



# **CANCER REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 11, Issue 4  
Winter 2018-2019**

**[www.craneweb.org](http://www.craneweb.org)**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018**

### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

**Brenda Joseph, MS, CTR  
President**

**Georgette Santilli, CTR  
President-Elect**

**Nancy Lebrun, CTR  
Immediate Past President**

**Christine Hesemeyer, CTR  
Vice President**

**Paula Darsney, CTR  
Secretary**

**Lynn Zollin, CTR  
Treasurer**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Deborah Perriello, CTR  
Bylaws**

**Susan MacKenzie, CTR  
Education (Interim)**

**Susan MacKenzie, CTR  
Ethics**

**Mary Lemieux, CTR  
Membership**

**Tracey McDuffie, CTR  
Nominating**

**Laurie MacDougall, MS, CTR/  
Jeannine McKinney, CTR  
Public Relations**

**Jeannine McKinney, CTR  
Website**

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Here we are again, in the middle of the Holiday Season. The New Year is upon us and so are all our deadlines and a whole lot of new learning. (I mean, how many of us were growing bored with the comfort of AJCC 7<sup>th</sup> edition?)

If you were able to attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> CRANE Annual Conference, I hope the educational information on SEER, AJCC, CoC Standards and other topics were helpful and clarified some of the changes – or at least gave you the feeling that you are not doing this alone. I want to thank all the speakers, especially those within the Cancer Registry field. Sharing your knowledge and experiences is one of the greatest gifts. If you did not attend, ask one of your colleagues that attended for a recap. I also want to thank the vendors, who are listed later in the newsletter. Their support allows us to help with the costs of the meeting.

Take a look to the left at the Board listing; those are your fellow registrars that have helped with the past year. Some were on for the first time but many have served multiple times. I do want to thank them all for their work. This includes the annual meeting (take a bow, Christine), proposed bylaws change, call for nominations and a new format for the Treasurer's report. Each individual on the committee worked with each other, a great team effort. You can see examples of this work as you continue reading this newsletter. (Speaking of that, thanks, Laurie.)

Let's renew our memberships. Welcome to the new board – may they not have as many questions for me as I did for Nancy L! Prepare to start the New Year with some challenges and no doubt growth and understanding of new rules and new advances. Share questions and things that stump you with others through the newsletter or an email chain to a few.

In closing, I want to say it has been an honor to be the 2018 CRANE President. If you didn't know, I won by a landslide, which tends to happen when you are the only one on the ballot. It was a great experience, however, and I am glad I did it. But now I just as gladly welcome Georgette, the 2019 CRANE President.

Thank You, Stay in Touch!

***Brenda A. Joseph, MS, CTR  
2018 President***



## ***IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

Hello All! Thank you all again for all the hard work and dedication put into the CRANE association. The annual meeting this year was fantastic and educational. I look forward to assisting CRANE again in the coming years.

Happy Holidays to all, and thanks!

***Nancy Lebrun, AS, CTR***  
***Immediate Past President***



## ***VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

For those of you who joined us at this year's Annual Meeting, "Navigating the Future", we extend our thanks for your participation. With the help of all our wonderful speakers, we will be able to start down the path winding through all the recent changes that we have been presented with in 2018.

The meeting was a huge success, with 185 people registered. We were awarded 12.25 CEUs from NCRA for this event. To date, 168 people have filled out the evaluation forms with mostly very positive comments. Some people preferred the classroom style of seating while others preferred the round tables. The most positive comments were about Louanne Currence, RHIT, CTR. People always enjoy how educational her talks are, and this year was no exception. Most attendees mentioned that they thoroughly enjoyed her sense of humor.

There were some requests for next year's conference to have more speakers from the Commission on Cancer, as well as some speakers that offer clinical talks such as those provided by Drs. McKee and Weller-Newcomb this year. We also received feedback about wanting more speakers to talk about the changes we are all facing with 2018 and beyond. In addition, there was a mention of putting on some speakers earlier, rather than later in the day. Speakers are asked for their available time slots, and often a speaker prefers a specific time due to work schedule, childcare, meetings, etc.

One person suggested that there be power strips on the tables for charging devices (which I thought was a great idea). The location got good feedback with 59% of people very satisfied; several respondents indicated they would like to see a meeting in Vermont.

On the negative side, the high cost of the room rate was mentioned, some didn't care for the food, and we got a lot of comments about the room being cold. Overall most attendees thought it was a well-run conference for a good value. Lastly, I would like to thank the Board for all their help throughout this past year. I truly appreciate being given the opportunity to serve as Vice President. I wish the best to the incoming Board for 2019.

***Christine Hesemeyer, CTR***  
***Vice President***



***New CTRs from New England***

***Time Frame: October 14, 2017-July 14, 2018 testing period***

**CONNECTICUT**

*Laurie Pirog, CTR*

**MAINE**

*Amanda Lorentzen, CTR; Jill MacDonald, CTR; Erika Rodrigue, CTR*

**MASSACHUSETTS**

*Adrienne Donohue, CTR; Wei Kwan, CTR; Sandhya Naik, CTR; Michele Penne, CTR;  
Audrey Potts, CTR; Jill Thresher, CTR*

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*Christine Rhondeau-Fryer, CTR*

**RHODE ISLAND**

*Donna Rose, CTR; Dawn Smerbeck, CTR*

**VERMONT**

*Glenn Gammon, CTR; Victoria Garrison, CTR; Donna Hoover, CTR; Lori MacLaughlin, CTR;  
Jill Meunier, CTR; Kathleen Nagar, CTR*



## ***MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION FOR 2019***

Membership renewal for 2019 is now open! The following are the fees, according to the date of renewal.

Membership Date	Amount
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### **NEW MEMBERS\***

All New Members (anytime during year)	\$35.00
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**\*An Individual who has never been a CRANE Member**

### **RENEWALS**

Membership renewal on or before January 31	\$35.00
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Membership Renewal (includes \$5.00 Late Fee) – between February 1 and February 28	\$40.00
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**Membership Renewal (includes \$5.00 Late Fee plus \$10.00 Reinstatement fee) – after March 1	\$50.00
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**\*\*If membership dues, plus the late fee, are not received by March 1, the member shall be automatically removed from membership roster. Unpaid dues will result in forfeiture of membership and a reinstatement fee of \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 will be required.**

## ***REMEMBERING PAT LEE***



Patricia Lee came to the Cancer Registry world after her years of overseeing the lab at Children's Hospital. She worked in the Registry at Faulkner Hospital, then transitioned to Dana-Farber, where she worked on studies of hematopoietic diseases under the supervision of Dr. Weekes. From there she came back to the Registry, where her extensive knowledge of genetics and past lab experience enabled her to teach others. She was very helpful in the deciphering of tumor markers and the understanding of what would be considered a diagnosis of leukemia or lymphoma.

Pat had a great love of animals, especially her cats. She was a voracious reader and lover of music. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Pat will miss her smile and warm greetings.

Pat passed away on December 16, 2018, after battling ongoing health issues over the past few years. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family and friends.

## 2019 SPEAKERS



*Brenda Joseph, MS, CTR, and Chris Hesemeyer, CTR, CRANE Vice President*



*James Frank, MD, FACS, Keynote Speaker*



*Taryn Rourke, MS, CGC*



*Louanne Currence, RHIT, CTR*



*Linda Weller-Newcomb, PhD*



*Ren Garcia, CTR*





*Andrea McKee, MD*



*Shannon Leighton, BAS, CTR*



*Maria Celaya, MPH, CTR*



*Susan Gershman, MS, MPH, PhD, CTR*



*Nancy Lebrun, CTR*



*Dina Kandil, MD*

## ***BUSINESS MEETING***



*Your 2019 CRANE Officers*



*Congratulations to the new CTRs!*

## ***BASKET AND RAFFLE WINNERS***









## 2019 EXHIBITORS

**Level 1:** AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals  
Elekta (Metriq)  
Roche – NAVIFY Tumor Board Solution

**Level 2:** AIM – Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Inc.  
BAYER – Science for a Better Life  
Genentech  
Incyte  
MRA – Medical Records Associates

**Level 3:** nThrive  
OncoLens  
Registry Partners  
Takeda

***Thank you for your support!***











## ***CRANE – Caring for Communities***



At this year's annual meeting, we continued with what was started last year by giving to the "host" community. Susan MacKenzie worked with Deb Perriello to identify the People Helping People Food Pantry as this year's community outreach recipient. The PHP Food Pantry serves an average of 134 families per month during the holidays. In the last year, PHP gave out 189,223 pounds of food in support of 264 Burlington families.

All of you helped donate close to 450 pounds of food. I really want to thank all of the attendees for their donations, those who helped load Deb Perriello's SUV at the conclusion of two days of lectures, and Deb for dropping the food at People Helping People, Inc.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that we did read the comments and suggestions about other ideas: socks, scarfs, gloves, hats, prayer shawls, etc. The comments have been passed along to the 2019 CRANE Board. As always your input, suggestions, and comments are always welcome.

Thanks,

Brenda



# CENTRAL REGISTRY UPDATES



## ***Maine Cancer Registry***

The staff of the Maine Cancer Registry (MCR) has been busy preparing for our annual call for data for the 1995-2017 data years to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). Our data were successfully submitted to both organizations at the end of November.

In addition to the retirement of our director in September, Maine Cancer Registry underwent another major staffing change with the retirement of Douglas Light, CTR, at the end of November. Douglas has been an integral part of our registry for over 15 years. Plans are not yet finalized about who will be replacing Dr. Schwenn or Douglas, so if you have any requests or concerns that need to be addressed, please contact me by e-mail ([katherine.boris@maine.gov](mailto:katherine.boris@maine.gov)) or phone (207-287-8945). I will forward any requests that I cannot address myself to the appropriate individual.

Maine hospitals have finally received updated software for Version 18, so they are busy updating cases diagnosed in 2018. I want to take this opportunity to remind registrars that if they were abstracting 2018 cases in Version 16, multiple fields will need to be reviewed before submitting any data in Version 18 to MCR. Please review your grade (now in three fields), radiation data (numerous changes in Version 18), SSDIs, and TNM. Remember that there is now a post-treatment field in TNM as well as modifiers in TNM (f and sn for biopsies of lymph nodes). Breast cancers also require ER/PR/HER-2 to stage correctly.

MCR subscribes to the NAACCR *Cancer Registry and Surveillance Webinar Series* for 2017-2018. Recordings of these webinars are now available to Maine registrars on a password-protected website. I have been sending e-mails to Maine reporters as these webinars are posted. If you have not been included in these e-mails and would like to be added to my mailing list, please send me your contact information.

The staff at the Maine Cancer Registry would like to thank all Maine registrars and reporters for their help throughout the year with data reporting and follow-back requests. MCR has received Gold Certification from NAACCR and various certificates from NPCR for data quality and completeness because of the contributions from our Maine hospitals as well as out-of-state central registries. We wish you all the best over the holidays and in the New Year.

***Kathy Boris, CTR, Data Quality Manager***  
***Maine Cancer Registry***



## ***Massachusetts Cancer Registry***

The Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) just completed its submission of the 1995-2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / National Program of Cancer Registries (CDC/NPCR) and North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) Calls for Data. The MCR also submitted 1995-2016 data to the National Cancer Institute / Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER/NCI) Program.

Nancy Donovan has taken over as QC Coordinator. She can be contacted at [nancy.j.donovan@state.ma.us](mailto:nancy.j.donovan@state.ma.us) or 617-624-5651 if you have any questions regarding coding rules, reportability, or treatment updates.

A reminder about data standards/requirements: for 2018 diagnoses, we remain an NPCR-only registry. Because NPCR decided a few months ago that they would abandon their plan to collect AJCC 8th Edition staging for 2018, the number of new fields for 2018 diagnoses is small for Massachusetts:

- Summary Stage 2018 [NAACCR Item #764]
- AJCC ID [995]
- Phase I Radiation Treatment Modality [1506]
- CoC Accredited Flag [2152]
- Medicare Beneficiary Identifier [2315] if available (optional)
- Schema ID [3800]
- Brain Molecular Markers [3816]
- Breslow Tumor Thickness [3817]
- Estrogen Receptor Summary [3827]
- ER Total Allred Score [3828]
- Fibrosis Score [3835]
- Grade Clinical [3843]
- Grade Pathological [3844]
- Grade Post Therapy [3845]
- HER2 Overall Summary [3855]
- Microsatellite Instability [3890]
- Progesterone Receptor Summary [3915]
- Progesterone Receptor Total Allred Score [3916]
- PSA Lab Value [3920]
- Schema Discriminator 1 [3926]
- Schema Discriminator 2 [3927]
- LDH Pretreatment Lab Value [3932]

We are providing our 2018 edits to the software vendors soon. You should follow your vendor's instructions for converting to V18 software and completing your 2018 diagnoses, but do NOT send data to the MCR in V18 until we provide our edits. We have received some 2018 diagnoses in V16 and those will have to be completed in V18 software and resubmitted; Jayne Nussdorfer will Secure Mail lists of those cases to the facilities involved.

For Abstract Plus users, because of NPCR's late decisions on data requirements, we have decided to NOT change to the SEER abstracting tool for 2018 diagnoses. We will use the V18 version of Abstract Plus. The state customizations of Abstract Plus have begun, so Richard Knowlton will be in touch when the new version is available from CDC. Hold off on submitting 2018 diagnoses until then.

For 2019 diagnoses we become a dual NPCR/SEER registry so our data requirements will be expanding for 2019. The edits will again have to be changed. Do NOT send any 2019 diagnoses to the MCR until your 2018 diagnoses are completed. Abstract Plus users will change to using the SEER abstracting tool for 2019 diagnoses.

Special thanks to the Massachusetts hospital registrars for all your work in providing us with complete, timely, and high quality data. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season, and Happy, Healthy New Year.

***Susan T. Gershman, MS, MPH, PhD, CTR***  
***Director, Massachusetts Cancer Registry***





## ***Rhode Island Cancer Registry***

As the Rhode Island Cancer Registry (RICR) enters into the annual submission season, we would like to take this time to thank every registrar for their diligence throughout the year. The above average abstracts we receive from all facilities helps greatly during this time. Our submission files are sent to the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). We also submit our Early Case Capture of Pediatric and Young Adult Cancer (ECC) cases biannually, with our latest submission in October.

RICR houses the coalition coordinator, Francelly Brito, for the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island (PRCRI). Francelly is a recent graduate from the University of Rhode Island and holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies. The RICR and the Partnership look to continue the efforts to reduce cancer in Rhode Island.

The RICR has also been involved in conducting ongoing surveillance projects as well as responding to the concerns of elevated incidence raised by Rhode Island residents.

On behalf of the staff of the RICR, we would like to wish everyone happiness and peace during the holiday season.

***Nancy Lebrun, CTR***  
***Director, Cancer Information Systems***  
***Hospital Association of Rhode Island***  
***Rhode Island Cancer Registry***





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- Ensure continual compliance with both state and ACoS guidelines.
- Reduce management burden while protecting future revenues for your facility.

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## Cancer Registry services include:

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