

Oregon State Cancer Registry Association

Spring/Summer – June 2020



Presidents Message

Wow, what a way to start a year! Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I'd ever write an article containing the words pandemic, COVID-19, social distancing (what?). That being said, I sincerely hope you and all your loved ones are safe and healthy.

The **OCRA Executive committee** have already met twice this year. We will be reviewing the OCRA By-laws closely to ensure the By-laws align with the scholarship and other OCRA specific forms. We will also be re-visiting the different levels of OCRA membership. This was discussed at the OCRA Business meeting last year and at that time no decisions were made to make any changes. We would like to simplify the different levels of membership. Expect to hear more on this topic. We are also doing an intensive review of the OCRA website to ensure accuracy and continuity.

The **OCRA Welcoming Committee** has been working hard on putting a plan together for welcoming new members and promoting OCRA. It's exciting to have such a great group of volunteers who are so passionate about the Certified Tumor Registrar classification and career path.

Nominating committee will be making contact with all the current OCRA members to hopefully find some volunteers for the 2021 OCRA offices. Please think about it.

West Coast Regional Education Conference 2020: Due to COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty, the 2020 conference is cancelled and has been rescheduled for **August 11-13, 2021**. Any requested refunds will be sent out soon. Most registrations were rolled over along with all the vendor/sponsorships.

Speaking of education, the OCRA Executive committee and OSCaR are trying to figure out educational options for the OCRA membership for 2020. At this point it looks like it will have to be a **virtual** event since we can't have any large gatherings thru September. We are still in the beginning stages of planning and discussions. So stay tuned. If you have any suggestions or would like to help plan please contact one of the Executive committee members.

Sorry for the delay in the newsletter. We were hoping to publish the newsletter after the **2020 NCRA conference** and have OCRA attendees share information, but NCRA has been postponed/rescheduled for September 20-23, 2020.

I have decided I will **not** attend the rescheduled 2020 NCRA conference. I will be deferring to the OCRA By-laws for an OCRA Executive committee member to attend the conference in my absence.

These are certainly strange times. Thank you for the honor of representing OCRA as your President for 2020. Please contact me for any questions or concerns.

Deborah Towell, CTR
2020 OCRA President



OSCaR Updates - May 2020**Submitted by: Linda Shan**

- As we adjust our lives around COVID-19 many of us have had to adjust how we do business and do our work in Oregon as well as across the world. As trainings and conferences are put on hold for at least this year many wonder what will happen in the future. And while we do not know all the answers we must continue to be safe and be flexible.

I know that many of the CTR's attend these trainings and conferences depend on CE's earned for their CTR credential. I reached out to Mary Maul to ask and see what NCRA was planning to offer anything via online. NCRA is looking at their options but there is nothing definitive to date.

I just want to remind everyone that if you need CE's there are a few remote options.

1. If you haven't signed up already to participate in the NAACCR webinars series OSCaR subscribes to and you want to be added to the list for the NAACCR webinar series please send Linda Shan an email with your contact info and your facility. Three (3) CE's per webinar are available for these if you take and pass the quiz.
 2. Also, there are several options and modules located on SEER educate. You will need to register with them if you do not have an account and you can do so by going to their webpage at:
<https://educate.fredhutch.org/LandingPage.aspx>
- OSCaR has been working on increasing cancer reporting with our non-hospital facilities and eliminating paper cases that are submitted. Starting this summer, we plan to redirect and move forward at increasing our outpatient reporting with small and large Dermatology groups.

We know that cancer is under reported in Oregon especially among Outpatient providers. We will continue our outreach efforts with ASC's and CTC's by phone, email and through a list serve called Abstract Plus User's Group (APUG).

If you have any suggestions on how your facility can help OSCaR with outpatient reporting we would like to set up a time to meet to talk about your ideas. Please contact Linda at Linda.Y.Shan@state.or.us

- Case Completion Numbers as of 05/01/2020:
2018 cases = 91%
2019 cases = 32%

SEER SINQ Q&A Moment

Question: [20190104](#)

Question:

Histology--Corpus uteri: Is 8020/3 used for a predominantly dedifferentiated carcinoma with focal well-differentiated endometrioid adenocarcinoma diagnosed in 2018? See Discussion.

Discussion:

After a little research, it appears as though Endometrial Dedifferentiated carcinoma is a relatively new term and is set to be included in ICD-O-3.2:

http://www.iacr.com.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=100&Itemid=577

If you look at the link on that page for All Additions, Changes, and Revisions to the ICD-O-3, 1st Revision for ICDO-3.2, there is 8020/3 Dedifferentiated carcinoma. Currently, 8020/3 is Carcinoma, undifferentiated, NOS. For 2018 diagnosis, would you use 8020/3 for a predominantly dedifferentiated carcinoma with focal well-differentiated endometrioid adenocarcinoma as stated in the pathology: Uterus, bilateral ovaries and fallopian tubes; supracervical hysterectomy/BSO: Predominantly dedifferentiated carcinoma with focal well-differentiated endometrioid adenocarcinoma in the endometrium, FIGO grade 1 Portion of omentum, omental/anterior abdominal wall/ round ligament/uterine/small bowel mesenteric tumor nodules all involved by dedifferentiated carcinoma. Synoptic reads as follows: Histological Type: Endometrioid carcinoma, NOS Dedifferentiated carcinoma predominantly Histological Grade: Endometrioid carcinoma, FIGO grade 1.

Answer:

Assign code 8380/3 for endometrioid carcinoma, NOS as this is listed as the histological type in the synoptic report.

NAACCR 2020 Virtual Conference- Learning Opportunities

NAACCR cancelled the in-person conference for 2020 which was to be held Philadelphia this year. They now will be presenting a free virtual conference on June 23rd-25th. You will need to register to participate and CE's are available.

To register please see the NAACCR registration page: <https://www.naaccr2020.org/>

QA on cases- OSCaR Database:**Submitted by: Deborah Towell**

Upon review of a large batch of cases (2,300) **Tumor Size** was often coded different among those cases that merged with another facility for the same cancer, same patient. Also noticed some discrepancy even within a single abstract. Below are some snips from the STORE manual.

Priority of imaging/radiographic techniques: Information on size from imaging/radiographic techniques can be used to code size when there is no more specific size information from a pathology or operative report, but it should be taken as low priority, over a physical exam.

Tumor size discrepancies among imaging and radiographic reports: If there is a difference in reported tumor size among imaging and radiographic techniques, unless the physician specifies which imaging is most accurate, record the largest size in the record, regardless of which imaging technique reports it.

Multifocal/multicentric tumors: If the tumor is multi-focal or if multiple tumors are reported as a single primary, code the size of the largest invasive tumor or if all the tumors are in situ, code the size of the largest in situ tumor.

Palliative Care-Coding Tips:**Submitted by: Linda Shan****Date of First Course Treatment/Palliative Care:**

When a patient receives palliative care for pain management only with no other cancer-directed treatment, Date of First Course of Treatment, NAACCR Data Item #1270, would be the date in which a patient decides on palliative care for pain management only, as recommended by the physician. "No therapy" is a treatment option that occurs if the patient refuses treatment, the family or guardian refuses treatment, the patient dies before treatment starts, or the physician recommends no treatment be given, or the physician recommends palliative care for pain management only.

SEE STORE Addendum!

https://www.facs.org/-/media/files/quality-programs/cancer/ncdb/ncdb_store_addendum.ashx

Coding Spanish/Hispanic Origin:

Spanish Origin is independent of race. A patient can be ANY race and have Spanish Origin coded to 1 - 8.

- Patients with a known birth country and their last name or maiden name is NOT on the Spanish Surname list (and no further information regarding ethnicity in the medical record), code to 0.
- Patients with dual last names where only one of the last names appears on the Spanish Surname list (and no other information in the medical record regarding ethnicity), code to 7.
- Patients born in Mexico (if their last name or maiden name is on the Spanish Surname list), code to 1.
- Portuguese, Brazilian and Filipino patients are not presumed to be Spanish or non-Spanish. If their last name or maiden name appears on the Spanish Surname list, code to 7.

If the last name or maiden name does NOT appear on the Spanish Surname list, code to 0.

The Spanish Surname list can be found here:

https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/2007/SPCSM_2007_AppendixD.pdf

NCRA/Regional



NCRA Reschedules 2020 Annual Conference for September 20-23, 2020

After careful consideration and a comprehensive review of information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the NCRA Board of Directors has made the decision to reschedule the NCRA 2020 Annual Conference. The new dates are September 20-23, 2020; the original dates were May 31-June 3, 2020. The conference will still be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Future Conferences

NCRA 47th Annual Education Conference
June 2-5, 2021
Indianapolis, IN

NCRA 48th Annual Education Conference
April 6-9, 2022
Washington, DC

NCRA 49th Annual Education Conference
May 7-10, 2023
San Diego, CA

NCRA CEU Communication:

I would encourage those who are concerned about meeting their CE requirements to reach out to Kristin Stuppy (kstuppy@ncra-sua.org) to better understand CE submission options going forward or Mary Maul (mmaul@ncra-usa.org) for a list of educational events now offered in alternative formats such as webinars and virtual presentations. I think that each person's situation is a bit different, but if internet and online access is available CEs can be obtained through the online offerings.

Nancy Allen, Director of Operations and Contracts, NCRA and the NCRA Education Foundation

Providence West Coast Regional Conference UPDATE

Greetings,

Our news doesn't come lightly or without serious thoughts but amidst COVID19, we have decided to postpone the Providence West Coast Regional Conference which was scheduled for August 12-14, 2020. We have the meeting already rescheduled for August 11-13, 2021 at Embassy Suites. We will be guaranteed the same room rates and availability through their hotel. Embassy Suites will cancel all of the reservations and do any necessary refunds. For those that had made your hotel reservations at A Loft, they will be doing the same.

We will be attempting to keep the same agenda as available but then will send out updates when things change.

We know this is very unfortunate for everyone that has already made their reservations and sent in their registration. I will be personally working with everyone on the registrations. My hope is that I can roll your registration over to 2021 and hold your spot. If you or your hospital is not comfortable with that, we will get out your full refund as soon as possible but no later than 6 weeks from this email.

Again, our apologies are extended to each and every one of you on this conference change. Thank you to the committee as well, as we have all worked very long and hard to organize it and we will continue to do the same for 2021.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2021. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Lupe (Mayra Llamas) with any questions, comments and/or concerns.

Providence West Coast Regional Conference Committee
Martha Curl, CTR - Co-Chair

COOS BAY HOSPITAL to host our 2021 Fall Workshop

Below is a list of Fall Workshop hosts by year for reference. Remember, the Fall Workshop is an important event where OCRA continues to provide educational opportunities to our cancer registry community. It's also a great way for us to get to know one another and network with others in the cancer registry field.

List of Fall Workshop hosts:

2008 Providence – Portland

2009 OHSU – Portland

2010 Kaiser – Portland

2011 Asante – Medford

2012 Legacy – Portland

2013 Salem – Salem

2014 Sky Lakes – Klamath Falls

2015 OHSU – Portland

2016 St Charles – Bend

2017 Asante – Medford

2018 PeaceHealth – Springfield

2019 Providence – Oregon City



What are the new and updated exam dates for 2020?

The June 26 - July 17, 2020 testing window is extended through July 25, 2020.

A new testing window is scheduled for September 1 - September 12, 2020.

The October 16 - November 6, 2020 testing window is expanded to start on October 12 and runs through November 14, 2020.



A huge Congratulations to our newest CTR's!

Jessica Haughey, Alesha Easley, Kirstin Flores!

Congratulations!

Michele Henson Memorial Scholarship Fund – The Story Behind It

In October 2001, we lost a great registrar to lung cancer. OCRA set up a Memorial Fund for her and in 2002 re-named the scholarship to the Michele Henson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Michele was born November 8, 1953 in Los Angeles, CA and married Tom Henson on November 16, 1981. Michele wanted a higher education for herself and she wanted to make a difference in the world.

Michele started working in the registry in 1996 in Douglas Community Hospital in Roseburg, Oregon and later transferred to Mercy Medical Center. She took the CTR exam in March in 1999 in Beaverton along with Donna, a fellow registrar, from Portland. Donna's notification letter was first to come, leaving Michele on pins and needles for the next two days, until her letter came. She was very excited to receive that passing letter. Receiving her credentials was very important to Michele. She was delighted to receive a balloon bouquet and a stuffed animal attached with congratulations on passing her exam, on behalf of OCRA. Michele noted how blessed she felt when people would stop by to ask "What's the occasion?"

Michele was also recognized at the NCRA banquet for new registrars held in New Mexico, in May 2000. Michele was a hard worker and truly loved her job. She always gave 150% of herself. Anyone who met Michele knew she was a special person. She has so much love and faith and was a friend to all. She had a passion for garage sales, junk shops and the like. She loved her home and the fact that she could eventually work from home. Working from home was her ultimate goal.

She was able to start her own contracting business, but it wasn't long before she became ill. Michele was a strong person, and she put up a fight to the end.

One day she asked her husband what would be her legacy after she died? His answer was the kids, but there was more. Michele had hung a poster on the wall with a saying "100 years from now, I will have been a Cancer Registrar" and the sign still hangs. That is what drove Michele to the higher education she wanted, as she wanted to make a difference. Tom would find Michele in bed sick with her cancer but still working on cases that she wanted to get done. Tom stated that there are many things that he could write about Michele but one thing that really is the most evident about her life and to all who knew her was her drive to be the best that she could be. Not just in work, but at home and church. Michele loved life and she loved being a Cancer Registrar.

Abbreviated from an article in the Connection - Author, Martha Curl

OCRA continues to offer the Scholarship fund as an annual budgeted item from the general fund. Two OCRA member recipients are chosen yearly to cover the cost at the NCRA member rate of the CTR exam. Please see the website for information and application for the Scholarship.



CTR Resources

SEER Cancer Registrar Training available on the website

[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.

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](#)

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

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 aSEER 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.

SEERSINQ: <https://seer.cancer.gov/seer inquiry/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.

Calendar of Cancer Awareness Months			
January Cervical Cancer Awareness 	February National Cancer Prevention Month Gallbladder and Bile Duct Cancer Awareness 	March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Kidney Cancer Awareness Multiple Myeloma Awareness 	April Testicular Cancer Awareness Esophageal Cancer Awareness Head and Neck Cancer Awareness 
May Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Brain Cancer Awareness Bladder Cancer Awareness 	June National Cancer Survivor Month 	July Sarcoma Awareness 	August
September Childhood Cancer Awareness Gynecological Cancer Awareness Leukemia/Lymphoma Awareness Ovarian Cancer Awareness Prostate Cancer Awareness Thyroid Cancer Awareness 	October Breast Cancer Awareness Liver Cancer Awareness 	November Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Lung Cancer Awareness Stomach Cancer Awareness Carcinoid Cancer Awareness Caregivers Month 	December  CHOOSE HOPE® <small>SERVING THE CANCER COMMUNITY. SUPPORTING CANCER RESEARCH.</small> 1-888-348-HOPE www.choosehope.com <small>00031116</small>

Message from the Newsletter Editor

Laura Wallace

Please email any updates or educational information for the 2020 Fall Edition OCRA Newsletter to: wallacel@ohsu.edu - I welcome any suggestions you may have.

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, below are resources you can access:

What people with cancer should know: <https://www.cancer.gov/coronavirus>

Guidance for cancer researchers: <https://www.cancer.gov/coronavirus-researchers>

Get the latest public health information from CDC: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>

Get the latest research information from NIH: <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

Stay safe, healthy and keep practicing social distancing!

