
MODMM FALL/WINTER 2025

President's Message

by Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C

Happy New Year! I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and found time to rest, recharge, and reconnect with the people who matter most. Our fall conference in October was a tremendous success. It was energizing to meet so many dedicated professionals, share ideas, and strengthen the sense of community that makes our association so special. I encourage anyone interested in getting more involved to consider joining one of our committees, your voice and perspective truly make a difference. If you'd like to learn more, feel free to reach out to any board or committee member; we'd be happy to help you find the right fit. To our new members: Welcome! We're thrilled to have you join us, and we look forward to supporting your growth in this field.

We will celebrate National Cancer Registrars Week April 6-10, 2026 under the theme **"Registry Rockstars."** It's a fitting tribute to the expertise, resilience, and dedication you bring to this work every day. The impact you make, quietly, consistently, and with extraordinary precision, truly does rock the world of cancer care.

This spring, I look forward to representing Minnesota at the NCRA Annual Conference May 5-8, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky. With the theme **"Off to the Races: Accelerating Excellence in Oncology Data,"** the conference promises valuable insights and opportunities to learn from colleagues across the country. If you will be there, please reach out, I would love to connect and meet up during the conference.

As we look ahead, many conversations in our field naturally turn to technology, especially artificial intelligence. While AI is becoming a powerful tool in data management and analytics, it is just that, a tool. It enhances our work, but it does not replace the critical thinking, clinical understanding, and professional judgment that only trained cancer registrars provide. Our expertise remains at the heart of high-quality oncology data, and AI simply helps us do what we do best with greater efficiency and accuracy.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and for the work you do every day to support cancer surveillance and improve patient outcomes. I'm grateful for this community and excited for all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C



MCRS Update/Info

By Jennifer L. Nelson, ODS, NR-EMT



- **Prostate Staging:**
 - We have been seeing some prostate cases coming in with incorrect Summary Stage. Reminder that imaging should not be used to determine clinical extension. You may want to query your database to see if imaging was used. See SEER SINQ 20190030 which talks about Summary Stage and AJCC being aligned to agree on imaging, per a change that was made back in Version 2.0.
 - Summary Stage Manual Note 5 states imaging is not used to determine clinical extension. If a physician incorporates imaging findings into their evaluation, do **not** use this information. It does go on to say that if it cannot be determined if the physician is using imaging, assume they are not and code the Summary Stage based on the physician's statement.
 - Resources: [Summary Stage Manual v3.3](#) and [SEER Inquiry System - Question 20190030 Details](#)
- **Race:**
 - MCRS currently has around 100 cases that can be re-coded to White. This might be another item you may want to query in your database to see if you need to make changes. See this SEER SINQ for further information: <https://seer.cancer.gov/seer-inquiry/inquiry-detail/20240036/>
 - Resource: [Appendix D Race and Nationality Descriptions From the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics](#)
- **Lymph Node – Surgery Code:**
 - MCRS continues to receive cases where the site is coded to C77.8 for multiple lymph node regions but the surgery code is A250. These cases have edits on our end for this miscoding. Reminder the use of A250 is:

- A250 Local tumor excision, NOS: Less than a full chain, includes an excisional biopsy of a single lymph node. [SEER Note: The use of code A250 in Surgery of Primary Site 2023 [NAACCR #1291] is for a **primary in one and only one lymph node**. The single involved lymph node is removed by an excisional biopsy only. CDC-NPCR, CoC, and SEER agree on the wording of code A250.]
 - **NAACCR Implementation Guidelines 2026:**
 - You can find the guidelines at NAACCR's website. Make sure to take a look at the Tables documentation for a list of all the new terms: <https://www.naacr.org/icdo3/>
 - **NCDB – Patient Name Export:**
 - Just in case you missed the email from NCRA regarding the new **optional** data items of name fields I wanted to include that here. The name fields are listed in the STORE 2026 manual. NAACCR Data Item numbers are:
 - 2230 Name-Last
 - 2232 Name- Birth Surname
 - 2240 Name-First
 - 2250 Name- Middle
 - 2280 Name-Alias
 - NCDB leadership will be reaching out to registrars/primary contacts within the Quality Portal for CoC soon with further information.
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Professional Development News

Breana Norton, BA, ODS-C

Save the Dates

- WCRA/MCRA 11th Annual Conference, October 1-2, 2026. Hilton Garden Inn, Sun Prairie, WI. In-person and virtual registration will be offered. Stay tuned for registration information.
 - Important Reminder: MCRA/WCRA is committed to providing in-person education opportunities at our annual conferences. As an ODS, we are required to complete 8 CEIPs in 4 years. If an individual attends one conference every 4 years, they should be able to complete the CEIP requirements.

Register for upcoming NCRA Events:

- Winter 2026 Three-Part Webinar Series – Abstracting & Coding
<https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/live-webinars>
 - Live Webinar 1: Understand Prostate Cancer for Accurate Abstracting, February 11, 2026
 - Live Webinar 2: Coding Bile Duct Cancer, February 25, 2026
 - Live Webinar 3: All About NET Tumors, March 4, 2026
 - Have a group of six or more people. Check out NCRA's group rates (found at the bottom of the link above)

- NCRA Annual Educational Conference, May 5-8, 2026. Louisville, Kentucky.
<https://www.ncra-usa.org/Conference/2026-NCRA-Annual-Conference>

Professional Development Opportunities:

- NCRA Badge Programs: <https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/badge-program>
 - NCRA's Data Management Badge Program
 - NCRA's Central Registry Badge Program
- Follow Registry Partners ODS Coding Breaks on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjpQWPJgmAXS9pToKMT1ixyGJOHUnJH0k>
 - 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/>
- MCRA NAACCR Webinars: <https://mcra.net/education/professional-development/>
 - Important Reminder: MCRA can add a person to our subscription, which would allow them to watch the NAACCR webinars live. If you watch the NAACCR webinars live with six or more other individuals, this qualifies as a CEIP event. Please note that MCRA will not apply for CEIP credits; the person with the subscription must apply. If you have any further questions about this opportunity, don't hesitate to contact the Professional Development Chair.

Nominating Committee Message

Erin Hammell, RHIT, ODS; Nancy Hedstrom, RHIT, ODS; Kathy Lougiu, ODS; Jackie Hasley, ODS-C

The nominating committee will be looking for volunteers and/or nominations for executive board positions spring/summer 2026 for the 2026/2027 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 2026/2027:

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 2026/2027:

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

Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C

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 an 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!

Membership News

By Chunny Daiker, BS, RHIT, ODS

Association Stats for 2026

- 84 members total
- 16 new members

Welcome to the following new members for 2026:

- Catrina Bloyd - Essentia Health
- Melissa Eagle - Sentara Healthcare
- Katherine Ferrari - Essentia Health
- Jennifer Flores
- Katherine Gilbertson - Mayo clinic
- Cathy Haynes - M Health
- Lori Kinnunen - Essentia Health
- Jessica Lindgre - Q-Centrix
- Analisa Perkins- Student
- Kevin Plamann - North Memorial
- Laura Raske - MDH
- Lauren Reynhout - Health Catalyst
- Daniela Rivera - CentraCare
- Kathleen Van Ryn - Student
- Youa Vang - Student
- Jill Wright - Essentia Health

2026 Enrollment closed on Feb 2. However, anyone is still welcome to join MCRA as open enrollment is open all year-round.

Link: <https://fs28.formsite.com/minnesotaMCRA/2026Membership/index>

If at any time you would like to update your MCRA profile for the directory or have any changes, please reach out to me.

Thank you for continuing to support MCRA!

Bylaws Committee Report

By Linda Vanstrom, ODS

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

Treasurer Report

By Amanda Hlad, RHIA, CTR

Cash Flow - 2025

1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

Category	1/1/2025- 12/31/2025
INFLOWS	
2025 Membership Dues	4,215.00
2025 Regional Conference Registration	17,110.00
TOTAL 2025 Regional Conference	17,110.00
NCRA Basket Income	125.77
TOTAL INFLOWS	21,450.77
OUTFLOWS	
2025 Regional Conference Expenses	
Food	12,138.58
Speakers and CE Credits	2,575.00
Supplies	22.54
TOTAL 2025 Regional Conference Expenses	14,736.12
CTR Exam Stipend	100.00
NCRA Meeting	
MCRA - President Elect Support	2,202.70
NCRA Basket Expenses	186.72
TOTAL NCRA Meeting	2,389.42
Professional Development - Webinars	2,295.00
Website	
Domain Account	131.40
Online registration	417.96
TOTAL Website	549.36
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	20,069.90
OVERALL TOTAL	1,380.87

Account Balances - As of 2/12/2026

Account	2/12/2026 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking-US Bank	36,144.08
TOTAL Bank Accounts	36,144.08
OVERALL TOTAL	36,144.08

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. Thanks much! – The Website Guy

Communications

By Lisa Cifaldi, ODS-C

I'd like to thank you all for your grace while I find my legs as the new Communications Chair. I manage the mcracommunications@gmail.com email by forwarding communications from the executive board to the membership and creating the biannual newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions about the MODMM or any questions or concerns about email communications, please feel free to contact me. Thank you, all!
