
MODMM SPRING/SUMMER 2024

President's Message

by Jackie Halsey, BS, CNMT, ODS-C

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to get through this thing called life in the cancer registry profession. -MN native Prince and Jackie Halsey

Thank you for choosing this profession. You are appreciated even if you are brand new or have years of experience under your wings. In the constant change of the profession, you continue to adapt to the latest. The workforce needs you. As an educator, I am reminded of this often as registry managers, human resources or recruiters will reach out asking for potential students. Plus, predictions show many ODSs are retiring within the next few years.

As the holiday season approaches again, it is a time to reflect on gratitude. Take a moment to reflect on yours. My top gratifications are remote working, work-life-family balance, changing healthcare technology, keeping my mind engaged, and helping make a difference in the cancer data world. The theme for National Cancer Registrar Week on April 7-11, 2025 hits home with gratifications as we are "Data Superheroes". (<https://www.ncra-usa.org/About/National-Cancer-Registrars-Week>)

The Continuing Education in Person (CEIP) requirement has brought some negativity amongst many and on social media. The requirement is 8 CE hours/credits in person over a four-year cycle and national associations, state associations, central registries, and local medical facilities are included. Review the Professional Development section of the newsletter for further details. Also, NCRA advocates have mentioned that there will be ODS-C-focused in-person educational programs in conjunction with state registries as part of the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) Education and Training Coordinators (ETC) efforts. MN being an NPCR state, we should be able to take advantage of localized events in the future. NCRA plans to update the NCRA website in January 2025. Remember, by focusing on solutions and what you can control, you can navigate without letting it consume you.

Looking ahead to next year, fill your thoughts with optimism and kindness. Thank you for gathering here and being in this thing called life in the cancer registry profession. You are needed! Happy Holidays.

Jackie Halsey, BS, CNMT, ODS-C
MCRA President



MCRS Update/Info

By Jennifer L. Nelson, ODS, NR-EMT



MCRS is planning to participate in the National Childhood Cancer Registry (NCCR) in 2025. There are 13 new data items that will be required for the NCCR. These data are NAACCR item numbers 1136, 1137, 1138, and 1184 through 1193. Although these items are new in 2025, registries are asked to collect them beginning with 2024 diagnoses if available. The age range for the NCCR is 0-39. More information, including the 33 Schemas, can be found at <https://staging.seer.cancer.gov/pediatric/home/1.2/>.

Histology Title – follow up from WCRA/MCRA presentation:

- After the presentation had a couple of registries reach out with questions/comments:
 - Informed North Dakota Central Registry wants grade included in histology title text.
 - Informed cancer registry students are using NAACCR Data Dictionary to include the following in histology title text:

Description: Text area for manual documentation of information regarding the histologic type, behavior, and grade (differentiation) of the tumor being reported.

Suggestions for text:

- Information on histologic type and behavior
- Information on differentiation from scoring systems such as Gleason’s Score, Bloom-Richardson Grade, etc.
- **Code Notes:**
- **Data Item(s) to be verified/validated using the text entered in this field.**
After manual entry of the text field, ensure that the text entered both agrees with the coded values and clearly justifies the selected codes in the following fields:

Item name	Item number
Histology (92-00) ICD-O-2	420
Behavior (92-00) ICD-O-2	430
Histologic Type ICD-O-3	522
Behavior Code ICD-O-3	523
Grade	440

- I contacted Jim Hofferkamp to get further clarification about the NAACCR Data Dictionary guidance and his previous comments. His response was: “We don’t really have national standards for text. The information in the Data Dictionary offers guidance, but they are not hard and fast rules. States are welcome to set standards within their state. Personally, I like to see the text field simply justify the histology code. Grade, behavior and primary care can be justified elsewhere. However, if including all that information in the text title field works for someone else, I don’t have a problem with it.”

- MCRS staff met on 11/21/2024. We are okay with you adding grade to your histology text title if you prefer.
- Examples of items we don't want to see in the histology title:
 - Adenocarcinoma; 8140
 - Please don't enter the 8140 code in histology title text
 - BX PATH: GR 1. SURG Path: GR 2
 - We need the actual histology title
 - Please don't list your initials in the histology text
 - Please list the H rule you used in Remarks, not in the histology title text

Professional Development News

Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C; Jackie Halsey CNMT, ODS; Sandi Kolby, RHIT, ODS; Cheryl Borovansky, RHIT; Abigail Kohler, RHIT, ODS; Sami Kendrick, BS, ODS-C; Amanda Hlad, RHIA, ODS-C

Happy Holidays from your Professional Development team!

As we head into 2025, your Professional Development committee will be working hard to discuss options for the new NCRA in-person CE requirement. We will continue to hold the in-person Fall conference with WCRA. MCRA will be hosting in 2025. If you have any topics you want discussed, please send ideas to sbernsdorf@winonahealth.org or Jackie.halsey@rctc.edu

Beginning in 2025, the CEIP activity will require ODS-certified professionals to earn a minimum of eight CE credits of in-person education over four years. The eight CEIP credits are included in the standard 20 CE credits and can be earned across two, two-year CE cycles (i.e. within a four-year window).

Updates as of November 2024:

- Caregiver exemption
- Expanded opportunities to earn CEIP through live, interactive education
- Ability to claim prior year in-person education credits

To read more about the new requirement, please visit the link below:

- NCRA CEIP Requirement Info Link: <https://www.ncra-usa.org/ODS-Credential/CEIP>

If you have additional questions or concerns about the in-person CE requirement please direct them to NCRA directly at: ce@ncra-usa.org

NCRA 2025 Annual Educational Conference will be held May 3-6, 2025 in Orlando, FL at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld.

Professional Development Opportunities:

- MCRA NAACCR Webinars: <https://mcra.net/education/professional-development/>
- Follow Registry Partners ODS Coding Breaks on YouTube:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjPQWPlgmAXS9pToKMT1ixyGJOHUnJH0k>
 - When you follow them, they notify you of new ones. One is usually posted monthly.
- Review Omega Healthcare Tumor Talk Tips:
 - <https://www.omegahms.com/category/tumor-talk/>
- Attend upcoming or view past webinars:
 - <https://www.omegahms.com/events-webinars/>



Nominating Committee Message

Erin Hammell, RHIT, ODS; Nancy Hedstrom, RHIT, ODS; Kathy Lougiu, ODS; Melanie Johnson, ODS-C

The nominating committee will be looking for volunteers and/or nominations for executive board positions next spring/summer for the 2025/2026 Executive Board. *Please strongly consider volunteering so that we may keep our organization running smoothly.*

Eligibility: Any member in good standing for one full year prior to nomination shall be eligible to hold office. To be eligible for the office of President-Elect, a member must have served one full term on the Executive Committee prior to nomination.

These are the positions open for 2025/2026:

President-Elect: Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall succeed to the office of President at the conclusion of his/her term of office. The President-Elect shall co-chair the Professional Development committee. Ensure website information is correct.

Secretary: Shall be responsible for records of all MCRA proceedings and shall distribute minutes of all business meetings to the membership.

Treasurer: Shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all funds of MCRA and shall make written reports to the Executive Committee and to the membership. The treasurer shall serve on the Membership Committee.

These are the committees needing volunteers for 2025/2026:

Professional Development Committee: Shall be Responsible for leadership in the Professional Development of MCRA membership. It shall include the President-Elect, with responsibility for educational programs. It will include persons responsible for support of members seeking ODS-C status, and any other members as deemed by the President or the Executive Committee.

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee will include persons responsible for the MCRA newsletter, the MODMM (The Minnesota Oncology Data Managers Monitor) and for taking photographs. Liaisons to the Minnesota Cancer Council, National Cancer Registrars association, Minnesota Health Information Management Association, Commission on Cancer, Minnesota Cancer Reporting System, Others as felt necessary, in order to carry on the responsibilities of the communications committee.

Website Coordinator: Shall be responsible for working with the Webmaster to ensure smooth operation of the MCRA website.

Nominating Committee: There shall be at least four members on the Nominating Committee, the chairperson (appointed by the newly elected President), the immediate Past-President, and two other members elected by the MCRA at the Fall Annual Meeting. They are responsible for preparing, mailing, and tallying the ballots in accord with Article V. No member of this committee shall be eligible for office.

Membership Committee: Shall be responsible for acceptance of new members and for distribution of updated rosters to the members. The MCRA Treasurer shall be a member of this committee and provide updated information on payment of dues.

If you are interested in volunteering and/or nominating anyone for any of these positions, please contact one of the nominating committee members.

Thank you for your consideration in fulfilling these positions,

Outstanding Member Award

Melissa Shankey, RHIT, ODS; Mona Highsmith; Jane Siekkinen, BS, ODS

Nominations are now open for the MCRA Outstanding Member Award, which will be presented by the President at the fall business meeting. Nominations must be received no later than August 15.

The recipient of the "OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD" will receive a certificate and will be our guest at an MCRA workshop (workshop fee waived). In addition, the honoree's name will be engraved on a perpetual plaque that will be displayed at each workshop, and the award will be publicized in the MODMM.

PURPOSE:

- To honor a member of MCRA for outstanding contributions to the cancer registry profession.
- To encourage in members the desire to contribute to the development and growth of the profession.
- To further public awareness of the scope and importance of the profession.

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates must be a current active member of MCRA.
- Candidates must have contributed to MCRA and to the cancer registry profession in one or more of the following ways: service to the association, outstanding achievement in professional practice, leadership, education, research and/or published materials.

The nomination form and supporting documentation are the only information about the nominees available to the Awards Committee. Therefore, it is necessary to complete the nomination form in detail. The individual nominating a candidate may choose to provide all the information requested on the nomination form without informing the nominee that he/she is proposing his/her name. This is satisfactory provided that all the information necessary to adequately describe the candidate's achievements is submitted for evaluation to the Awards Committee.

To nominate a MCRA member for this award please submit:

1. The application
2. A narrative summary (no more than 200 words)
3. Letters of support, if desired. (No more than 3)

The application form is attached to the newsletter email, please consider nominating someone!

Bylaws Committee Report

By Linda Vanstrom, ODS

There were no proposed Bylaws amendments to vote on at the Fall MCRA/WCRA Workshop.

Membership News

By Chunny Daiker, BS, RHIT, ODS

Starting 1/1/2022, the Membership Directory will be solely online. I have eliminated the PDF format. The directory can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/2023-mcra-membership/home>.

Welcome to the new members of MCRA for 2024

- Laura Braaten – Student
- Ramona Brown – Mayo Clinic
- Julie Cich – Student
- Lisa Cfaldi – Student
- Katherine Ferrari - Essentia Health (new member since July)
- Cathalene Johnson – MN Cancer Reporting System (MCRS)
- Lori Kinnunen – Student
- Sue Kossila - Student/Cuyuna Regional Medical Center (new member since July)
- Kelly Odens – Essentia Health

Statistics for 2024 MCRA Membership

- 99 Total members
- Of the 99, 10 are new members.
- 3 late member renewals (renewals since July)
- 3 retirements:
 - Judy Connolly from Essentia Health
 - Patty Lehman from HealthEast/Fairview (retirement May 2024)
 - Nancy Grandner from HealthEast/Fairview - (retirement 11/8/2024)

If you need to make any changes to your contact – please do not hesitate to email me. Thank you for continuing to support MCRA!

MCRA Website | mcra.net

By Thomas Coles, ODS, CHES - The Website Guy

The MCRA Website is continually being updated with the most currently released NAACCR Webinars, job postings, MCRA newsletters, among other important website-worthy tidbits. As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Much appreciated! – The Website Guy

Treasurer Report

By Amanda Hlad, RHIA, CTR

Highlights from this year's report:

- Membership income was about \$600 less than 2023 - \$176 of that was due to the decision to cover PayPal fees
- The online registration cost increased a couple years ago from \$250 to \$400 a year
- The NAACCR webinars increased a couple years ago from \$1440 to \$2000 a year
- The years that we host the conference we have usually around an additional \$2000 of income
- Our account balance has remained at \$25,000 - \$30,000 for many years.

Cash Flow - Year To Date 1/1/2024 through 11/7/2024

Category	1/1/2024- 11/7/2024
INFLOWS	
2024 Membership Dues	4,218.00
NCRA Basket Income	185.19
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,403.19
OUTFLOWS	
CTR Exam Stipend	200.00
NCRA Meeting	
MCRA - President Elect Support	2,203.01
NCRA Basket Expenses	125.37
TOTAL NCRA Meeting	2,328.38
Professional Development - Webinars	2,000.00
Website	
Online registration	399.95
TOTAL Website	399.95
Website - Domain Account	128.40
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	5,056.73
OVERALL TOTAL	-653.54

Account Balances - As of 11/7/2024

Account	11/7/2024 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking-US Bank	31,091.21
TOTAL Bank Accounts	31,091.21
OVERALL TOTAL	31,091.21

Communications

By Breana Norton, BA, ODS

As the Communication Chair, I manage the mcracommunications@gmail.com email by forwarding communications from the executive board to the membership and overseeing the creation of the bi-annual newsletter. Sami Kendrick joined the Communications Committee this year and has been an enormous help with the MODDMM! We always welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us. As always, if you have any suggestions about the MODMM or any questions or concerns about email communications, don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks!