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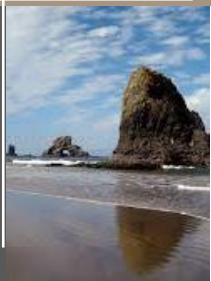


Oregon Cancer Registrar Association Newsletter

Issue 2



*Vol 6* **Spring** 2022



## The President's Message

Spring? Much to my dismay and as I type this message to you, I am looking out the window at the 6 inches of snow that fell during the past 48 hours. I was all prepped and ready for spring. I should have known not to be too hopeful that winter was near over in Central Oregon. After 20 years on the high desert spring seems to arrive sometime in the first week of June before transitioning to summer a short time later. There are two seasons in Bend, winter, and August. At least that is what I was told back in 2002 when I relocated to the area.

Your OCRA Executive Committee (EC) has been hard at work doing the things the EC does. We recently invited the membership to a meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We did have a few members who took advantage of the meeting. The purpose of that meeting was to relay the importance of a state association and what it would mean for a dissolution of OCRA. We really do not want to see that happen, nor do we want to write a check to NCRA for \$30K if it did. But that is the reality of it. Please don't let that happen. It really is not that big of a time commitment to oversee any elected or volunteer position. So please be kind to our Nominating Committee when they reach out to you over the next couple of months. We really do need you.

We are also seeking nominations for the Distinguished Member Award 2022 recipient.

Please use the form on the OCRA website to submit your nomination as instructed by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Any member who has made outstanding contributions, either locally or nationally, is eligible for nomination. This can be somebody who has made a difference to you or your team at the organizational level as well. The DMA Nomination Form is located in the Resources section, Distinguished Member Awards, just below the most current recipient of the DMA.

Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> is the date selected for our one-day workshop in Eugene/Springfield. It is a free, in-person, members only event. The workshop is hosted by CTR's for CTR's. Simply meaning it will cover topics that are in our day-to-day workflow. CEU's will be available. We hope you will be able to join us. It will be good to see all your faces again.

The Michele Henson Memorial Scholarship is also available. Two members in good standing are selected each year for this award which covers the cost of the NCRA CTR exam.

The deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>. You can find more information about the Michele Henson Memorial Scholarship at the bottom on the website 'Home' page. We are also seeking nominations for the Distinguished Member Award 2022 recipient.

Wishing you all the best.  
Shelley Lindsey, CTR  
OCRA President 2021-2022

**OREGON CANCER REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION**  
**SPECIAL SESSION**  
**"CANCER REGISTRARS LIGHTING THE WAY"**

**WHEN**  
Aug. 12, 2022  
7am-430pm

**WHERE**  
Hilton Garden Inn  
3528 Gateway Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
541-736-3000

**FREE TO ALL CURRENT OCRA MEMBERS**

# In the Spotlight



## Claudia Cooksie

By Deborah Towell



Greetings, I have the pleasure of introducing Claudia Cooksie, CTR, RHIT. Claudia first learned about Cancer Registry work when she covered for Tumor Board for a cancer registrars vacation back in 1976 at Willamette Falls Hospital. She said, YES, it was that long ago.

Claudia took her ART (now RHIT) exam in 1975 after graduating from the Medical Record Program at PCC under Captain Bev Hooten. She has worked in various hospital settings here in Oregon as well as in Northern California with the State licensing accreditation team back in the 1980's.

Then Claudia moved back to Oregon with a newborn and a 3 yr old in tow and started back in Med Records at Dwyer Community Hospital (now Providence Milwaukie Hosp). At that time in 1988, the cancer registrar at that facility was ready to retire and Claudia was moved into her position as the Cancer Registry Coordinator, learning to abstract and all the duties; albeit in paper (3 x 5 master patient cards in a file cabinet), and abstract in triplicate, etc.

Claudia took the CTR exam in 1991 while working and remembers waiting at least 3 months for the results! She remembers one of the questions on the exam was what does DOS mean? She was dubious if she was going to pass since she forgot her SEER Staging Manual! Thanks to several of her mentors she passed!

Several years later, she moved to Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, which went through a merge with all the other Legacy hospitals joining. Six years later, Claudia became interested in the central registry setting, and then moved to the Oregon Cancer Registry (OSCaR), firstly in quality control and then moving into the Quality and Training Coordinator position for many years. Claudia retired from OSCaR after 16 years and now works at OHSU ½ time and St Charles Med Ctr ½ time.

She has been a member of OCRA and NCRA for many years. She has served on the nominating committee and education committee on multiple occasions. Claudia has been a speaker at numerous OSCaR educational meetings as well as speaking on behalf of Oregon at CDC. Claudia says, "I have made so many longtime friends through my associations with OCRA and my various employments. Through all the good times and bad times, through hospital merges, staff changes, new administrators, etc, it's the membership that is the glue holding everything together and pulls us through!"

Claudia is blessed with 2 wonderful now grown kids, and 4 grandkids. She enjoys making her yard colorful and relaxing along with a cool drink on a hot summer day on her patio.



Columbia Gorge

## Marian Blasquez

By Martha Curl



Lt to Rt: Son-in-Law Frank, Me, Stepdaughter Kara, Son Raymond, Husband Dean, Grandson Parker, Son Brian.

I am introducing Marian Blasquez, Marian worked 22+ years in the automobile claims industry and was in desperate need of a change. She quit and moved from CA to OR where she went back to school in the HIT field. During the final few months of the program, her instructor mentioned her experience in the Cancer Registry and Marian was intrigued. That's how she wandered into the field.

Marian started at St Charles in 2014. She completed the AHIMA courses and passed the CTR in 2016. Marian also received the Michele Henson Memorial Scholarship that year and was reimbursed her exam fee. She has been a member of NCRA and OCRA since she started working at St Charles. Her first OCRA Fall Workshop was in Klamath Falls in 2014. She hasn't missed a workshop yet, until COVID. Marian misses the sense of community that comes with seeing everyone at least that one time each year.

Marian first volunteered for the By-Laws committee just before the COVID pandemic. Of course, that basically halted everything with OCRA since our last workshop in 2019. As I am summarizing this and preparing to submit it, it is NCRW and NCRA. Marian will join Deb and myself to review our By-Laws for the upcoming OCRA meeting in August. She has been married 29 years, two sons (Eugene OR and Boulder CO), a stepdaughter and step-son-in-law (Chicago IL), and two precious grandbabies. She moved from Bend to Florence 3 years ago and enjoys the beach but misses the sun.

She enjoys hiking, sewing, reading, thrift shopping, and home improvement projects. Last year she drove across the country with her 21-year-old son to help him move from Charlotte NC to Eugene OR. 3261 miles of togetherness. She would do it again tomorrow if she could.

# In the Spotlight



Continued >>>

## Tammy Trumbell

By Shelley Lindsey



Nathan, Tammy and Kaiden Trumbell-Rockaway Beach 2021

Tammy Trumbull, CTR Fun Facts: Walla Walla, Washington is the home of Adam West, who played Batman in the original Batman series in the 1960's. Walla Walla is also home to Chocolate Shop chocolate flavored wines. But far more importantly, Walla Walla is home to Tammy Trumbull, CTR.

Tammy's CTR journey began pursuing a nursing degree. After entering the nursing program, Tammy decided this wasn't the job for her, but wanted a job in a medical oncology related field. In 2002, Blue Mountain Oncology Program, who oversaw several small area hospitals in Washington and Oregon posted a vague position which included medical terminology, anatomy/physiology, and computer skills.

Intrigued, she interviewed with BMOP's Kay Hicks. Kay recommended Tammy undergo on-the-job training to attain her CTR. She did just that. Tammy tested and successfully obtained her CTR in 2006. She currently works as a fulltime abstractor for Providence Health & Services in Oregon. She enjoys abstracting and prides herself on quality work.

Tammy has had many cancer registry affiliate memberships since 2002 including OCRA, NCRA and WSTRA. She served as Membership Chair and worked with the Membership Committee for WSTRA for many years. Since 2013, Tammy has maintained both OCRA and NCRA memberships as an Active Member.

If you know Tammy, you know her family comes first. She is wife of 20 years to Nathan Trumbull. She is mother to son, Kaidin (17). She raised her two nieces, Kayla (30), and Michelle (29), who she refers to as her "naughters".

She has cared for many additional family members and for the past three years has been taking care of her Aunt Dodo (Dorothy).

Tammy enjoys gardening in her very large yard. She also lists antiquing, rescuing dogs, and spending time each year at Rockaway Beach in Oregon as hobbies. She says her soul belongs to the ocean. It is how she and her family recharge.

Some cool little tidbits about our Tammy; she earned money riding, breaking, and showing horses until the age of 22; her grandmother, Elizabeth Schulke, was Adam West's babysitter.

OCRA thanks you, Tammy, for being you.

*Shortly after this spotlight was written, Tammy lost her daughter, Michelle. Our hearts are with her and her family during this most time.*

## Shannon Kearbey

By Bonnie Kubli



**Introducing Shannon Kearbey, this lady is fun for me! I had the pleasure of introducing her to Cancer Registry as a career option back in 2008!**

Shannon says she got into this field "accidentally" while applying for a job in Medical Records at Bay Area Hospital. She wasn't hired for that job but was told there was another position open that she might be interested in.

Shannon says she got into this field "accidentally" while applying for a job in Medical Records at Bay Area Hospital. She wasn't hired for that job but was told there was another position open that she might be interested in. She interviewed for a position in the Cancer Registry and was hired right away! That is how we met and became friends and co-workers. She tells me that it changed her world forever with a career she is passionate about to this very day.

Shannon has been in the field for over 13 years and took her CTR exam in 2018. Although she currently works for the US Air Force, she stays connected through OCRA and NCRA as well as being our Newsletter editor. She has also served on the bylaws Committee in 2009.

She loves to travel to archeological events and ancient ruins. She enjoys visiting archeological digs, and has been to Mesa Verde in Cortez Colorado, and Canon City Colorado where she was able to see the sites where they were excavating dinosaur bones!

Shannon has five grandchildren; River is 8 years old, Megley is 7, Sierra is 7, Zinnia is 4 and Quest is a year old. She has 3 adult children; daughter Lindsey who is 30, son Dilan who is 28- and 21-year-old Jacob. She has been married to a wonderful man (Jim) for 11 years and feels blessed that he supports her in all her adventures!

Shannon was kind enough to thank me for bringing her into this career path as well as many other CTR's who have mentored her along the way. She loves her job and feels truly blessed.

Her favorite Quote sums up her adventures: **"Success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction."**



# 2022 NCRA Conference After COVID

by Jennifer Johnson, CTR



My co-worker Wendy Williams and I were able to attend the NCRA 2022 conference in person provided by our Manager Amanda Foster at Asante Health Systems who championed getting us back to normal and the support of in-person socialization. I am grateful and thankful to be able to work for Amanda and this organization. I would also like to give a big thank you to Melissa Alvarado at OHSU and to OSCAR for their support of my attending this conference in person as well. I have provided a few pictures of the conference in person. As you can see, we had a variety of weather.

Yes, my co-worker and I did ride the National Wheel as the Hotel gave us a free voucher (I kept my eyes closed the entire time). As you know our conference was in the National Harbor which is part of the DMV (DC, Maryland & Virginia).

The facility was stunning and the NCRA staff did a phenomenal job of making us feel safe. We had 3 different colored bracelets you could choose from to wear to let others know what contact you preferred and felt comfortable with. In one of the pictures below you can see how they spaced us out in the conference room. There were also provisions in place if you felt ill at the Hotel and what to do which sure made me feel better. NCRA had 3-4 large boards (front and back) up with CTR positions open and available. I saw several from Oregon and most all positions were for remote work. We are needed!

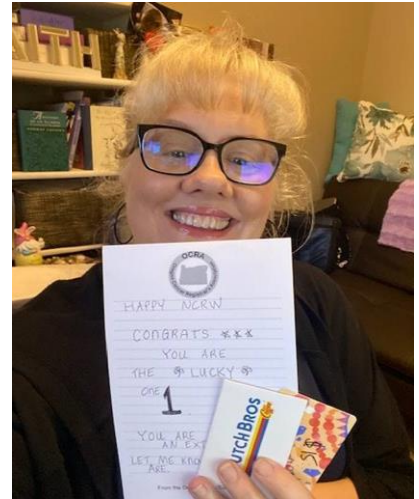
The Vendor turn-out was amazing and very much appreciated! I was able to see and participate in most all the registry software available out there which I love to do and see what everyone is using.

I was the lucky recipient of a Pink Coach tote bag from Omega Healthcare. We were able to get lots of free pens which is especially needed now as most of us are remote. We also got a few other great items with my favorite a metal straw.

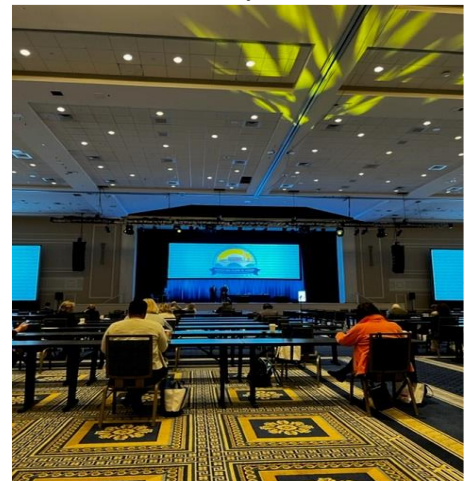
It was so nice to connect and meet with other Cancer Registrars whom I previously only had email contact with. As most of you know all the speakers were in attendance except the speaker from the CDC which was still done well with no technical challenges.

I think the only drawback for me was not seeing all the questions and answers via the virtual portal and I know by the last day they were not answering many questions due to time constraints. It was so exciting to hear our Oregon Registrars (Martha Curl, Deanna Patton and Lisa Herendeen-Shelton) win a state basket. I really loved that everyone no matter in person or thru the virtual portal were able to participate. Again, NCRA did a fantastic job and a shout-out to them for providing that for all of us!!

I hope you were all able to celebrate in some way for National Cancer Registrars week.



I was also the lucky recipient of the OCRA extra gift card for National Cancer Registrars week. A big thank you to the OCRA EC committee for their continued support and information they provide to their members. I hope each of you consider volunteering sometime for OCRA as it is very rewarding getting to connect with your fellow CTRs as well as educational in the operation of what it takes to make an organization successful. Thank you to Martha and to the past and current Historians for the OCRA picture books. I love seeing and looking at them and glad they will be put on a drive for future viewing. Of note, some of you know that I have such anxiety flying and I have to say we had excellent flights and service except for coming home Sunday night at 12 am from San Fran to Medford OR and waking up Monday to snow. Crazy. Looking forward to warmer days ahead.



## OSCaR Updates (March/April 2022)

- ✚ Next Coalition Meeting is June 15th! If you have any agenda or discussion topics please let me know at, [linda.y.shan@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:linda.y.shan@dhsosha.state.or.us)
- ✚ An OSCaR survey will be going out (hopefully) sometime in May. More information to follow.
- ✚ Deborah Towell is retiring from OSCaR at the end of June 2022. Please send an email to congratulate her on her next adventure at [deborah.j.towell@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:deborah.j.towell@dhsosha.state.or.us)

### SEER SINQ Q&A Moment

#### Question 20000256

#### References:

SEER EOD-88, 3rd Ed, 100

#### Question:

EOD-Size of Primary Tumor--Melanoma: How do you code tumor size for a melanoma diagnosed by a positive lymph node biopsy when the primary site is coded C44.9 because no primary site was identified? See discussion.

#### Discussion:

Should the size be 000 because no primary was found or 999 for unknown?

#### Answer:

For cases diagnosed 1998-2003:

Code the EOD-Size of Primary Tumor field to 000 [No mass; no tumor found] when primary site is coded to C449.

Source: <https://seer.cancer.gov/seer-inquiry/inquiry-detail/20000256/?p=229>

### The importance of race and ethnicity data

Race is one data item that is extremely important to have documented and coded at OSCaR. It needs to be accurate and precise as possible. There are differences in cancer morbidity and mortality seen amongst different racial and ethnic groups. And it is vital that we capture race and ethnicity in each cancer case that is submitted to OSCaR.

This information helps further our understanding of these diseases and better address health disparities. It can help shape outreach initiatives in getting communities screened and treated for cancer. Epidemiologists, physicians, researchers, and others use race and ethnicity data to better understand how cancer impacts different populations. When cancer cases are submitted with missing or incorrect race, the impacts can be detrimental. If we can't define and understand the differences in cancer rates and deaths by race, we cannot improve and save the lives of those impacted by cancer in our community.

Bi-annually at OSCaR, we pull a random sampling of race codes to ensure what is coded matches the text documentation in cases we received. We also check all unknown (99) and other (98) codes against text to see if we can assign a more precise race and ethnicity code.

-Linda Shan

*Based on the PE below, what would you code in the Race 1 and 2 fields?*

Race 1	<input type="text" value="98"/>	OTHER
Race 2	<input type="text" value="01"/>	WHITE
Race 3	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Race 4	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Race 5	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Spanish/Hispanic Origin	<input type="text" value="0"/>	NOT HISPANIC
Sex	<input type="text" value="2"/>	FEMALE

#### DX Proc--PE:

07, 0/00 FP: PT W ABD PAIN 3 TO 4  
BETTER FROM RECNT COVID-19 INFECT  
GASTRITIS QUESTIONABLE. PLAN US  
SURG TAV: 60 Y/O UKRAINIAN FE PR

If patient is biracial (black and white) how would you code this?

Race 1	<input type="text" value="98"/>	OTHER
Race 2	<input type="text" value="02"/>	BLACK
Race 3	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Race 4	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Race 5	<input type="text" value="88"/>	N/A
Spanish/Hispanic Origin	<input type="text" value="0"/>	NOT HISPANIC
Sex	<input type="text" value="2"/>	FEMALE

Some helpful hints when coding race:

#### Priorities for Coding Multiple Races

1. Code 07 takes priority over all other codes Example: Patient is described as Japanese and Hawaiian. Code Race 1 as 07 (Hawaiian), Race 2 as 05 (Japanese).
2. Codes 02-32, 96-98 take priority over code 01
3. Code only the specific race when both a specific race code and a non-specific race code apply
  - a. Codes 04-17 take priority over code 96
  - b. Codes 16-17 take priority over code 15
  - c. Codes 20-32 take priority over code 97
  - d. Codes 02-32 and 96-97 take priority over code 98
  - e. Code 98 takes priority over code 99

Source:

[https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2022/SPCSM\\_2022\\_MainDoc.pdf](https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2022/SPCSM_2022_MainDoc.pdf)

# Announcements...

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

www.cancer.gov



Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program  
Turning Cancer Data Into Discovery

Hello all,  
Save the dates! The 2022 SEER Advanced Topics for Registry Professionals will be held virtually on **July 19, 20, and 21**. This workshop will be free (registration will be required) and open to all cancer registrars. More information will be provided later. Check the Announcements on the Registry Operations page on the SEER website for updates, <https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/>

Margaret (Peggy) Adamo, BS, AAS, RHIT, CTR  
[adamom@mail.nih.gov](mailto:adamom@mail.nih.gov)



Stack Rock



February 10, 2022

**TO: NCRA State Associations**  
**FROM: NCRA Mentoring Committee**

Hello Members!

The NCRA mentoring program has been supporting students and prospective registrars since 2014. And the NCRA member mentors have been very successful at it! We thank you all for your hard work!

With all the changes in the field, and the growing need for CTRs, we need your assistance to recruit more members who are willing to spend a couple of hours a week/month to answer questions and provide guidance to those requesting mentoring.

Many of us have had mentors during our professional life to help us navigate through it. We all agree that being mentored was a valuable experience. As experienced CTRs we have learned that being a mentor can be personally gratifying, as well.

NCRA has two mentoring programs that need additional members: the basic mentoring program and the Independent Advisor (IA) Program -formerly the Independent Clinical Advisor Program (ICA).

**NCRA Mentoring Program:**

An NCRA mentor is an experienced CTR, who is registered with the *NCRA Mentoring Program*. An NCRA mentor is committed to the growth of the cancer registry profession, and volunteers his/her time to assist prospective CTRs and CTR colleagues attain their professional goals.

**NCRA Independent Advisor Program:**

The NCRA Formal Education Accredited Cancer Registry Management certificate and degree programs have had a change to the practicum piece of the curriculum. Students enrolled in accredited programs through colleges are supervised in their practicum by the program faculty. AHIMA students, being self-directed, do not have that support. The IA program needs CTRs who are able to answer questions and provide guidance to AHIMA students, through the maze of virtual and on-site practicum activities and the mandatory assessments that completes their program.

Please consider becoming a Mentor or an Independent Advisor (IA) in one of these programs. Responsibilities include answering questions and providing guidance to prospective CTRs.

Mentor volunteers: complete the online information form in the Mentoring section of the [Mentoring/IA web page](#)

Advisor volunteers: complete the online information form in the IA section of the [Mentoring/IA web page](#).

Questions? Contact the NCRA Mentoring Committee Staff administrator at [mmaul@ncra-usa.org](mailto:mmaul@ncra-usa.org)

Thank you!

*From Ron Lamie, CTR, AS CIM*



Darlingtonias



**NOTE**

**IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! You have until May 31, 2022 to claim credit and download a copy of your certificate of attendance/transcript. After that date, you will NOT have access to the conference portal. NCRA recommends that you save one copy to your files and print a second copy.**