



### Presidents Message

Hello OCRA members,

I can't believe we are already four months into the year! It has definitely been a busy year, so far. Even with how busy we are, don't forget to take a moment to celebrate YOU! National Cancer Registrars week is April 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

The NCRA conference is right around the corner and I hope to see many of you there. We'll plan for all OCRA members that are attending the conference to meet for a group picture. Time and place TBD.

The 2019 OCRA Education Committee has been hard at work planning our Fall Workshop to be held October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at Providence Willamette Falls Community Center, Oregon City. You won't want to miss out on any of the great speakers and topics at this year's workshop! Plug the date into your calendar today and don't forget to make your hotel reservations.

Do have ideas on what OCRA can do to help serve its members, aside from the annual Fall Workshop? I would love to hear your suggestions. Send me an email or give me call.

I recently returned from a vacation with my son. We racked up over 3000 miles driving through Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. It was an amazing experience and one I won't soon forget. Below are a few of my favorite photos. A sunrise, Arches National Park, and a view down the valley where you can see all the way to Texas.

Thank you for reading!

Ron Lamie  
2019 OCRA President



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### 2019 Officers:

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### Newsletter Editor:

Laura Wallace, RHIT, CTR

[wallacll@ah.org](mailto:wallacll@ah.org)

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## OSCaR Updates - March 2019

- Melania Tolan-Hudson will be helping the OSCaR QA team with some quality assurance work. Melania will be performing visual review and running edits on the batches of cases submitted by hospitals. Her email address will be a State of Oregon email address while in this temporary role. [Melania.R.Tolan-Hudson@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:Melania.R.Tolan-Hudson@dhsoha.state.or.us)
- Kirsten Aird the OSCaR manager has taken a job rotation with the Public Health Division Directors office and will no longer be a contact for OSCaR. Todd Beran, Surveillance Manager will be the new OSCaR manager while Kirsten is in the job rotation. Todd's email is [Todd.Beran@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:Todd.Beran@dhsoha.state.or.us)
- OSCaR has been working on increasing cancer reporting with our non-hospital facilities. During the month of February, we piloted Abstract Plus, a CDC software, with three designated Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Cancer Treatment Centers to increase electronic cancer reporting.
- Just a reminder please do **not** submit your 2018 cases to OSCaR yet. We have not been able to update WebPlus or our cancer database software to V18. We will keep everyone posted regarding progress via the OSCaR ListServ.
- **Reminder: OSCaR will not be collecting AJCC 8<sup>th</sup> edition TNM as advised by CDC-NPCR.**
  - You will be required to report on SEER Summary Stage.
  - This means you will not be receiving feedback on TNM 8<sup>th</sup> edition from OSCaR.

## NAACCR Prep Exam Review Course (by Whit Watkins)

I recently had an opportunity to take the NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar series. The course consisted of eight two-hour webinar sessions designed to aid in the preparation for the up-coming CTR exam, concluding with a live preparation exam. The course provided instruction in such topics as data analysis, coding, casefinding, and solid and hematopoietic tumor rules. Although I am not planning to sit for the CTR exam during the most recent examination period, I found the training very informative, particularly in light of the 2018 changes transforming the industry.

There were two areas I thought that the course covered especially well. First, there was a comprehensive overview of industry operations. This included management of registries, and included the roles of personnel in tumor boards, cancer committees, and other operational functions. There was also a review of registry quality assurance and the role of industry standard setters. The second area of coverage which was most timely and informative was a review of the 2018 changes for AJCC staging and SEER summary staging. There were an abundance of hands-on exercises which aided in the understanding of the changes for the AJCC 8<sup>th</sup> Edition manual. The course focused on significant changes within the breast, colon, and lung staging, while providing references for other 2018 changes. There was also a comprehensive review the general TNM and SEER Summary staging principles, which incorporated 2018 changes.

Overall, I believe the course improved my knowledge of the cancer industry and the roles that cancer professionals play in collecting and disseminating data, and was most beneficial in helping me understand how to use the available manuals and information sources to create better information for OSCaR's QA and consolidation activities. The number of roles available within the industry highlighted the infrastructure in the clinical setting which cancer professionals support. Additionally, the coursework focus on data presentation and data collection was an important reminder to show the role of correct and detailed information. Finally, the course use of the current manuals/documentation and links to standard-setters was both a refresher and a reminder of the 2018 changes of this vital and vibrant profession.....much more than just a review for the 2019 exam!

### 2019 Testing Dates:

- March 1 - March 23, 2019; application deadline: January 31, 2019
- June 21 - July 13, 2019; application deadline: May 31, 2019
- October 11 - November 2, 2019; application deadline: September 13, 2019

### SEER SINQ Q&A Moment

Question: (20180112)

#### Question:

Solid Tumor Rules (2018)/Histology--Lung: What is the histology code of a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), NOS as this is not on the AJCC list of histologies? See Discussion.

#### Answer:

Code NSCLC to 8046/3.

Do not change a histology code simply to assign TNM to the case. **AJCC does not determine histology coding**. While pathologists are no longer encouraged to use NSCLC, it does not mean the term and code are obsolete. NSCLC could be any number of histologies such as adenocarcinoma or squamous carcinoma. A diagnosis of NSCLC indicates that the initial exam of the tissue did not identify a more specific type of NSCLC. Additional immunohistochemical testing is needed to determine the histology. Update the case if better information becomes available from subsequent tests/review.

When analyzing the data, researchers and physicians will be able to identify the cases where the pathologist was unable to or did not perform further testing to determine a specific histology which drives treatment and survival.

### SEER\* Educate-Learning Opportunities

Do You Need CEs? Heme 2018 Coding Exercises are now available in SEER\*Educate!

These coding exercise focus on using the Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Database and Coding Manual to code cases and provide rationales on the answer. SEER\*Educate has made 30 practice cases available from the Training Menu in the Practical Application section. The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) awarded continuing education (CEs) credits for each set of 5 cases. These were approved as Category A CEs.

<https://educate.fredhutch.org/LandingPage.aspx>

## OSCaR – Data Reporting System (by Kameny Chan)

The past year, the Oregon State Cancer Registry (OSCaR) expanded its data reporting system. Expansion includes reporting cancers by associated risk factors, adding new cancer risk factor to web-based data table reports and developing an interactive cancer data query system.

OSCaR conducted a literature review on risk-related cancers and found the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document “*Predefined SEER\*Stat Variables for calculating the Number of Associated Cancers for Selected Risk Factors*”. According to the CDC, there are 12 tobacco-related cancers, 6 alcohol-related cancers, 13 obesity-related cancers, and 3 physical inactivity-related cancers. This document also includes cancers related to HPV and identified the histology and cancer site codes to include for each of the risk factors.

OSCaR developed two new risk-related cancers tables. One of the new data tables provides a list of cancers related to tobacco use, alcohol use, obesity and physical inactivity. We also indicated which of the cancer sites in our annual incidence and mortality web tables are related to the above risk factors.

Additionally, the cancer registry created an HPV-related cancers table which includes HPV-related cancers incidence and mortality rates. These new data tables help the Oregon Health Authority track cancer trends and monitor HPV vaccination rates in Oregon.

In addition to the risk-related web tables, OSCaR’s epidemiologist and research analysts are working to move the Oregon Public Health Division from static presentations of data in tables and published reports to an interactive data query system using the Microsoft Power BI software. The development of this web-based cancer data repository will make cancer registry data more accessible to the public. The data query system will also include Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data on cancer prevalence and screening rates. The public will be able to query cancer rates by race, ethnicity and county. This helps healthcare providers and public health practitioners to prioritize evidence-based strategies for prevention and identify priority populations for cancer screenings and health promotion efforts.

The improvement in cancer data reporting will help OSCaR in dissemination of data to strategic statewide partners to drive policy, system and environmental change supporting cancer prevention, survivorship, screening and immunization in Oregon.

**Check out all of OSCaR’s new data at:**

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/CHRONICDISEASE/CANCER/OSCAR/Pages/pubs.aspx>

## Hospital Discharge Data (by Deborah Towell)

The Hospital Discharge Database (HDD) can supplement traditional central cancer registry efforts to perform audits and identify missed cases.

Some state registries have identified 40% non-matches which were determined to be reportable but missed cases.

OSCaR recently performed a patient level data linkage between our database and the Hospital Discharge Database (HDD). We used the 2016 discharges to link with OSCaR’s database.

The linkage identified 2,970 non-matches for 2016 data. It identified 11 hospitals with over 100 hospitalizations that are not reported in the OSCaR database. Prostate, lymphoma and leukemia are the biggest non-matched sites. Please keep in mind the HDD does not take into consideration MPH rules so that may account for some of the non-matches.

In Spring 2019, I will send out a letter to the 11 facilities with a timeline and expectations. This will be followed up a week or so later with an Excel spreadsheet for each of the facilities with the potentially reportable missed case information. I look forward to working with you to help inform this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deborah Towell at 971-673-1021 or by email [Deborah.j.towell@state.or.us](mailto:Deborah.j.towell@state.or.us)

## Coding Tips-FIGO & 2018 cases

In 2018 the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) revised the staging system for carcinoma of the uterine cervix.

- **FIGO Stage is not the same as FIGO Grade.**
  - When submitting cases to OSCaR use the FIGO grade information in the pathology text and report the FIGO stage information in the staging text. Please be clear on the text you provide.
- Some of the GYN sites do use FIGO while some do not. Make sure to review each primary site.
- The list of tests and procedures that may be used to assign stage was expanded to include imaging and pathologic finding.
- FIGO Stage codes are based on GYN primary sites.
- Pay close attention to the notes section as this will provide helpful guidelines when using the SEER \*RSA EOD data.
- Do not attempt to code FIGO stage based only on T, N and M.
- If FIGO stage is not documented in the medical record, code 99.
- Code 97 for any case that is an in situ.
- [https://staging.seer.cancer.gov/eod\\_public/list/1.5/](https://staging.seer.cancer.gov/eod_public/list/1.5/)

### FIGO Stage Vulva

#### Notes

**Note 1:** Take the highest Federation Internationale de Gynecologie et d'Obstetrique (FIGO) stage documented in the medical record. **Do not attempt to code FIGO stage based only on T, N, and M.** If FIGO stage is not documented in the medical record, code 99. FIGO stage is not the same as FIGO grade. Only code FIGO stage in this field, do not code FIGO grade.

**Note 2:** If a stage group is stated but it does not specify that it is a FIGO stage, assume that it is a FIGO stage and code it.

**Note 3:** The FIGO stage definitions do not include Stage 0 (Tis). Code 97 for any case that is in situ (/2).

#### Default

98



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## SEER Cancer Registrar Training available on the website

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### [Becoming a Cancer Registry Professional](#)

Frequently asked questions and resources on becoming a CTR.

[SEER's Training Web Site](#): Web-based training modules for cancer registration and surveillance.

[SEER\\*Educate](#) Online training platform for cancer registry professionals.

[SEER Self Instructional Manuals for Cancer Registrars](#) A collection of instructional manuals in PDF format.

[SEER Advanced Topics for Registry Professionals](#) An annual event that provides advanced training in data collection and coding.



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### Resources Beyond SEER:

[American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) Cancer Programs Education Portal](#)

[National Cancer Registrars Association \(NCRA\) Educational Resources](#)

[National Program of Cancer Registries \(NPCR\) Training](#)

[North American Association of Central Cancer Registries \(NAACCR\) Education & Training](#) [Principles of Oncology for Cancer Registry Professionals](#)

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NCRA has some FREE presentations covering the 2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules (General Instructions, Colon, Lung, Breast) here: <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/SEER>

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### Have questions?? You might find answers in the forums below:

Answer forum: <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/>

An interactive virtual Bulletin Board for Commission on Cancer constituents to ask questions, search topics, and connect with the latest CoC activities.

Ask a SEER Registrar: <https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html>

For anyone to use. Questions are answered by NCI SEER staff. Questions are usually answered in a week, sometimes within a day.

SEER SINQ: <https://seer.cancer.gov/seerinqury/index.php>

Questions can only be submitted by designated registrars in SEER registries. Once an answer is final, it is available to everyone via the SINQ database on the SEER website.

Treatment of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) with the Optune System is coded as "Other Tx". GBM cancer cells divide quickly. Optune is a portable, wearable, FDA-approved device indicated to treat GBM in adult patients 22 years of age or older. It creates low intensity wave-like electric fields which are delivered by adhesive patches called transducer arrays. The patches are applied to the scalp in the location of a GBM tumor and are connected to the device and battery. This interferes with cancer cell division; either slowing or stopping cancer cells from dividing. The device is worn for at least 18 hours per day and keeping one's head shaved is recommended. <https://www.optune.com/therapy> Per Answer Forum, this therapy does not fit the description of Surgical Procedure to Primary Site, Radiation therapy, or Systemic therapy. Code it as Other Tx, 1. <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums>

**OCRA 2019 Fall Meeting****Save the Date!****Save the Date!**

**Hosted by OCRA & OSCaR October 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Providence Willamette Falls Community Center - Oregon City, OR  
Featuring Wilson Apollo, CRT - Specializing in Radiation**



There are two hotels that have been reserved for those needing them. A block of 10 rooms have been reserved at each facility; please make your reservations early and **please reference OCRA/Oregon Cancer Registrars Association when making your reservations.**

**Monarch** (5.7 mile drive to the facility off of I-205)

[www.Monarchhotel.cc](http://www.Monarchhotel.cc)

12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015

(503) 652-1515

Cutoff date: 9/24/18 - \$109 single/double +tax

**Best Western Plus Rivershore** (0.6 miles from the facility)

[www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

1900 Clackamette Dr, Oregon City, OR 97045

(503) 655-7141

Cutoff date: 9/30/18 - \$109 single/double +tax

## NCRA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference

**Save the Date!**

The NCRA Education Conference, organized by the National Cancer Registrars Association will take place from **May 19 – 22, 2019 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, United States Of America**. The conference will cover areas like information specialists that capture a complete history, diagnosis, treatment, and health status for every cancer patient in the U.S. The data provides essential information to researchers, healthcare providers, and public health.

### NCRA: CELEBRATING ITS 45<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2019

In honor of its 45th anniversary, NCRA's 2019 Program Committee has planned a special program to honor how cancer surveillance and the cancer registries have evolved over the past 45 years. Each day will feature a keynote address. On Monday, Dr. Ted Williamson will focus on the *Evolution of Cancer and Cancer Care*; Dr. Otis Brawley will highlight the *Evolution of the Standards of Care and Survivorship* on Tuesday; and on the final day, a team will present a keynote on how Cedars-Sinai Medical Center used oncology analytics provided by the cancer registry to advance and improve cancer care. Another special feature of this year's program are three symposia — hospital, central, and management/professional development — offered on the last day. The symposium format will provide opportunities for more interactive learning. Facilitators will help manage the day and moderate discussions.





**August 12-14, 2020**

**Providence St. Joseph Health CCRA, OCRA  
and WSTRA**



**Save the Date**

**2020 West Coast Regional Conference**

**Save the Date**

**Embassy Suites Portland Airport**

**7900 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97220**

**503-460-3000**



Reservations cannot be made until one year out-so you may start calling August 11, 2019 and watch for a direct link to come out.

**Note: This meeting qualifies, as per Standard 1.11 of the American College of Surgeons, for Commendation, CTR staff attending a national or REGIONAL cancer-related educational meeting at least once during the three-year survey cycle.”**

**For more information, contact:**

[Mayra.llamas@providence.org](mailto:Mayra.llamas@providence.org) 818 847-3839

[Martha.curl@providence.org](mailto:Martha.curl@providence.org) 541-466-0957



Oregon Cancer  
Registrar's Association

**Hotel info:**

- **Price \$ 209.00 single/double**
  - Rate includes: 2 room suites
  - Fully cooked-to-order breakfast
  - Nightly evening reception (beer, wine, cocktails and snacks)
  - Rates guaranteed through July 12, 2020 but don't delay
- Room rate is guaranteed for 3 days before and after conference
- Overnight self-parking \$15.00
- Parking for day use only \$5.00. Note: if you leave and come back that is an additional \$5. Limit one \$5 parking per day.
- Complimentary airport shuttle 24 hours to and from hotel.
- Within walking distance to a MAX light rail stop.
- Cascade Station with 800,000 sq ft of retail and restaurant space within walking distance.

## Other News/Announcements

Please note: due to the Regional Conference being held in August 2020 **there will not be a 2020 OCRA/OSCaR Fall Workshop**. A business meeting will be held incorporated with officer installation for OCRA members.

**Nominate someone for the OCRA DMA this year! Link:**

<http://www.ocra-oregon.org/resources/distinguished-member-awards/>

**Deadline 7/31/19**

**Michelle Henson Memorial Scholarship Award:**

If you have recently taken your CTR exam, are an OCRA member and paid for it yourself, you are eligible to apply for this scholarship. **Link:** <http://www.ocra-oregon.org/resources/michele-henson-memorial-scholarship-fund/>

<http://www.ocra-oregon.org/resources/michele-henson-memorial-scholarship-fund/>

**Deadline 8/31/19**

**\*NEW\*** April Fritz Memorial Scholarship to attend the OCRA FWS

**Deadline 8/31/19**

**OREGON CANCER REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION  
APRIL FRITZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name	Credentials
Institution	Phone
Address	City, State, Zip

I certify that the information provided in this application is correct, and that:

- I am an active member of the Oregon Cancer Registrars Association in good standing.
- I have not received this scholarship before.
- I am working full or part time in a cancer registry.

Signature of Applicant	Date
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OCRA Standing Rule:

**A. Criteria for application:**

1. Applicant must be an Active member of OCRA in good standing.
2. Applicant may only receive this award once in a lifetime.
3. Applicant must not receive funding from another source.

**B. Application and reimbursement process:**

1. The April Fritz Memorial Education Award will be granted to one Active Member per year.
2. Applicant must submit an application to the Treasurer prior to the deadline.
3. The Executive Committee will select the recipient at the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Fall Workshop by lot (random drawing).
4. The recipient will be refunded their workshop registration fee upon attending the Fall Workshop.

Return completed application to: OCRA Treasurer

**DEADLINE FOR E-MAIL/POSTMARK/FAX: August 31st**

## Message from the Newsletter Editor Laura Wallace

Please email any updates or educational information for the Summer Edition OCRA Newsletter to: [wallacll@ah.org](mailto:wallacll@ah.org) or [wallacel@ohsu.edu](mailto:wallacel@ohsu.edu)

I welcome any suggestions you may have to help make our newsletter even more informative.

Embedded is an eBook from himagine Solutions, Brad Justus - VP of Client Development, [bjustus@himaginesolutions.com](mailto:bjustus@himaginesolutions.com), has allowed me to share regarding **2018 Cancer Registry Changes**



himagine\_CR\_eBook\_  
2019.pdf



APR 8-12 2019  
**NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRARS WEEK**  
CANCER REGISTRARS: CAPTURING THE PICTURE OF CANCER