



JUNE 30, 2025 | VOLUME 2

ACRA NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR
ALABAMA CANCER REGISTRARS' ASSOCIATION

Let's talk ACRA!



The Alabama Cancer Registrars Association (ACRA) is a non-profit professional organization made up of oncology data specialists (ODS) all over the state of Alabama and surrounding states. The main focus of ACRA's members is to collect and provide consistent, accurate data for physicians to help ensure proper care through treatment and research. We take pride in what we do and how we collect our data.

ACRA has been providing educational meetings for continuing education to its members since 1979, over 45 years. One of our main goals and focus is to educate, mentor and support oncology data specialists all over the state of Alabama.

Upcoming Events

- ★ OCT 2-3: 46TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ACRA
- ★ ONGOING: WEBSITE REVAMP



A Letter From Our President

Hello ODS-C,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to attend NCRA 2025 education conference. It was systems overload a lot of good information, site specific training: Lung, head and neck, and bladder. Also, it was a great time to network with fellow colleagues and make new acquaintances.

They really laid the red carpet out for State Presidents. The presidents led members to the exhibit hall with our pageant sashes on, waving as we walked around the exhibit hall. I think I got the pageant wave together, Lol. Then we had a networking luncheon where we sat and discussed our needs as a state association. I found out we're all in the same boat whether it's a big or small association. Each president discussed what "thing" they will do well? Pretty much we all said provide an opportunity for members to receive CEUs. Then what can we improve in? Getting more members to get involved and to run for office was a big discussion. There were presidents that have been in office for consecutive terms. One state association resolved due to the same members not being relieved from office. I know as an Association we can be better than we have, so let's do better! I love this profession and mentoring future ODS'. It takes everyone to make ACRA successful! **STEP UP AND STEP IN!** You have people around you that won't let you fail.

Save the date: Annual Meeting in Montgomery, October 2-3, 2025. More details to come...

Forever grateful to serve you,

Sheila Grant



NCRA Annual Education Conference Highlights

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

MAY 3-6, 2025





NCRA
Annual
Education
Conference
Highlights





WEBSITE UPDATES

If anyone has experience with websites who would be willing to assist with the Alabama Cancer Registrars Association website, we could use some help in updating it and ensuring our newsletters, registration forms, etc. are uploaded in a timely manner. If you have experience in this area and would like to volunteer your time, please contact me or one of our Board members as soon as possible.



ACRA Meets Governor Ivey



**A visit during NCRW to Montgomery for Governor Ivey to
sign our Proclamation for April 7 – 11th
as Cancer Registrar's Week for the State of Alabama**

46th Annual Educational
Conference of the Alabama
Cancer Registrars Association

October

OCTOBER 2-3

2025

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3060 MOBILE HWY

MONTGOMERY

46th Annual Educational Conference of the Alabama Cancer Registrars Association



Plans are underway for the 46th annual Educational Conference of the Alabama Cancer Registrars Association.

Your ACRA Board members are working on the Meeting Agenda and Speakers. More information will be forthcoming as we complete plans for the conference.

A Note from our Donations Committee:

Our annual meeting is just a little over 3 months away but it's not too early to begin asking for donations for this year's event. Items can come from your facility or from anywhere.

We are looking for the following:

- ✦ **GIFT BASKETS FOR OUR ANNUAL RAFFLE**
- ✦ **ITEMS FOR GOODY BAGS- ENOUGH FOR 50+ PEOPLE**

Thank you,


Donations Committee





Friendly Reminder:

If you have not paid your 2024-2025 membership dues, they can be paid via CashApp at **\$ACRA1979** OR via check sent to Wendy Culp at **2247 Cannon Gate Drive Opelika, AL 36801**



American Cancer Society News

In 2025, the American Cancer Society (ACS) projects over 2 million new cancer cases (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) and more than 618,000 cancer deaths in the US. This translates to about 5,600 new cases and 1,700 deaths per day. While cancer mortality rates have decreased by 34% since 1991, largely due to smoking cessation and improved treatments, cancer incidence rates are rising in certain populations, particularly among younger adults and women.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **New Cases:** Approximately 2,041,910 new cancer cases are expected in the US in 2025.
- **Cancer Deaths:** An estimated 618,120 people will die from cancer in the US.
- **Mortality Rate Decline:** Cancer mortality rates have decreased by 34% since 1991, which has averted an estimated 4.5 million deaths.
- **Leading Causes of Death:** Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US, and the leading cause among those younger than 85.



- **Common Cancers (Men):** Prostate, lung, and colorectal cancers account for nearly half of all new cancer cases in men.
- **Common Cancers (Women):** Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis in women.
- **Black People:** Black individuals are disproportionately affected, with higher mortality rates from prostate, stomach, uterine corpus, and cervical cancers compared to White individuals.
- **Factors Contributing to Decline:** The decrease in mortality rates is attributed to smoking cessation, earlier detection of some cancers, and improved treatments.



- **Rising Incidence:** Cancer incidence rates are rising in younger adults and women, potentially due to factors like excess body weight, changing reproductive patterns, and other established or yet unknown risk factors.
- **Cancer Prevention:** The American Cancer Society emphasizes the importance of prevention strategies, particularly for smoking-related cancers.

Solid Tumor Rules Update

Cancer PathCHART Site-Morphology Combination Standards

About Cancer PathCHART:

The Cancer Pathology Coding Histology and Registration Terminology (Cancer PathCHART) initiative is a ground-breaking collaboration of North American and global registrar, registry, pathology, and clinical organizations. The main goal of Cancer PathCHART is to improve cancer surveillance data quality by updating standards for tumor site, histology, and behavior code combinations and associated terminology. This initiative involves a substantial, multifaceted review process of histology and behavior codes (and associated terminology) by tumor site that includes expert pathologists and tumor registrars. The results of these in-depth reviews are incorporated into the Cancer PathCHART database, which serves as the single source of truth standards for tumor site, histology, and behavior coding across all standard setters. See the Cancer PathCHART website for further information: <https://seer.cancer.gov/cancerpathchart/>.

Cancer PathCHART Search Tool (CPC*Search Tool):

A webtool is now available on the Cancer PathCHART website that will allow searches for tumor topography, histology, and behavior codes and terms. The search tool will also indicate if the tumor topography and histology combination are biologically valid, unlikely, or impossible

Cancer PathCHART and the Solid Tumor Rules:

- The CPC*Search Tool does not replace the Solid Tumor Rules when determining histology coding. The search tool is an additional resource primarily to determine if a site/histology combination is biologically valid, unlikely, or impossible.
- Many histology tables in the Solid Tumor Rules include more than one site or site group. The tables are based on current WHO Classification of Tumors books. The CancerPathCHART review determined that some histologies are valid for specific sites and not for all sites within a site group. The valid C-code will be denoted in bold next to the histology or histologies in applicable tables, including combination/mixed histology code tables. Coding these histologies to a site other than the one(s) noted in the tables has been determined to be biologically impossible and will not pass edits.
- The Solid Tumor histology tables include synonyms for the NOS term while the CPC*Search Tool is limited to the WHO preferred term.

Important Note: Beginning 2025, the solid tumor manual will be available as a consolidated manual only. Individual site groups will no longer be available.

The updated Solid Tumor Rules may be accessed at:
<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/solidtumor/>



NCRA requested
and we answered...

Thank you Pam Irwin, Reda Wilson and John Waterbor who met on June 23, 2025, with Senator Britt's staff.

Here's the story:

“We need help. In the current 2026 present's budget the NPCR program is eliminated, and the NCI SEER program will be cut by 40%. We are flying solo on advocacy on this for a lot of reasons. We are arranging meetings with 17 Senators that matter because they are on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Health. Senator Britt from Alabama is one of those Senators. We need 4-6 people from the cancer surveillance community to join us on a call with his office sometime on June 23 or June 24th. We will provide the script, training and have an NCRA staff member in the meeting too. As the Board of ACRA, I am hoping that you will please agree to join us. Thus far Reda Wilson has agreed to help by representing Alabama and Althea is networking.”

The staffer promised to share our information with Senator Britt. If any follow-up discussions are necessary, that will be scheduled at a later date.

A blurred background image showing a group of people in a meeting room, seated around a large conference table. The image is out of focus, emphasizing the text overlay.

Stay Tuned for more
Annual ACRA Meeting
Reservations Information !