (EC) opted to roll over our current positions into 2022. We also asked that those serving on committees for OCRA roll over their positions as well. A big thank you to all the volunteers! All the EC and committee members have agreed to maintain their current rolls for our organization. I will maintain my role as your OCRA President through 2022, Martha Curl will continue her OCRA Treasurer position through 2022, Nicole Davis will remain as the OCRA Secretary, and Deborah Towell will continue her sentence as your OCRA Past-President for another term. For a full list of committees and positions please visit the OCRA website at <https://www.ocra-oregon.org/>.

It has been a quiet year where OCRA is concerned. The lack of an annual state or regional conference makes for a lot less work. Some of the things we have been working on include a new website that will allow us to be more self-sufficient and save us time and money. We have also been discussing ways to encourage people to be involved and volunteer. It is through volunteering that we succeed.

This newsletter will be piloting a new section which spotlights the OCRA members. The EC will select four to five candidates for each quarterly newsletter. A short interview their photo will be included. These spotlighted individuals will be invited to participate in the following EC meeting. The concept behind this new idea is to invite you to learn who our members are by providing some information regarding their professional and personal life, along with a face to match their name. The second piece is to let each member experience an EC meeting, which in hopes will encourage them to volunteer at some point. We hope to elaborate more as they idea develops; A work in progress. It has been a pleasure being your 2021 OCRA President and I am looking forward to a new year and another term in 2022. Again, thank you for your continued support during these unpredictable times. **OCRA President, Shelley Lindsey**

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. By
Elizabeth Andrew*

In the Spotlight

"New" Our EC selected OCRA spotlight candidates is a series of short interviews with a photo

Laura Myers



I would like to extend a warm welcome to one of OCRA's newest CTR's, Laura Myers. Laura stumbled upon cancer registry career information while researching medical coding careers. She was immediately drawn to the cancer registry career path and felt passionate about it. Then the schooling/education and studying began. She passed her CTR exam March 13, 2021, and started working for Providence March 23, 2021. She is an OCRA member and has been recruited for the newly formed OCRA Welcoming Committee. She also serves on the Cancer Information Management Board at Santa Barbara City College with Alesha Easley. She lives in Medford and enjoys DYI projects around her home and spending time with her family. Please welcome Laura Myers! ~Submitted by Deborah Towel

Alesha Easley



Hello Registry friends! I would like to introduce one of our newer CTR's, Alesha Easley. The picture of Alesha and her delightful family. (Starting from the left) Chance (Her supportive and loving husband), Alesha, Ryatt (her 5-year-old adorable daughter), and Rowdy (her 7-year-old, handsome young man). They have two dogs a large dopey German Shepherd named Bo and a Mini-Australian Shepherd named Pistol. Alesha is the daughter of Shelley Lindsey whom we all know and admire. Shelley encouraged Alesha to consider becoming a CTR for a long time. After her husband Chance was in a motorcycle accident in 2017; she decided it was time to go back to school and find a career that would be flexible and allow her to support their family, if Chance were unable to return to work. Happily, he did heal well and now owns and operates a concrete construction company. Alesha continued her studies and took her CTR exam in March of 2020; just before Covid struck. She says this is one of the best decisions she ever made! (*We agree Alesha!*) She works at Providence and has been a member of OCRA since October 2019 and NCRA since 2020. She currently serves on the Welcoming Committee for OCRA along with Laura Myers. Their family enjoys camping, wakesurfing, paddleboarding, fishing and dirt bike riding. If you haven't had an opportunity to do so; please say hello and welcome her to our Registry Community. She is a delightful addition and we are pleased to have her in our group of dedicated professionals! ~Submitted by Bonnie Kubli

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Bettina (Tina) Barte



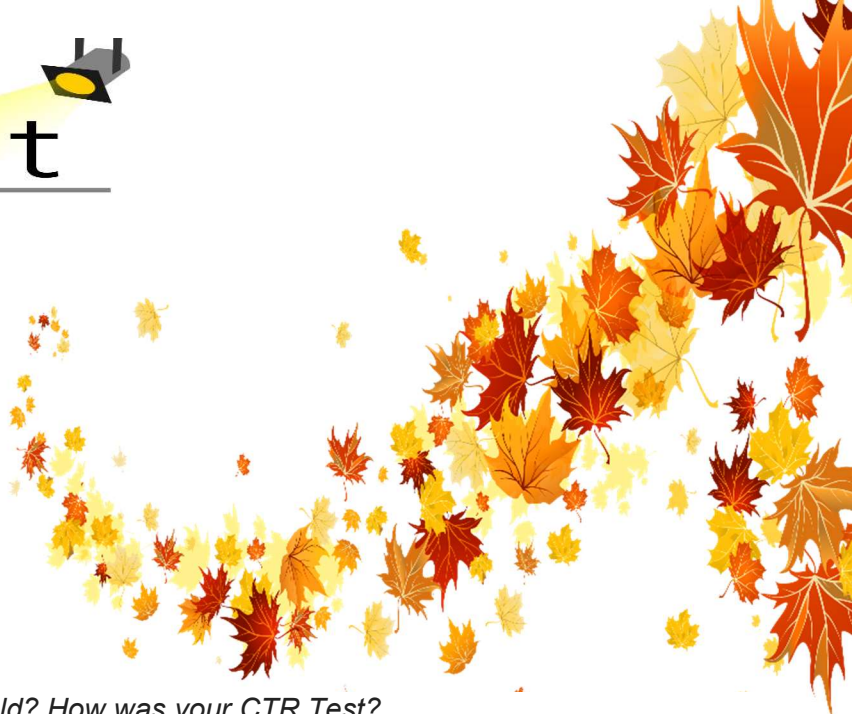
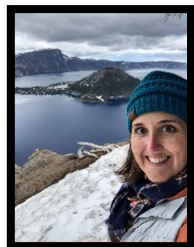
Like so many, Tina moved to Oregon from Santa Rosa, California to be closer to her children. She saw a job posting for a Follow-Up Technician and applied. Her career path began as an Army Medic followed by a degree in bookkeeping/accounting. She then ventured back into the healthcare industry with 15 years in the Emergency Admissions on the night shift. Between her healthcare experience and love of numbers; she was the perfect edition to the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center Cancer Registry team in 2008 and continues to work to this day. Tina has been an OCRA member since joining the Good Sam Team. She now works part-time, mostly from home, and venturing into the office at the Good Sam Radiation Oncology Department once a week. Tina enjoys her flexible part-time schedule that allows her to spend time doing other things she loves like taking her grandchildren to school and being a big part of their lives. She also enjoys walking, shopping, pedicures, spending time with her family, and going to Disney World. At the time of this interview, Tina had just returned from Disney World. She enjoys traveling and has more plans for it in the coming years. Tina has been married for “many” years. She has two daughters. One of her daughters is a cancer survivor who, after being told she would be unable to have children, became pregnant with twins just two weeks after completing chemotherapy. OCRA appreciates you, Tina! ~Submitted by Shelley Lindsey



(Fall) Mirror Pond on Deschutes River, Bend, Oregon

Continued...

Jessica Haughey



What got you into you the Cancer Registry field? How was your CTR Test?

I kind of fell into the field. I've been working in healthcare since I was 16 years old. My mom was a nurse and I often took odd jobs for the clinics she worked for. Over the last 30 years I've worked in Sports Medicine, Family Practice, Neurology, Gynecology, Radiology, Dermatology and Ophthalmology. After I had my daughter 10 years ago; I took a job working admitting part time at Legacy Health because it offered odd hours to assist with child care coverage. In 2016, I saw a job posting at Legacy for Cancer Services and thought I would be admitting cancer patients. I was wrong. It was a job as Cancer Conference Coordinator in the Cancer Data Management Department. I had no idea this was actually a job. Like many people, cancer has touched my family & friends. I loved the idea that I was helping to cure cancer. The longer I worked in the department the more I fell in love with the work. In 2019, I decided I wanted to sit for the CTR exam. I'm so grateful to my coworkers at Legacy who took me under their wings and started training me on the job. After work hours I would study like crazy, reading anything cancer related, and watching every webinar available. I was very nervous and told no one that I was taking the exam. I had heard it was very hard and I am not a great test taker. I was scheduled to take the test Wednesday during Spring Break March 2020. On Monday businesses around the country were closing their doors due to Covid. Every morning I would check the testing site to see if they were closing, and luckily, they didn't. I took the test on Wednesday and they ended up closing the center Thursday. I was grateful to be able to sit for the exam, but after sitting under the air conditioning for hours for the test, and watching the news & the Covid hysteria; I worried for the next couple of days that I had contracted Covid. I found out that I was fine and weeks later I got the email that I passed.

Are you a member of OCRA and NCRA? How long have you been a member?

I am a member of OCRA & NCRA. Both associations were so helpful in preparing me for the exam, continuing to provide connection, and education in the field. I believe, I have been a member since 2019, when I decided to sit for the exam.

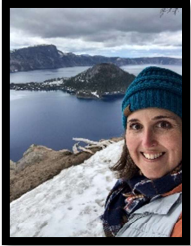
What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your free time?

I love Disney, the great outdoors, and live theater. I'm originally from Southern California and grew up going to Disneyland very often. We try to go to a (Disney) park on either coast at least once a year. We are heading to Disney World for Christmas. I love going on adventures & taking advantage of all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer. I enjoy hiking and camping, and Spring wild flower hikes in the Gorge are my favorite. In the summer I love floating in a tube down the Clackamas River. We travel often to visit family all across the US from Hawaii to New Jersey. I just got a passport prior to the Covid shutdown so I am looking forward to heading overseas once it's a little safer. I have had season tickets to Broadway Across Portland for the last 14 years. I love classic musical theater like Evita but modern musicals like Rent and Dear Evan Hansen have changed me. I enjoy reading, but have been so busy that, I have yet to finish a book that I got for Christmas last year. This summer I joined a community center with an indoor pool and we try to get in the water at least 3 times a week. Water is so healing.

In the Spotlight

Continued...

Jessica Haughey



Please share any personal experiences that you would like.

I have a pretty strong history of cancer in my family. My grandmother has had three lumpectomies over the last 20 years. At her last recurrence I asked her why she didn't just get a mastectomy, and she told me with a straight face; she considers her breasts her sacrifice to the gods and she'll continue sacrificing just a little bit at a time as long as she can. My grandpa, her younger husband, died this summer with Stage IV Melanoma to the brain. At his funeral she pointed to her breast and said "see". She made me smile. I'm sure we've all come across a patient who tried to maintain control in an uncontrollable situation. ~Submitted by Nicole Davis

Rebecca Berwager



Another warm welcome to one of OCRA's newer members and one of the newest CTRs, Rebecca Berwager, CTR, RHIT, CCS. She currently works at Kaiser Permanente and got into the Cancer Registry in a roundabout way. Worker's Comp offered to re-train her after sustaining a career ending injury during her electrical apprenticeship. She discovered the HIM field after talking with a college admissions advisor that felt her skills and strengths were best suited for this field. She spent two months researching the career paths within the field and was most interested in the Cancer Registry. Her husband was a few years in remission from Hodgkin's Lymphoma at that time and Rebecca really wanted to make a contribution toward helping rid the world of cancer. She has been in the field since 2019, and joined OCRA and NCRA in 2019. She sat for her exam in July 2021 and was ecstatic that she joined the ranks of passing on her first attempt. Rebecca's hobbies are soccer and genealogy. She loves soccer! Watching it on TV will do in a pinch, but attending live matches is the best! She is also a master genealogist and has helped many people find their birth families. ~Submitted by Martha Curl

General Information



Hello Registry friends! I found this quote and found myself smiling at the zippy retort! How often have you been asked what do you do? Then found yourself trying to explain your job? I thought you might find it pretty appropriate; perhaps more so the last few years than ever before. I have been in this field more than 30 years and found it to be fascinating and frustrating sometimes both at the same time. I want to encourage you to remember that what you do is important and you are valued. Keep your determination and your get it done attitude. Even with all of the changes we have tossed our way. We are capable and we don't shy away from a challenge. You are an amazing group of people and I am proud to be a part of it for a few more years. I will be President-elect again this year, so I will struggle through the changes with you. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it! Keep Smiling, 😊 Bonnie Kubli

OCRA Did You Know

The Executive Committee (EC) consists of elected positions; President (which includes past, present & future), Treasurer, and Secretary. Time commitment on average is 1.5 to 2 hours monthly. Yes, that is it. The committee meets every other month (or 6x per year). All meetings are via Teams or Zoom. No travel is required. The President's NCRA Conference is covered by OCRA, or the OCRA President is awarded a \$100.00 gift card at the end of their term. All members of the EC have their OCRA dues waived and receive 1 CEU*. The Nominating Committee are also elected to their positions. They are responsible for obtaining potential candidates for the annual election, sending out ballots on survey monkey, and notifying EC of election results. The time commitment varies but is typically less than 6 hours per year. This committee also received 1 CEU* at the end of their term.

All other OCRA Committees are voluntary and do not require a vote. They include By-laws Committee, Education Committee, Welcome Committee, Finance/Audit Committee, and Communications Committee (which includes the Webmaster & Newsletter). The time commitment for work on these committees is typically less than 6 hours per year, excluding the Education Committee. Each committee member receives 1 CEU* at the end of the term.

**NCRA only allows 1 CEU annually for committee participation of any kind.*

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please ask your supervisor if they would support our organization by allowing you to serve during work hours. By Shelley Lindsey

Membership Renewal Etc.



The 2022 OCRA Membership dues began on November 1st and your deadline to get it in is no later than December 15th. You may pay by electronic or paper check and snail mail. I have attached the form to use if you are doing paper and sending a check. If you are doing it from the OCRA website, it has currently re-opened to update your dues after November 1st. Please visit the web at <https://www.ocra-oregon.org/membership/> to register online and/or print the form if needed. If you have any questions, for this time being, please use my home email at curlsfourus@gmail.com or call my cell at 503-537-6729.

Thank you to all of the 2021 EC and other committee members that opted to roll over for 2022. We are looking forward to seeing you update your membership with OCRA for 2022.

JOB ALERT!

Providence Health and Services Oregon has an opening for a CTR or current CIM student planning on testing before the end of 2022. This is a full time, remote position. Please contact Lori Lucente, lori.lucente@providence.org, with any questions.



I received the MHM Scholarship funds yesterday and wanted to thank you all for selecting me. I appreciate it and its honorable cause. Regards, Laura Myers



Pumkin Patch in Veronia, Oregon



Medicare Beneficiary

By Deborah Towell

Good afternoon registry partners,

Whenever NAACCR versions and layouts change along with changes in the edits, we begin to see a fair number of repetitive errors. So, I am sharing some information regarding the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier. This field has a specific format and order of characters expected and will draw errors if not in the correct expected format. This is probably a field that is imported into your cancer abstract from the EHR and in fact you may not even see it in your abstraction software. Please check with your software vendor, EHR and your abstract to ensure correct input/format. This field began with 2018 dx dates but recently had an edit created to catch incorrect identifiers. These errors can also be easily identified in the edit set labeled **Standard 2021 Edits (3/15/2021 V21B)**. This field is 'required when available' for NPCR - OSCaR. Blank field is ok and will pass edits. Here's some information from the NAACCR Data Dictionary regarding the correct format of this field.

MEDICARE BENEFICIARY IDENTIFIER

Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Year Implemented	Version Implemented
2315	11	NAACCR	2018	18

What kinds of characters are in the MBI?

MBIs are numbers and upper-case letters. We use numbers 1-9 and all letters from A to Z, except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z. If you use lowercase letters, our system will convert them to uppercase letters.

How does the MBI look on the card?

The MBI has letters and numbers. Here's an example: 1EG4-TE5-MK73

- The MBI's 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 9th characters are always letters.
- Characters 1, 4, 7, 10, and 11 are always numbers.
- The 3rd and 6th characters are letters or numbers.
- We don't use dashes in the MBI. They aren't part of our computer systems and we don't use them in file formats.

Continued...



Oneonta Gorge, Portland, Oregon



CoC-Accredited Flag

By Deborah Towell

Just a friendly reminder, the CoC Accredited Flag field cannot be blank on your submitted cases. Usually, your software vendor has this information pre-coded behind the scenes. Please check with your vendor if you have any questions. The field is required for NPCR and will draw an edit if left blank which will cause your file submission to be rejected.

Thanks,
Deb

Please reach out and let me know if you have any questions,
Deb, Linda, Mel, Marsha, & Jen

Treasurer 2021

As your Treasurer for 2021, this was the start of the 2-year position, 2021/2022. So that being said, you were "stuck with me anyway". The rest of your 2021 EC and committee members volunteered to stay in their positions again for 2022 since the Nominating Committee was a bust. (So, a BIG thanks to everyone for stepping up again) This was in no way due to lack of trying on the Nominating Committee's part, but just a job that continues to get harder and harder (Thank you as well to the NC), so as rough as this year has been (my personal opinion) here is to a way better year in 2022.

As we are in November when you get this newsletter, ***Happy Holiday Season!***

Martha Curl, CTR
OCRA Treasurer