



## The Presidents Message

*Japanese Gardens, Portland, Oregon*

Greetings OCRA Members. This will be my last official message to you all as your acting President. It has been my honor to serve our organization in this capacity for these past 2 years. Bonnie Kubli will undoubtedly be most effective in her new role, and I look forward to taking a back seat as the Past-President and help where needed. You won't get away from me that easily as I will be your new OCRA Newsletter Editor beginning 2023 for an unknown amount of time (usually until somebody else with a creative soul wants to take it for a spin).

It is still hard for me to believe we are already through the majority of our year. It seems to me that once Halloween passes, we wake up to January 1<sup>st</sup> again. Thanksgiving and Christmas just seem to meld together into one big blur. Tis true, time waits for no man.

A big thank you to all who attended our ZOOM OCRA Business Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had 42 members on the call and successfully voted to approve the proposed Bylaw revisions, as well as the 2023 budget. As an incentive, OCRA EC offered a \$100.00 winner's choice gift card in a random drawing. Congratulations to Kelly Denniston! Kelly requested her prize to be in the form of a Costco gift card.

Be sure to renew your OCRA membership before December 15<sup>th</sup>. One of our newly approved Bylaws was to have membership renewal occur during a specified timeframe. This is more in line with most organizations like NCRA and open enrollment periods. It allows us to be more efficient with tasks associated with membership duties. New members, including active and student memberships, are able to join at any time. Here's to all of you and happy, healthy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year!

Shelley Lindsey  
2021-2022 OCRA President

# In the Spotlight

*Kathy Mayer*



Maddie, Kathy, John, Sydney, and Remy.

While doing practicums for the PCC HIM/RHIT program, Kathy noticed that the cancer registry had very long-term people in these registry positions. Positions didn't seem to open up unless someone retired, so this was the initial peak in curiosity about the cancer registry profession.

Kathy began working in the Medical Records Department at Legacy Meridian Park Regional Medical Center. In 2008, Gail Coleman recruited Kathy and trained her. Shortly afterwards, Gail retired. Kathy was thankful to have Gail as her mentor. Kathy sat for her exam in 2010. She currently works for Oregon Health and Science University.

Kathy is a member of both OCRA and NCRA. She has served in the past as OCRA's Historian.

When she isn't working, Kathy enjoys biking, hiking, boating/watersports, and anything that takes her outdoors. She has been married to husband, John, for 27 years. Together, they have two daughters, Sydney (26) and Maddie (22). She also has a granddogger named Remy.

Kathy lost her mother in 2017 to pancreatic cancer. Raising awareness and funding to help change the outcomes continues to be her passion.

Thank you for being a part of OCRA, Kathy!





# In the Spotlight

*Naida Lynn Hurst*



Naida was studying for her AAS-HIT degree when approached by the Program Chair who felt the Cancer Registry would be a good fit for her and encouraged her to complete in practicum in the registry field. At that time, she was unaware of anything regarding the profession, but followed this advice. The Program Chair was right, Naida loved the field.

A Tumor Registry job opportunity presented itself and off Naida went to Kaiser Permanente in Honolulu, Hawaii with the condition she obtain her CTR within a year. She sold everything, bought one-way tickets for herself and her 9-year-old son, and away they went. Having never been to Hawaii, she had no idea where she would live, only that she had a job. She found a small apartment in 3 days, bought a couple air mattresses, bedding and the bare necessities to get started. Acclimating to the different cultures and food was challenging, but both Naida and her son fell in love with Hawaii, the spirit of Aloha and its people. She sat for the CTR exam in 2010 and remained for a couple years before returning to the mainland.

Naida currently works for Elekta, a global company that not only offers METRIQ and other software programs, but also offers the linac accelerators (used to deliver radiation therapy) and stereotactic equipment among other important medical devices.

Naida is a member of both OCRA and NCRA. She currently serves OCRA as the backup Webmaster.

Naida is married to her wonderful husband, Tom. Her son, Phillip Andrew, is now 24. She has three cats: Lexi, Jax and Mango. She enjoys photography and her work can be seen at [www.instagram.com/naidahurstphotography](http://www.instagram.com/naidahurstphotography).

Thank you, Naida, for being an active member of OCRA!



# In the Spotlight

## *Jennifer Johnson*



Jennifer and Tex

Jennifer's journey began as the Pathology Office Coordinator at University Hospital in Texas where she spent 10 years. During that time, she was always fascinated as to why the pathologists disliked the Tumor Registrar and Tumor Board so much. Ha! Imagine that. This piqued her interest in the field. But she really desired to move back to Oregon.

Jennifer began in the registry field in 1997 and sat for the CTR exam in 2002. Working 25 years in the hospital registry, Jennifer says she is still learning. She started casefinding, follow-up and Tumor Board. When she was doing follow-up, it took her a bit to figure out that she did not know the whole picture at the time of diagnosis and first course of treatment, and that she shouldn't be making all the changes she was making. Lesson learned. ~Her advice: Know how to access and use manuals that are applicable to your question(s). Do not over-think/analyze or it can send you down a rabbit hole, you usually know the correct answer. Ask questions. Surround yourself with good mentors who you can count on and only ask when needed, not as a crutch. Jennifer says, as a mentor she does not have all the answers but will try to help figure them out. She has been wrong. She has had the great opportunity of working with many exceptional CTR's during these 25 years.

Jennifer currently works for Asante fulltime and OHSU/OSCAR less than halftime.

She is a member of both OCRA and NCRA since 1997. She has served as the OCRA Nominating Committee Chair twice, OCRA Education Committee Chair, OCRA Newsletter Editor twice, and OCRA President. Jennifer applied for NCRA/CAP Liaison years ago but was not accepted. She plans to reapply again sometime.

Jennifer's greatest joy in life is being a mom and an aunt. She is hoping to become a grandma in the future, but for now she has Tex, who keeps her crazy!

Thank you, Jennifer, for each and every capacity you have served. You are appreciated!

## *Laura Wallace*



Laura always possessed a natural fascination with anatomy, science, and anything medical, so working with cancer data while completing her nursing prerequisites was a good fit. Ultimately, it was the data aspect that won out and Laura stayed in the cancer registry field where she remains today, 20 years later.

Laura sat for her CTR exam in 2003 and currently works for OHSU. She is a longstanding 20-year member of OCRA and NCRA. She has held the office of OCRA Secretary and was the OCRA Newsletter Editor in the past. In 2024, Laura will step in as your OCRA President.

In her spare time, Laura enjoys skiing, biking, hiking, gardening, doing artwork, traveling, photography, cooking/baking, and decorating. She also enjoys spending time with her family, fur babies and friends. She just purchased a great new mountain bike and is just learning this new style of riding. Please wear your helmet and stay off the rocks!

Laura concludes that she thinks we (OCRA) are an amazing group of people and is proud to be part of this dedicated group. We feel the same about you, Laura. Thank you for your enthusiasm and participation over the years!





## Resource Corner

Did you know that NCI SEER Appendix C is like a one-stop shopping location for many of our abstracting manuals? It not only provides the links, but also offers more information regarding appropriate surgery codes. Check it out!

<https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/2022/appendixc.html>

Colon, Appendix, Rectosigmoid, Rectum

[Coding Guidelines: Colon \(PDF, 29 KB\)](#)

[Coding Guidelines: Rectosigmoid, Rectum \(PDF, 41 KB\)](#)

[Solid Tumor Rules: Colon, Rectosigmoid, and Rectum \(PDF, 1.6 MB\)](#)

**SURGERY CODES**

- [Colon - \(C180-C189\) \(PDF, 44 KB\)](#)
- [Rectosigmoid - \(C199\) \(PDF, 44 KB\)](#)
- [Rectum - \(C209\) \(PDF, 43 KB\)](#)

**SITE-SPECIFIC CODES FOR NEOADJUVANT THERAPY TREATMENT EFFECT**

- [Colon and Rectum, Esophagus, Stomach, Anus, Pancreas \(PDF, 237 KB\)](#)
- [Thymus, Heart and Mediastinum, Retroperitoneum, Soft Tissue Abdomen and Thoracic, Soft Tissue Head and Neck, Soft Tissue Other, Soft Tissue Trunk and Extremities, GIST \(PDF, 214 KB\) - Use these codes for sarcomas of the Colon, Appendix, Rectosigmoid, Rectum](#)

Here is an example of the difference between STORE and the SEER site in relation to surgery codes for C180-C189, specifically C181.

STORE 2022 Surgery Codes Colon C180-C189 pg. 364

- 30 Partial colectomy, segmental resection**  
**32 Plus resection of contiguous organ; example: small bowel, bladder**

SEER Appendix C Surgery Codes Colon C180-C189 pg. 1

- 30 Partial colectomy, segmental resection**  
**32 Plus resection of contiguous organ; example: small bowel, bladder**  
**[SEER Note:** Code 30 includes but is not limited to the following procedures: Appendectomy (for an appendix primary only), enterocolectomy, ileocolectomy, partial colectomy, NOS, partial resection of transverse colon and flexures, and segmental resection (such as cecectomy or sigmoidectomy). Note that the removal of a short portion of the distal ileum is **not** "removal of a contiguous organ."**]**

### Reminder

OCRA Membership Renewal is underway. Deadline for renewal is 12/15/22. For more information, please visit the OCRA website at <https://www.ocra-oregon.org/membership/>

Martha Curl, CTR OCRA Treasurer



## Out Going Treasurer's Message:

Greetings-

Most of you have heard my history and stories a time or two but for those that may have not, here is a little summary. I joined OCRA after starting in the Cancer Registry in 1991, fresh out of the Army and a War, Desert Storm. Everything was new and different over 30 years ago and things have changed a lot since then and continue to change..... now more often than we like them too. Perhaps it has something to do with age. LOL.

Of course, I don't feel old, but I am the same age as all my mentors were when I started, and I thought they were "old". I have volunteered for all positions and hardly missed a year. I have been in all EC positions, 11 years, including Treasurer for 7 total and for the last 5 consecutive years. With Shelley getting us all the little "hangy things" on our badges, I think I have the longest one. 😊

With that being said, my time on OCRA EC is coming to an end and I will be handing over the books (and ALL the other things that go along with the job) to OCRA's newest Treasurer, Rebecca Berwager in January 2023. I would love to see more OCRA members get involved whether you are a new member or a long-time member. OCRA needs everyone's support, and it wears out the same people doing all the work.

I will still be around working. I have a wealth of OCRA history, and I am always available to assist or answer questions if you ask. But for 2023 I am hoping to focus my extra time on my grandsons and change my focus of my volunteerism.

All the best to all of you!

Martha Curl, CTR  
OCRA Treasurer



## Final Newsletter Editor's Message:

It has been my pleasure and such an honor to be the OCRA Members Newsletter Editor for the last two years. I leave you in good hands with our 2021-2022 OCRA President Shelley Lindsey as she transitions into your next newsletter editor.

Shannon Kearbey  
OCRA Newsletter Editor