President’s Message  
Leann Osada RHIT, CTR

What a winter this has been so far! Are we really in Minnesota? I heard from one of the weatherman on the news that they are predicting that March will be renamed Marchuary (half March and half January) for 2012. The good news that April follows right behind and the daylight hours are noticeably longer.

Sadly, another one of our longtime MCRA members passed away last December. Laurie Griffin had been a MCRA member for many years and contributed to the organization with her time and talents over and over again. She will be greatly missed by her co-workers and by the MCRA membership.

The Collaborative Stage release notes versions 02.04 were released in December 2011 and are effective for cases diagnosed as of January 1, 2012. There were approximately 125 notes released for your reading pleasure. The notes give a synopsis of the modifications of codes, clarification of codes, correction of errors, new instructions, and a few added codes to keep us on our toes. The one note that I want to point out specifically is for the Breast Schema, CS SSF19: Assessment of Positive Ipsilateral Axillary Lymph Nodes: new codes were added and text modified to clarify ambiguities pointed out by registrars. Kudos to the registrars for taking the time to report these ambiguities to the powers that be. Somebody out there is listening.

Speaking about Collaborative Staging, if you did not see it or get a chance to read it, Elaine Collins from MCSS has written an article for the Spring 2011 Journal of Registry Management from the NCRA about the CS version 2 Data Validation Project, 2010. For hospital registrars, we know what a task it was to have to learn and apply the new CS schemas, but after you read Elaine’s article, you will be thankful that you only had to learn them. The chore of having to make sure all of the codes made sense and with deadlines hanging over you must have been daunting. The article itself is a very comprehensive, detailed look into what the project was all about. A big thank you goes out to Elaine for all of your hard and meticulous work.

So far there have been 5 NAACCR Webinars and they have been well attended. Thank you to all who have filled out the surveys and especially those that have made comments. Everyone that has attended stated that they learned something new that they did not know before. The results of the surveys and the comments were forwarded to the presenters and they have been appreciative of the feedback. Hopefully those who cannot attend due to inconvenience, take advantage of watching them after they are released to the membership.

At the last board meeting we discussed ways of making the “find a registry” portion of the web-site more beneficial for registrars. A letter will be sent to all of the registries asking for specific information that will make this portion of the web-site more useful to registrars in their day-to-day work. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire so that we can make this a more user friendly resource for everyone.

MCRA will be contributing to the NCRA basket raffle at this year’s conference. Cheryl Cloutier has volunteered to make a quilted bag that represents Minnesota and Amy Walz has agreed to transport it to Washington D.C. We will fill the bag with a few “MN” items and include a gift card as well. The MCRA cookbook, a bag of wild rice and a can of spam were a few items that were mentioned to be placed in the bag. Part of the proceeds from the basket raffle comes back to the state associations that participate. Thank you Cheryl and Amy!

I sincerely hope that everyone that attends this year’s NCRA conference has a good journey and brings back a lot valuable information that enhances their knowledge and leadership skills.

Enjoy the rest of this mild winter – spring is right around the corner!

Leann
“While in the military, I’ve flown in helicopters, a private jet, and a military transport C31. Awesome!”

My personal life is not as challenging. I teach Sunday School for kids ages four to six. I am vice president of the Mission Ministry. I am in my second year of acoustic guitar lessons.

Currently, I am waiting for the “go ahead” from Children’s to move back to Alabama and work from home.

In 2008 I purchased five acres of land in rural Talladega, Alabama. My plan is a simple log home with a place to garden.

I also love to travel. So far, I have gone on two cruises. My third is planned for July 3, 2012 to Alaska with my best friend.

I have been to the Lincoln, Washington and Vietman Veteran’s Memorials in Washington DC as well as the Capital. My travels have also taken me to: Mt. Rushmore, the Bad Lands, Wall Drug, Devils Mountain, Jekel Island Georgia, Victoria B.C, Mt. Rainier (wow), Disneyland and Sea World. Someday I’ll visit the Grand Canyon and Hawaii.

While in the military I’ve flown in helicopters, a private jet and a military transport C31. Awesome!

I have a great appreciation for CTR’s that abstract adult cases!

Jometa Lane CTR
Children’s Hospitals and Clinics
**MCSS Notes**  
_Elaine Collins RHIA, CTR_

The Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System submitted data files with 2009 cases to NPCR and NAACCR by the end of the year. MCSS was given a month’s extension for submission due to the shutdown over the summer. We want to thank all the registrars who work so diligently to collect and submit their data to the MCSS, assisting us to meet our reporting obligations to NPCR and NAACCR. The data submission process every year, coming on the heels of the many contacts Field Service has with you during their case report activities, reminds us of how interdependent hospital and central registries are in achieving their mutual goals of collecting good cancer data to support clinical care, research, and public health surveillance. Thank you.

MCSS is participating in a grant to collect pediatric cancer cases through a rapid ascertainment process. Letters have been sent to you describing the grant and the reporting requirements. Amy Casey-Paal is the new staff epidemiologist coordinating the study for the MCSS.

MCSS will begin collecting clinically diagnosed cancer cases as of January 1, 2012. You will be receiving a letter from MCSS describing any changes to reporting procedures that will result from this new activity for us. MCSS has been a uniquely pathology-based registry since 1988, our reference year. Adding clinical cases will bring us in line with central registries throughout the country.

MCSS is moving closer to our database conversion to the NAACCR 12 standard. We are maintaining the files you have been sending in the new format and will load them in the order received after conversion, so that any updates you have made to records as you have reviewed cases through your conversions should be processed correctly. We may be calling on you for some help with resolving edits and completing code reviews as we convert our cases. Please continue to send in your files on a timely basis; we can accept your files upgraded to the new 12.2 NAACCR record layout with V0204 GS coding.

_Feileigh_

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**Professional Development**

_Cheryl Cloutier CTR_

**Spring 2012 MCRA Workshop**

**Save the Date:** Monday, May 14, 2012  
**Location:** Minnesota Department of Health  
Snelling Office Park, Mississippi Room  
1645 Energy Park Drive Saint Paul, MN 55108.

The MCRA and MCSS are co-sponsoring a day dedicated to helping you get answers to questions you weren’t afraid to ask, but couldn’t get the time or to the proper venue. Some of the presenters will be:

- Dr. Robert Flanigan, Surveyor from the American College of Surgeons: Discuss new standards 2 & 3 and how they relate to cancer registrars, also answer any questions regarding any of the new standards.
- John Soler, M.P.H., Epidemiologist, Senior with MDH/MCSS: Presenting current trends in MN & nationally (what results from all that data you send them).
- A radiologist (yet to be determined) and Linda Laman, PET tech, St. Paul Radiology: Plan to custom design the presentation to our needs. Please let me know what mysteries in MRI, PET & CT you need to have revealed, and explained.
- I NEED at least one more speaker. I am checking into ideas & suggestions from workshop evaluations, and am open to new ones too.

Please email questions for the speakers or topic ideas to cheryl.cloutier@allina.com. Your input is valuable to our workshops.

_Cheryl_
A new version of the Collaborative Stage Data Collection System, V0204, has been released for use with 2012 diagnoses. You will be receiving updates from your software vendors, if they haven’t already come. Release notes have been written for this upgrade and are available at the CS website at http://cancerstaging.org/cstage/news/release-notes.pdf. A spreadsheet listing converted codes, new codes, and codes to be reviewed, with review notes is also available at http://cancerstaging.org/cstage/software/index.html. Your software vendor should be giving you a list of cases to review as part of the conversion process.

General instructions in Part I, as well as table notes in Part II, have been updated, along with modifications to codes and code descriptions. The changes are much less extensive than they were in the upgrade to CS V0203, but you should still carefully review Part I, Sections 1 and 2, before you start coding in V0204, and carefully review all table notes the first time you code a case in each schema.

Notable review issues:
Histology codes 8950 and 8951 were moved from the Corpus Sarcoma schema to the Corpus Carcinoma schema. CS Extension, CS Lymph Nodes and CS Site-Specific Factor 1 codes will need to be reviewed for all cases with these histologies and recoded in the Corpus Carcinoma schema.

Esophagus GEJunction/Stomach: Site-Specific Factor 25 code 100 was made obsolete. Cases with code 100 should not have been coded to C161 or C162. If there are any C161 or C162 cases with Site-Specific Factor 25 code 100, they will need to be reviewed before data conversion and corrected; if the site code was incorrect, they may need to be recoded in a different schema.

Some highlights from Part I Section 1:
- Clarification of eval codes when a second primary is found after neoadjuvant treatment for the first primary – eval codes 5 and 6 not used.
- Timing rules for site-specific factors – same as general timing rules for CS, except where noted otherwise for certain Site-Specific Factor fields.
- List of schemas for which both regional and distant nodes are collected in CS Lymph Nodes (for AJCC staging), but only regional node information is collected in Regional Nodes Examined and Regional Nodes Positive – Kaposi Sarcoma, Retinoblastoma, Lymphoma Ocular Adnexa.
- List of sites/histologies for which lymphvascular invasion is coded 8, not applicable – hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms.
- Information about CS Over-rides: CS Over-ride 20 is a special purpose over-ride, not applicable for registries reporting to the MCSS.

Some highlights from Part I Section 2:
Information about a conversion website for units of measurement
- Breast: ER/PR/HER2 information should not be taken from an Oncotype DX test; this information can be recorded in a text field. Highest positive values are coded for these fields where multiple values reported.
- Prostate: Clarifications for choosing PSA value

Some highlights from Part II, schemas:
- Lung: CS Extension code for primary tumor of the carina was changed and maps to T4 for AJCC staging.
- Melanoma Skin: New codes added to Site-Specific Factor 7 for coding mitotic count, 996 when not expressed in units per square millimeter and 997 when test performed but results not available.
- Melanoma Skin, Merkel Cell Skin, Merkel Cell Penis, Merkel Cell Vulva and Merkel Cell Scrotum: CS Lymph Nodes tables, notes and codes revised to provide instructions for coding involvement in secondary nodal basins. Site-Specific Factor 3 tables, notes and codes revised to distinguish between clinical and pathologic information, to support correct assignment of cN and pN values.
- Breast: New codes in Site-Specific Factor 19, Assessment of Positive Axillary Lymph Nodes, to clarify coding.
- Ovary: New codes in Site-Specific Factors 4 and 5 to address cases where no residual tumor was found or no debulking performed (4), or no ascites collected (5).
- Brain: WHO grade for Site-Specific Factor 1 can be assigned based on Table 56.3 in the AJCC 7 manual, WHO grades of CNS tumors.

Elaine
Reflections of Laurie Griffin

We, the HealthEast Cancer Registry staff, feel the loss of Laurie Griffin, CTR, who passed away on December 2, 2011. We would like to thank the members of MCRA for all your condolences, cards, and remembrances sent our way.

Laurie started her career at HealthEast at Bethesda on 1/29/1979. Bethesda sent Laurie to be trained under the tutoring of Jean Wallace, Director of “The Upper Midwest Oncology Registry System” (TUMORS). After Bethesda, Laurie worked at Divine Redeemer, Midway, and then St. Joseph’s. Laurie was a very dedicated and knowledgeable registrar with her career encompassing all facets of registry work. Laurie also shared her time and talent with the MCRA over the years. She served on the Bylaws, Nominating, and Professional Development committees, as well as taking on the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and served as President twice. She was a member of MCRA for 32 years.

On a personal note, Laurie was a lover of cats, always having a cat to keep her company. She enjoyed weekends in West Salem, WI, visiting with family and friends. She also had an interest in photography (frequently taking pictures at MCRA meetings) and her family genealogy. She enjoyed a round of golf with her MCRA & HealthEast friends. She also enjoyed traveling, with trips to NCRA conferences, and visiting 48 of the 50 states. Lastly, she was a HUGE Packer’s fan! After a Packers win against the Vikings, you could bet on an email poking fun at the Vikings. Laurie, we miss you, and all your emails.

Rest in peace,
Linda, Patti, Nancy, Michelle, Renae
A memorial service is being planned and will be held at St. Joseph’s Hospital, date and time pending.

I am proud to say that Laurie was my friend for many years! I met Laurie about 25 years ago when the TUMORS consortium was in existence. She was at Midway Hospital then and she would always come to the meetings with good questions and was always ready for discussions. We also spent time together on MCRA’s executive committee over the years – she always reminded me that we had both taken our turn as President more than once! We became friends over the years and spent time together at many national conferences – exploring cities and finding fun restaurants in the evenings. We also golfed together many times with our other MCRA friends – I think we all enjoyed the happy hour after golf as much as we liked the time on the course!

I was blessed to know Laurie and I will miss her.

Gail Jolitz

When I was the treasurer (for the first time) of MCRA, I thought it would be helpful for MCRA to have a laptop computer for use by the treasurer, secretary and possibly others too. However, I didn’t really know much, if anything, about computers. I just knew there would be some useful applications and that it would get around the problems that people sometimes had with installing the diskettes on various computers in different work locations. Laurie Griffin volunteered to go shopping with me. One evening after work, we met at Best Buy in Woodbury which was on her way home to Hudson, WI. Laurie would not have had to do this but in the interest of serving MCRA, she gave of her time and knowledge to make that happen. I remember being bewildered by all of our choices and having not even owned a computer myself, I wasn’t sure where to begin. If it weren’t for Laurie, I probably would have been swindled but good by the pushy, high-pressure salesman who wanted to sell us everything under the sun, and the more expensive the better. A pushy salesman was the last thing to deter Laurie though. We gave the guy the brushoff a few times and told him we were going to talk between ourselves for a few minutes and would come and find him again when we needed him. After looking at everything and taking our sweet time about it, we found a laptop that would serve the purposes of MCRA. We got a good deal and even though I had about 5 or 6 rebates to submit, that ultimately got us an even better deal. MCRA has Laurie Griffin to thank for having a laptop computer and for no longer having to try installing diskettes on many different systems around the state of MN.

Laurie was always helpful when I’d call her about the big lists I was going to be sending her. Lists that identified possible missing cases that I found on path review. Most often, these cases never were truly “missed” by the registry. Laurie was among the best at what she did and I came to learn this well. The cases in question were more often than not non-MN residents or non-analytic cases that the registry wouldn’t be picking up. After starting these conversations about the “blue lists” of potential missing cases with a big sigh, we’d both chuckle and then get to work on determining why I thought they were missing. Laurie was always so forthcoming about the information I was seeking and she was helpful to a ‘newbie’ like me back then. So to Laurie I’d like to say a heartfelt, “thank you” and “rest in peace my friend, your work is through, no more big ‘blue lists’ of missing cases for you.”

And if I ever do go buy another computer in this lifetime, I will be thinking of Laurie.

Gene Senger
Cooking with MCRA

WINTER FRUIT SALAD WITH LEMON POPPYSEED DRESSING

½ c. white sugar
1 tsp. Dijon-style prepared mustard
½ c. lemon juice
½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. diced onion
2/3 c. vegetable oil
1 T poppy seeds
¼ c. dried cranberries
1 head romaine lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
1 apple – peeled, cored & diced
4 oz. shredded Swiss Cheese
1 pear – peeled, cored & diced
1 cup cashews

DIRECTIONS:
In a blender or food processor, combine sugar, lemon juice, onion, mustard and salt. Process until well blended. Add oil & blend until mixture is thick and smooth. Add poppy seeds and process just a few seconds more to mix.

In a large serving bowl combine the romaine lettuce, shredded Swiss Cheese, cashews, dried cranberries, diced apple & diced pear. Toss to mix. Then pour dressing over salad just before serving and toss to coat.

Peggy Anderson

PINEAPPLE PRETZEL FLUFF

1 c. coarsely crushed pretzels
½ c. butter or margarine, melted
1 c. sugar, divided
1 (8 oz.) pkg cream cheese, softened
1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip, thawed

Directions
In a bowl combine pretzels, butter & ½ cups sugar. Press into a 9 x 13 cake pan. Bake at 400° for 7 minutes. Cool. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl beat cream cheese and remaining sugar until creamy. Fold into pineapple and whipped topping; chill until serving. Break pretzel mixture into small pieces, stir into pineapple mixture.

Jennifer Nelson

STRAWBERRY-POPPYSEED SALAD

1/3 C sugar
2 T poppy seeds
2 T raspberry-flavored vinegar
¾ C non-fat mayonnaise
¼ C skim milk

Blend in blender. Pour over Romaine lettuce and fresh strawberries.

Gail Jolitz

MEXICAN HAYSTACKS

Tortilla chips
1 can Hormel chili, heated
1 c. cooked white rice
Lettuce shredded
Cheese shredded
Tomatoes, chopped
Onion, chopped
Black olives, sliced
Sour cream
Taco sauce

Layer above ingredients: chips on bottom, rice on chips, chili over rice and chips, topped with taco toppings. Super easy and quick!

Heidi B. Leach

KUDOS & RECOMMENDATIONS

I have made two of the recipes submitted by Linda Valerius in the last MODMM. The pretzels and the mushrooms.

The recipe for the pretzels make a huge amount, but no worries, they are so good you won't have to worry about them going to waste. What a fabulous and super easy way to make an otherwise bland snack into something that disappears before your eyes.

Speaking about easy, the mushrooms were the easiest appetizer I have ever made. Put the ingredients in the crock pot and 3 hours later voilà!, you have butter infused ranch flavored mushrooms. They were not any left in the crockpot at the end of the evening. Thank you Linda!

Leann Osada

I highly recommend Rene Warhol's “Farmer's Wedding Chicken Salad” page 73. I've made it a couple times and it's great!

Gail Jolitz
SCALLOPED CORN:

4 cans cream style corn
2 eggs
1 can milk
1 box Jiffy corn mix
Dash garlic powder
Dash white pepper
Dash season salt

Mix all ingredients together in mixing bowl then pour into greased baking dish (I use Pam cooking spray). Bake in oven @ 350° for 1 hour (if baking in a deep pan add 15 minutes to baking time). Let stand for 5-10 minutes before serving.

Kim Gums

ROASTED ASPARAGUS

2 bunches medium asparagus
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
½ tsp. kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Grated or shaved Parmesan, optional

Preheat the oven to 450°. Trim the woody ends from the asparagus, usually about 1 ½ inches. Lightly peel the remaining stalks (not always necessary, but more of a personal preference). Spread the spears in a single layer on a baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with the salt and pepper, and roll to coat thoroughly.

Roast the asparagus until lightly browned and tender, about 8 to 10 minutes, giving the pan a good shake about halfway through to turn the asparagus. Arrange the roasted asparagus on a serving platter and top with some Parmesan. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Kathy Lougiu

NESTLED EGG MUFFINS

2 c. whole wheat flour
2 c. old fashioned oats
½ c. sugar
2 Tbsp. baking powder
1½ tsp. salt
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1½ c. milk
1 c. raisins
¾ c. vegetable oil
18 whole uncooked eggs, rinsed and dyed if you wish

In a large bowl, combine flour, oats, sugar, baking powder and salt; set aside. Combine eggs, milk, raisins and oil; mix well. Stir in dry ingredients just until moistened. Fill 18 greased or paper-lined muffins cups half full. Place one whole egg (with shell) of top of each muffin. Bake at 400° for 18-20 minutes. Cut an egg open to test for desired doneness, Serve warm.

Kathy Lougiu

CARDAMOM BRAID

1 c. warm fat free milk (70 to 80°)
¼ c. butter or stick margarine, softened
2 eggs, lightly beaten
3¼ c. bread flour
½ c. sugar
1 tsp. ground cardamom
½ tsp. salt
2¼ tsp. active dry yeast

Topping:
1 egg
2 Tbsp. water
2 tsp. sugar
¼ cup sliced almonds

In a bread machine pan, place the first eight ingredients in order suggested by manufacturer. Select dough setting (check dough after five minutes of mixing; add one to two tablespoons of water or flour if needed).

When cycle is completed, turn dough onto a lightly floured surface, divide into thirds. Shape each into a 20 inch rope. Place ropes on parchment paper-lined baking sheet, braid. Pinch ends together to seal and tuck under. Cover let rise in warm place until doubled, about 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, beat egg and water; brush over dough. Sprinkle with sugar and almonds. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pan to wire rack to cool.

Kathy Lougiu

CARMALIZED PANCETTA AND FENNEL SALAD

I absolutely love this salad and I don’t like salads much!

1 bulb fennel, halved and cut into 1/2-inch wedges
5 slices pancetta
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
5 oz. (about 6-7 cups) mixed salad greens
Red Wine Vinaigrette, recipe follows

Preheat the oven to 400°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. In a medium bowl, toss together fennel, pancetta, garlic, brown sugar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Place the ingredients on the baking sheet in a single layer. Cook until the pancetta is crisp and the fennel is caramelized, about 20 min. Remove from the oven and let cool for 5 min. In a large bowl, place the salad greens, crumbled pancetta, and caramelized fennel. Toss the salad with the Red Wine Vinaigrette and serve immediately.

Red Wine Vinaigrette:
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
¼ tsp. honey
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
¼ c. extra-virgin olive oil

Mix the vinegar, lemon juice, honey, salt, and pepper in a blender. With the machine running gradually blend in the oil. Season the vinaigrette, to taste, with more salt and pepper, if desired.

Yield: scant ½ c.
Prep Time: 5 minutes

Kathy Lougiu
Membership Report
Sue Braaten RHIT, CTR

2012 Membership as of February 21, 2012:
84 active members
4 new members
5 students
1 honorary
94 Total members

Sue

MCRA Executive Committee

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