



# TxTRA Newsletter



## President's Corner

Susana Perez, CTR

We had a great conference in October at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas. Kudos to the TxTRA spirit of everyone working together to achieve this, President Cynthia Jeffrey, Program Chair, Kathy Baskin and the Program Committee, and all the Committees that worked behind the scenes all year long. We have goals for this coming year to include TxTRA members and registrars across the state.

Our strategic committee is working towards providing opportunities to build relationships with our peers located in the region or area. This can be meetings, getting together to discuss problem cases, enjoying a meal, or relaxing together. The Regional registrars decide what the activities will be, where and how often. This is definitely a work in progress. Although we encourage joining TxTRA, you do not have to be a TxTRA member to get involved. We encourage you to take the opportunity to meet your colleagues. Please visit our website to see who the Board of Trustee (BOT) representative is for your region. A few registrars have already stepped up to represent their regions. If you are interested please get in touch with the BOT in your region. There is definitely room for more than one representative in each region.

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<https://www.txtra.org/texas-health-region-bot-contacts/>

## President's Corner

At this year's conference, someone suggested that as an organization we needed to get more involved in the community. What a wake-up call! With jobs, family and other important aspects of our lives it is difficult to work anything else in our busy schedules. However, I agree that it is important to get involved in the community and educate people on who cancer registrars are, and the important work that we do in our community, state and nation. We encourage regions across the state to determine what opportunities are available. Get involved! The representative for Region 7, Velma Garza, is looking into the Relay for Life in the spring as one option for this region. There are opportunities for the Relay for Life across the state if that would be a good fit for your region. For more information and locations please visit:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19SOR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=88473](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19SOR?pg=entry&fr_id=88473)

Our 2019 TxTRA conference, will be in the Austin area. Additional information will be forthcoming as soon as we secure the venue and set the date and have additional information to share.

I feel privileged to serve as president of TxTRA for this coming year. I look forward to working with the Board, Committees, TxTRA members and registrars. Please reach out with any ideas, suggestions or technical support in our work. We have a wealth of technical knowledge in our membership and are always happy to help and learn especially with the challenge of 2018 changes.

Happy Holidays!

Susana Perez, CTR  
TxTRA President



## Program Committee

The 2018/2019 TxTRA Conference Program Committee is beginning to work on preparations for the 2019 conference. I am very excited to be serving as the Chair of this Committee. We are working on securing a venue and will send out a notification to provide you with dates and location.

The theme for the conference will be "Together We Will Succeed". We hope you will make plans to attend this 47th Annual Educational Conference which will be in the Austin area. Dates and location will be forthcoming soon.

We welcome any ideas or suggestions and if you are interested in volunteering to help, we would be glad to have you join our committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the program committee.

Program Committee Members:

2018 TxTRA Program Committee:

Velma Garza (Chair)

Kathy Baskin (Past Chair)

Susana Perez (Current President)

Allison Vasquez

Crystal McDaniel

Deidre Watson

Jodi Vasquez

Kisha Wallis

Monte Bivens

Martha Baker

Mary Kimmel

Miriam Robles

Veronica Torres

Respectfully,

Velma Garza, CTR

Program Committee Chair



### Education Committee

*Miriam Robles, RHIT, CTR, 2018-2019 Chair*



Hi TxTRA members,

I hope everyone is enjoying this holiday season.

We were fortunate to have the following members volunteer to be on our Education Committee this year.

Thank you all for volunteering.

Kim Stier, CTR (Past Chair)

Cynthia Jeffrey, RHIT, CTR

Crystal McDaniel, CTR

Mary Kimmel, CTR

Marianna Wicks, MPH, CTR

Kisha Willis, CTR

Grace Flores, CTR

### **SSDI 2018 Coding Exercises Now Available in SEER\*Educate**

SEER\*Educate has made 85 practice cases available in groups of five cases from the Training Menu in the Practical Application section. These coding exercises contain a realistic fictionalized case scenario designed to test the application of the SSDI coding guidelines. The rationales provide detailed information on how to use the SSDI coding guidelines to arrive at the preferred answer. The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) awarded continuing education (CEs) credits for each set of 5 cases. These were approved as Category A CEs. The number of CEs depends upon the number of data items for each of the site groups. Please go to <https://educate.fredhutch.org/LandingPage.aspx> to access the exercises.

### **2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules Training**

SEER 2018 Solid Tumor Rules Trainings are available at no charge on the following topics:

2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules: Colon

2018 SEER Solid Tumor Rules: Lung

They can be accessed here: <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/seer>

### **NAACCR 2018 Implementation webinars**

NAACCR 2018 Implementation webinars are available at no charge on the following topics:

SEER Summary Stage 2018

Grade

Radiation

Recordings and associated materials can be accessed here: <https://education.naacr.org/2018-implementation>

### **NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series**

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) will continue to sponsor the NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series. The next session will begin on January 8, 2019.

For more information and to register for the CTR prep course sponsored by TCR, please contact the TCR Training Team at [TCR.Training@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:TCR.Training@dshs.texas.gov).

### **CTR Exam Scholarships for TxTRA Members**

TxTRA members who may be taking the exam in 2018, please take note that TxTRA is offering scholarship opportunities.

The scholarship is intended to benefit TxTRA members who contribute to the data collection efforts for Texas residents.

The applicant must be a TxTRA member for at least one (1) year in good standing, and must not have previously received TxTRA funds for the exam.

Please see the CTR Scholarship Application for full details at <http://www.txtra.org/members/ctr-exam-scholarship/>.

Please email the completed and signed application to the TxTRA Education Chairperson at [Miriam.Robles@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Miriam.Robles@dshs.texas.gov).

### Holiday Greetings from the Ways & Means Committee!

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019 and have started planning for our best conference yet.

The members of this year's Ways & Means Committee are:

1. Vicenta Mayorga
2. Shelli Cleveland
3. Kim Stier
4. Lynn Tumey
5. Tamara Schweitzer
6. Charity Dossett
7. Mildred Jordan
8. Kellie Christ
9. Keeley Owens
10. Julie Leinweber

Please contact any of us with your ideas for 2019, or if you would like to serve on the committee. We look forward to seeing what the crafty members of TxTRA come up with this year and send a "thank you" to everyone who helped make 2018 our biggest year ever!

Best wishes!

~ Kimberly Willis

2019 Ways & Means Chair



## Membership Committee

Marie Gallegos CTR (Chair)  
Vicki Holmes, RHIT, CTR  
Roshan Engineer, RHIT, CTR  
Kathy Dunlap, CCS, CTR

Susana Perez, CTR (Immediate Past Chair)  
Tamara Schweitzer, RHIT, CTR  
Lora Campbell, BS, CLS (ASCP), CTR  
Anita Weeks, CTR

Hello TxTRA Members!

TxTRA's membership drive is currently underway. TxTRA members who are renewing should already be receiving reminder emails from Knowledge Connex through the end of **January 2019**.

But first I'd like to thank Susan, Vicki, Tamara, Roshan, Lora, Kathy, and last but not least, Anita for serving on this year's Membership committee.

Knowledge Connex provided a new facelift to the TxTRA website, and is designed to be more helpful. To register, go to the Member Tab Join or Renew. Once you get to the page it will give you all the information you will need as to the status of all types of membership.

You will then click on the Membership Application where you will see what to fill in and the payment options available. Some firewall or security settings may prevent you from seeing the Membership Application. If that happens please email Knowledge Connex at [support@knowledgeconnex.zendesk.com](mailto:support@knowledgeconnex.zendesk.com) or you can register at a location outside of your facility.

Please renew today or as soon as possible to avoid the \$15.00 late fee which will put you in the "Grinch Holiday zone" - just a little Holiday humor. You may contact me as well at [membershipchair@txtra.org](mailto:membershipchair@txtra.org).

I also want to take the time to thank all those who are a part of the TxTRA new or renewing membership. When we do this together we make **#TxTRA Strong**.

The information below is directly from Andrea (Ticket 154006) at Knowledge Connex.

If membership opts-out on the membership form, they ARE NOT opting out of TxTRA email notifications regarding ballots and meetings. The only way that they can opt out of TxTRA email notifications, is to "unsubscribe" at the bottom of each email. The opt-out on the membership form ONLY applies to:

- 1 - Member Only Area Membership Directory - Directory Opt-Out -  
Do not publish my information in the TxTRA membership directory
- 2 - Directory Opt-Out - Do not sell my information to any commercial enterprise

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Marie Gallegos, CTR  
Membership Chair



We would like to share the following information with you to highlight how Cancer Registry data were used to compare liver cancer incidence and mortality in Texas to the US.

**AUTHORS: Rebecca Sardell, PhD, Research Specialist and Paige Miller-Gianturco, PhD, MPH, RD, Managing Epidemiologist; Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance and Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services**

A recent [CDC Report](#) on trends in liver cancer mortality in the US found that age-adjusted death rates for liver cancer have increased 43% between 2000 and 2016. The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) replicated and expanded upon the analyses conducted in the CDC report, and compared hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) incidence and mortality in Texas to the US.

The TCR explored temporal trends as well as demographic and regional variations in incidence and mortality to better describe and understand the high burden of HCC in Texas. The TCR analyzed cancer incidence and mortality data from 2001 to 2015, and compared results to national data for the same time period. In 2015, Texas had the highest HCC incidence rate of all states with 13.2 new cases per 100,000 adults aged 25 years and over (compared with 9.1 per 100,000 for the entire US). Between 2001 and 2015, HCC incidence increased annually by 4.4% in Texas. Incidence rates were more than three times higher in males than females. HCC incidence rates were highest for Hispanics and lowest for non-Hispanic (NH) whites. Rates in Texas were 26-37% greater than national rates for Hispanics, NH blacks, and NH whites. In 2015, Texas Hispanics had a significantly higher incidence rate of HCC than Hispanics in Florida and California. Incidence rates were high in South Texas and US/Mexico border regions. Increases occurred in all age groups over 55. HCC mortality rates showed similar trends.

In conclusion, Texas has the highest overall incidence rate of HCC in the US, with particularly high rates in South Texas. The high and increasing rate in Hispanics combined with the large number of Hispanics in Texas may be driving this trend. However, incidence rates were also higher in Texas than nationally when stratified by race/ethnicity.

Further studies are warranted that will facilitate a better understanding of increased liver cancer in Texas, and how best to address this burden in terms of prevention, management, and patient outcomes. The TCR will continue to monitor trends in HCC incidence and mortality rates in Texas, and disseminate timely information regarding the burden of HCC in Texas via the TCR website and relevant meetings and conferences. The TCR also published a report on the TCR [website](#) that explored similar trends in liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer incidence and mortality rates, and annual updates are planned.



## Holiday Greetings!



On behalf of the TxTRA Board

As 2018 comes to an end, with appreciation of our association during the past year, we would like to extend our very best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season. Wishing you all a Healthy, Happy & Successful New Year!

Rhonda Buchenhain, RHIA, CTR  
2nd Vice President

