

# ACRA REMINDER

## Spring 2012

### Alabama Cancer Registrars Association 2011-2012 Officers and Committee Chairs

President - Priscilla Foster  
President Elect - Lou Ellen Marchman  
Vice President - Diane Hadley  
Secretary - Joanne Powers  
Treasurer - Shantel Dailey  
Treasurer Elect - Belinda Limbaugh  
Historian/Parliamentarian - Pam Tillman  
Past President - Sheila Grant

Education - Patricia Caldwell  
Bylaws - Judy Smith  
Ways & Means - Silvia Ramsey  
Membership - Cynthia Dixon  
Donation - Janice Granger  
Nominating - Diane Lolley  
Ballots - Cindy Johnson

### A Message from our President .....

**Priscilla Foster, CTR, CPC**

Greeting to ACRA Members:

It's so hard to believe that the year 2012 is almost half way gone. In agreement with NCRA we are at the core of the nation's anti-cancer efforts. Cancer registrars are data collectors and management experts with the training, specialized skills, and an eye for detail to provide the high quality data required in all avenues of cancer statistics and research.

To be or become successful cancer registrars we must keep reviewing updates and stay abreast of all the changes by ACoS, SEER, AJCC and NCCN just to name a few. Our job is special and we are unique in our performance of it. As cancer data managers we should perform the functions of our daily work with commitment and dedication.

I hope that everyone enjoyed National Cancer Registrar's week and that you were recognized for all that you do. Cancer registrars **are special**, and always remember that knowledge is power. Take the time to enhance what you already know and the challenge to learn new information. Be willing to gain all that you can and to be the best that you can be. This will enhance your performance to the highest level of expertise.

I am presently preparing for NCRA nationals and looking forward to what seems to be a great meeting. I hope to learn a lot so I can bring back information to share with everyone.

The board is presently working on our fall meeting. Carol Hahn Johnson from SEER will be one of our presenters this year. If you have topics of interest for our meeting, send your topics to Patricia Caldwell or myself, Priscilla Foster. Information regarding the fall meeting will be loaded on our new website, which you can now visit at [www.alabamacra.org](http://www.alabamacra.org). Have a blessed rest of the month.



## Vice President's Report Diane Hadley

I hope that everyone had a Happy National Cancer Registrar's week. Thanks to everyone for the great information and pictures that you sent that are in this newsletter. All those that attended the National Cancer Registrars conference in Washington, D.C. please send pictures, especially educational notes from sessions to include in the summer newsletter. My email address is [diane.hadley@adph.state.al.us](mailto:diane.hadley@adph.state.al.us)

## Education Committee Report Pat Caldwell

By now most of us have either read through or had an opportunity to view the CoC Cancer Program Standards for 2012. The Dedication statement caught my attention, especially this sentence. " **We dedicate these standards to all those treated in the past, to those under treatment now, and to those who will grant us the great privilege of treating them in years to come.**"

They are patient-centered care driven. The phase in for 2015 Standard 3.2 Psychosocial Distress Screening are seeking pilot sites for meeting standard 3.2. The significance of psychosocial factors in cancer care is now widely accepted in the cancer field and affirmed by the Institute of Medicine. In fact, screening cancer patients for psychosocial distress is a key component of recommendations in the IOM's 2007 report, *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*. The Cancer Support Community (CSC) has joined with the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer to support the development of the new *Cancer Program Standards 2012: Ensuring Patient-Centered Care*. The new standards ensure that every person treated in an accredited program receives key elements of quality care through diagnosis, treatment, and beyond, including distress screening and psychosocial care. Available screening tools include a range from free pen-and-paper screeners to computerized measures that can provide not only valuable feedback for patient care but also vital data to help cancer programs with program development, staffing, and resource allocation. Each institution needs to assess its goals related to distress screening, available resources, and the level of integration needed to streamline and improve care.

**CancerSupportSource** has completed validation and is undergoing beta-testing at multiple sites, including small oncology practices and large community hospitals. To learn more about CSS, including how your institution can immediately become a pilot site and pricing information, please contact Vicki Kennedy at [vicki@cancersupportcommunity.org](mailto:vicki@cancersupportcommunity.org), call 202-650-5379, or visit <http://www.cancersupportsource.org>.

As your cancer committee sets goals for your facility please be mindful of the changes, and remember you (the Registrar) are the compass that keeps the program on target. We have a responsibility as well as the direct care giver, in ensuring that every patient is treated according to the national standard. Please take the time and become familiar with the new standard changes.

**Remember knowledge is power! And you've got the power!!**

## Donation Committee Report Karen Hood

### Calling all volunteers

If you would like to help with the donation committee.  
Please email me at [kvhot@hotmail.com](mailto:kvhot@hotmail.com)

## **Nominating Committee for ACRA 2012**

### **Committee Chair: Diane Lolley**

The Nominating Committee would like to take this opportunity to ask you to start thinking about running for office in the upcoming election. We need you to take an active part and serve your association! Time is quickly slipping away and it will be time to send ballots out. So please give it some serious consideration as to what office you would like to run for or maybe there is someone you would like to nominate. We would like to get a jump start on this election. Please send your name or the person you would like to nominate and for which office to [diane.lolley@stvhs.com](mailto:diane.lolley@stvhs.com). Or call me @ 205-939-7242

**Eligibility:** Only an active member with at least one-year active membership in good standing shall be eligible to hold office. To be eligible for the offices of President-Elect and Vice President, a member must have served at least one term on the Board of Directors or as a Chair of Standing Committee prior to nomination.

### **Board Description:**

**President-Elect:** Shall assist the President in his/her duties throughout the year; shall keep informed regarding proceedings of ACRA; and, shall succeed to the office of the President at the conclusion of his/her term of office. The President-Elect shall appoint the Standing Committee Chairs for his/her term of office. The President-Elect shall appoint the Standing Committee Chairs for his/her term of office immediately after installation as President.

**Vice President:** Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and is responsible for the quarterly newsletter sent to the membership.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all meetings of ACRA and shall present them at the following meeting; shall carry on official correspondence of the organization under direction of the President; shall provide annual maintenance and oversight of the ACRA electronic library including collecting and tracking ACRA thumb drives from outgoing board members and re-distributing them to in-coming board members after copying and/or archiving data from the past year to CD (or laptop).....

**Treasurer Elect:** This individual will serve one year as an apprentice to the Treasurer, supporting annual budget oversight and development, and act as an assistant to the Treasurer as well as in the Treasurer's absence. This position will provide the opportunity for orientation, education and training prior to succeeding to the office of Treasurer. This individual will serve as internal auditor for the association. As Treasurer the second year:

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive all annual dues; collaborate with the Membership Chair to maintain a current, up-to-date and accurate membership roster. The Treasurer shall provide on-going assessment of the Association's annual budget and maintain a detailed spreadsheet of all revenues and expenses. The Treasurer shall receive and pay all bills as authorized by the President; shall purchase and pay for sympathy gifts when ACRA members experience the loss of a family member.....

**Parliamentarian/Historian:** Shall be informed on *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*; shall advise the presiding officers on points of Parliamentary law; shall give similar advice to the Board of Directors, when they request it; and shall decide points of order when challenged by members of ACRA. The Parliamentarian/Historian shall keep and record the history of ACRA.

**WE NEED YOU !!!**



ALABAMA CANCER  
REGISTRY  
ASSOCIATION

# Basket Drawing

The Ways and Means Committee is bringing back the basket drawing to raise money for the organization.

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**WHERE:** NOT FINILIZED as of date.

HOSPITAL/INDIVIDUAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of basket \_\_\_\_\_

Please call or email [completed form](#) to:

SILVIA RAMSEY at 256-235-5877  
sramsey@rmccares.org

# Hope you had a Happy National Cancer Registrar's Week

## National Cancer Registrars Week Celebration

### Montgomery

National Cancer Registrars Week was celebrated a week early in Montgomery on April 5th, 2012. The group celebrated with a catered lunch filled with sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. After lunch, the group viewed a live webinar on *Collecting Cancer Data on the Lower Digestive System*.

Those in attendance were Sherry Attaway, Kandice Abernathy, Shirley Williams, Wendy Richardson, Marlene Kerlin, Kim Spain, Crystal Morton, Ashley Grunewald, Teisha Robertson, and Tara Freeman.



### Cullman

The cancer registrars in the North Region celebrated National Cancer Registrars week on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Our group viewed the *NAACCR webinar Collecting Cancer Data: Lung* which was very educational followed by a luncheon. During the luncheon we watched a slide show presentation of past meetings and snapshots taken at the ACRA and NCRA conferences over the years. A cake with the theme for this special week was enjoyed by all.

Those in attendance were Christie Loyd, Connie, Jensen, Cindy Johnson, Glenda Wilson, Barbara Roberts, Judy Walker, Diane Hadley and Jamie Feemster.



### Mobile

In Celebration of NCRA week, the ASCR presented a webinar and provided lunch for the Mobile area cancer registrars on April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was hosted by Mobile Infirmery. We had a total of 9 in attendance and we enjoyed a lunch from Olive Garden and Pam Tillman provided cupcakes for desert.

Attendants were; Mark Jackson, Pam Tillman, Karen Moulds, Jennifer Ballard, Lisa Carson, DeeAnn Hennis, Yolanda Topin, Shantel Dailey, Sam Mcmillan



**NCRW  
Celebrations  
across the state**

## **Hope you had a Happy National Cancer Registrar's Week**



**St. Vincent's Birmingham Hospital Cancer Registry enjoyed this lovely cake as part of their NCRW celebration. The cancer registry staff are as follows Joan Baucom, Rosalind Patterson, Diane Lolley and Linda Halasz.**

## **ACRA Annual Meeting**

**Save the Date**

**October 11th & 12th, 2012**

**Upcoming**

**CTR Exam**

Sept. 8-22, 2012

**Congratulations!**

**Ms, DeeAnn Hennis, with the University of South Alabama cancer registry, passed her CTR exam!**



# Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry Update



## Principles of Oncology Training

The Principles of Oncology Training during the week of March 26 was a tremendous success. The class was taught by April Fritz and Louanne Currence. The training was filled with basic case abstracting, anatomy and physiology, and explanations covering multiple primary rules as well as collaborative staging of numerous sites. The week concluded with a catered lunch, educational games, and lots of dancing. The instructors made learning about cancer fun and taught at a pace that was conducive to all learners.

Those in attendance were Aimee Gamble, Nadine Kelly, Crystal Morton, Kandice Abernathy, Denita Austin, Ashley Grunewald, Sherry Attaway, Tara Freeman, Louanne Currence (instructor), Debbie Gray, Kim Spain, April Fritz (instructor), Linda Ashley, Caress Alexander, Frankie Frinzi, and Maria Ana Simpkins.

## **New ASCR Staff Members**

### **Ashley Grunewald**



I am a native of Georgia, and I was raised in Florida. I moved to Alabama in 2002. I am a huge fan of the Atlanta Braves, and I enjoy watching most sports. I graduated cum laude from Alabama State University with a BS in Health Information management. In April of 2011 I passed my RHIA, and I hope to get my EHR Implementation Management certification this May. I will serve as the Death Clearance Coordinator and Research Project Coordinator at the ASCR. I look forward to being a great asset here at the ASCR, as well as the Bureau of Family Health Services.

If you would like more information my phone number is 334-206-2088 or email me at [ashely.grunewald@adph.state.al.us](mailto:ashely.grunewald@adph.state.al.us).

### **Crystal Morton**



I grew up in the small town of Marion, Al and am the middle child of two siblings, with a younger and older sister. My favorite activities are done outdoors; I enjoy fishing, playing mostly all sports, but in particular golf and basketball and love nice days in the park.

Crystal received her B.S. in Health Information Management from Alabama State University where she graduated cum laude. She previously interned with the Cancer Registry team and now is a proud employee. Currently she serves as the ASCR Pathology Report Coordinator. It is her intention to become a great asset to the Cancer Registry and the Bureau of Family Health Services.

Crystal lives by the motto, "Make every day on earth a great day because somebody, somewhere would love to be in my shoes."

For more information please contact me at [crystal.morton@adph.state.al.us](mailto:crystal.morton@adph.state.al.us) or my phone number is 334-206- 5430.

# Hematopoietic Workshop Notes

## Updates from the Hematopoietic Workshop

Submitted by Mark Jackson, ASCR

### New Hematopoietic Database starting with Cases diagnosed January 1st, 2012

1. For cases diagnosed 1/1/2012 and later, do not collect blood transfusions as treatment. Blood transfusions are used widely to treat anemia and it is not possible to collect this procedure in a meaningful way.
2. Code phlebotomy in "**Other Treatment**" for Polycythemia Vera only.
3. Do not use ambiguous terms to code a more specific term: Example - Myeloproliferative disease "**probably**" polycythemia vera. The histology would be coded to general term "**Myeloproliferative disease, NOS**. **Note: Ambiguous terminology is only used to determine reportability.**

#### 4. Coding Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (9823) / Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (9670)

The histology code 9670 will be obsolete in the new Hematopoietic Database. All cases will be coded to the Leukemia code - 9823. Code the primary site to the involved regions. If bone marrow is involved, code site to C42.1. Code to spleen only if nothing else is involved. The spleen is a filter for the blood and may become involved with infiltrates/deposits of Leukemia

#### 5. Site coding - Lymphoma

Mediastinal mass = Mediastinal lymph nodes

Retroperitoneal mass = Retroperitoneal lymph nodes

Code site to specific lymph node region when multiple lymph node chains within the same region as defined by ICD-O are involved. Example: hepatic lymph nodes and gastric lymph nodes have the same ICD-O code C77.2, therefore, involvement of both these node chains are in one region (C77.2)

Code multiple lymph node regions C77.8 when multiple regions are involved and cannot identify which regions is the origin.

#### Organ & lymph node involvement

Code primary site to the organ when lymphoma is present in an organ and that organ's **regional lymph nodes only**. Code site to lymph node region when there is **proof of extension from the regional lymph nodes** into an organ

6. Use the Hematopoietic Database "only" to determine the primary site and histology when rules PH1 - PH41 do not apply.





# Reflections of Change in the Cancer Registry

Submitted by Glenda Wilson



Glenda Wilson retired December 31, 2011 from Decatur General Hospital.

The Alabama Cancer Registrars Association along with the Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry would like to thank Glenda for years served in the cancer registry field.

In 1991, Humana Hospital in Huntsville advertized for a cancer registrar. The hospital wanted to start a cancer registry with plans to establish an approved cancer program with the American College of Surgeons. I applied for the position. I hoped that my background as a RRA would give me an edge to be hired. My previous background was Director of Quality Improvement at Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Hospital, Supervisor the Medical-Legal area of the Medical Record Department at University Medical Center and Night Shift Supervisor at Baptist Medical Center, all in Jackson, Mississippi. I was thrilled to get the job. Now, I had to learn what my job entailed. The standards for Approval, abstracting, AJCC staging, survival rates (outcome analysis), NCDB (National Cancer Data Base) submissions, uploading data to ASCR, graphs, and Cancer Program Annual Reports were challenging to say the least. Many CTR's helped me, showing me the ropes and answering my questions. Reda Wilson who works for the CDC now was one of them. I was excited when I passed the CTR exam. I worked toward approval, but Humana's plans for an American College of Surgeons Approved Program were dissolved in 1992.

In 1993, I went to work for Decatur General Hospital as Cancer Data Specialist and again strived for an approved program through American College of Surgeons. The Cancer Program was approved in 1995. Many changes have come about since then. RRA has been replaced by the American Health Information Management Association with RHIA. The staging manual has been revised from 3rd edition when I started to 4th, 5th, 6th, and now 7th edition. The American College of Surgeons now longer calls the cancer program Approvals but now it is called Accredited. The Commission on Cancer Standards Manual can now be accessed through the Internet and downloaded. NCDB has added benchmark reports for comparison data. In 2001, cancer registries were required to include blood dyscrasias such as multiple myelomas. This meant coding for single and double blood dyscrasia diagnoses as well. Now SEER software helps select the proper codes. 2004 brought new data items in abstracting with collaborative staging. The Joint Commission on Cancer started a new way to examine cancer programs with Program Profile Reports extrapolated from the NCDB submissions. This meant verifying radiation and chemotherapy treatments for Breast, Colon, and Rectal cancer also in 2004. Collaborative staging version 2 came out in 2009, adding forty some odd new data items. All these changes of course meant new software upgrades. When the programs were updated, new fixes and work arounds were developed. Computers have gone from 5 1/4 floppy discs to 3 1/2 floppy discs, CD's and now travel drives. In October of 2013, the coders in Medical Records will complete the changes from ICD9 to ICD10 and this will affect registries and I am sure new software upgrades.

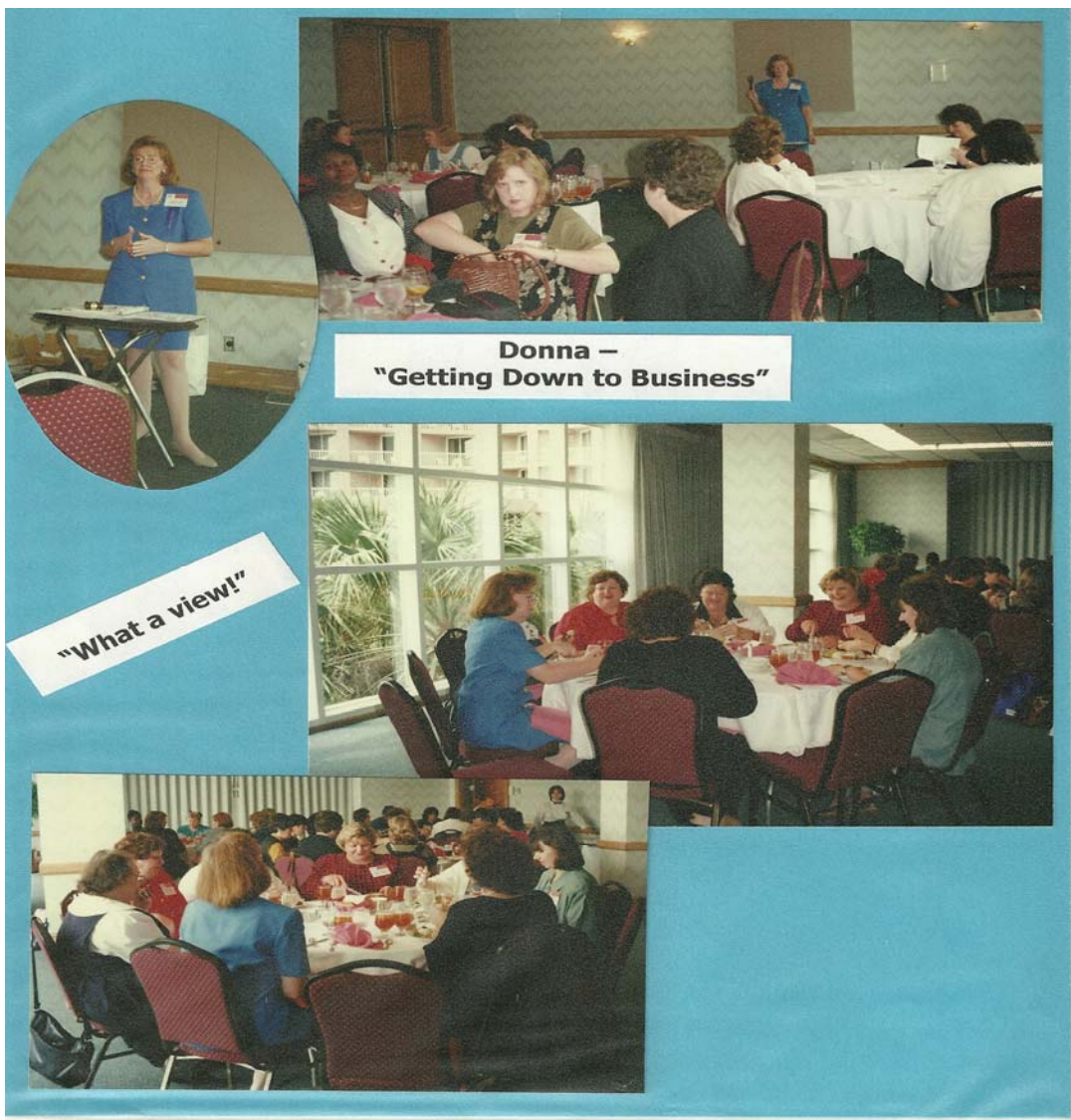
Presentations for Tumor Board (Cancer Conferences) and Cancer Committee have undergone metamorphosis as well. Graphs were placed on transparencies and an overhead projector was used to show them on the wall for Cancer Committee. X-rays were placed on a viewbox that was rolled down to the Cancer Conference. Today, computers access the CAT scans and Breast MRI's through the PAC's (Picture Archives) and a cable is used from the computers to show them on a wide screen. Physicians no longer have to stand in front of the viewbox to see the imaging. Slides from Pathology were placed under a microscope and shown on a high resolution television. Now slides are presented through a slide show from the computer onto the wide screen. Graphs are shown from the computer the same way. Slide shows are used for both Cancer Conferences and Cancer Committee.

Of course with all the major changes, revisions, and upgrades, the registry still had to have abstracting on time, prepare for survey by ACOS, and comply with the AJCC standards. This was always done without additional staff to support the extra work involved which was the greatest challenge of all.

With new data items such as circulating tumor cells and Onco Dx testing there is hope that collecting cancer information will assist Oncologists in finding a cure for cancer. Accuracy is more than ever the utmost goal to achieve. After working as a Cancer Data Specialist for 18 years, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with pathologists, Dr. James Dailey and Dr. Patricia Springer-Gross, Radiation Oncologists, Dr. Lane Price and Dr. Michael Hardacre, Medical Oncologists, Dr. Paul Dang, Dr. Sammy Beccach., Dr. Naveen Lobo, and Dr. Heather Shah, and Surgeons Dr. Hugh Nabers, and Dr. Jay Suggs.

# In Loving Memory of Donna Burkett

You were a friend and mentor to all and you will be greatly missed.





## April

Joni Gadgett—3

## May

Rebecca Thomas—5

Diane Lolley—12

Glenda Wilson—15

Susan McMillan—17

Curtis Brown—19

Pamela Ansari—28

Kimberly Spain—28

Ruth Monella—30

Tamara Scott—30

## June

Judy Smith—8

Belinda Limbaugh—12

Janice Granger—15

Linda Halasz—18

Crystal Morton—18

Neshelle Hutton—24

Karen Moulds—25

Paula Wyatt—26

Shantel Dailey—27

Rhonda Morgan—4



## Tortilla Pizza

### Main Ingredients:

Tortilla bread: 2 large  
Olive oil: 2 tsp  
Garlic: 2 clove, peeled  
Tomato: 4 medium  
Olive: 12, pitted  
Walnut: 6 half  
Dried rosemary: 1/2 tsp  
Dried thyme: 1/2 tsp  
Dried basil: 1 tsp  
Parmesan cheese (optional): 1 tbsp  
Cheese (pizza or mozzarella): 1 cup shredded  
Salt and pepper (to taste)

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Cut tortillas into 6 pieces each.
3. Skin and thinly dice the garlic. Cut the tomatoes into 6 slices each. Slice olives. Cut walnut halves into few pieces.
4. Brush the tortillas with olive oil and sprinkle over with diced garlic.
5. Top each piece with two slices of tomato, sliced olives and some walnut pieces. Sprinkle over with dried rosemary, thyme, basil and pepper. If using Parmesan cheese, sprinkle it on top, otherwise you may add some salt (Parmesan is salty so I don't recommend adding both Parmesan and salt). Top each piece with some shredded cheese.
6. Bake for about 10 to 15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and tortillas and cheese are both slightly golden brown.

Check the tortillas frequently after 10 minutes to avoid burning them.