
MODMM SPRING/SUMMER 2026

President's Message

by Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C

As my term as President comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve our association. It has truly been a privilege, and I am grateful for the experience, the connections I have made, and the chance to become more involved with an organization that supports the work we do every day.

One of the things I have appreciated most during my time as President is seeing the knowledge and dedication within our own membership. I was very proud to see our incoming President, Brianna, present at the NCRA Annual Conference in Louisville. Her presentation on brain anatomy and how it can help strengthen our abstracting skills was fantastic. It was great to see one of our own sharing her expertise on the national stage, and I know our association will be in great hands as she steps into the President role.

Our next opportunity to come together is right around the corner. The MCRA/WCRA Annual Meeting will be held October 1–2 in Madison, Wisconsin, where we will also install our new officers. I hope many of you will be able to attend either in-person or virtual. These meetings are always a great opportunity to learn, reconnect with colleagues, meet new members, and share the challenges and successes we are experiencing in our profession.

As I finish my term, I also want to encourage each of you to consider getting more involved with MCRA. Whether that means serving on a committee, volunteering for a project, becoming an officer someday, or simply sharing an idea, there is a place for everyone. I have learned that being involved gives you an opportunity not only to contribute to the association, but also to build relationships and learn from others in our field.

I have included a recap of this year's NCRA Annual Conference as well. There was a lot to take back to our members, particularly regarding the 2026 changes, Solid Tumor Rules, pediatric data collection, technology and AI, and the continued evolution of the ODS role. One message that came through clearly throughout the conference was just how valuable our knowledge and our data are to cancer programs and cancer surveillance.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President and for your support throughout my term. I have enjoyed being part of the leadership team, and while I may be passing the President's role to Brianna, I look forward to staying involved with MCRA and supporting the association in the years ahead.

Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C MCRA President

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/WRCA 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:

- Virtual Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop (Fall 2026)
<https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/products/2060/virtual-fundamentals-of-abstracting-foa-workshop-fall-2026>
- NCRA Annual Educational Conference, May 10-13, 2027, in San Diego, CA
<https://www.ncra-usa.org/Conference/2026-NCRA-Annual-Conference>

Professional Development Opportunities:

- NCRA Badge Programs: <https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/badge-program>
- 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 for 2026/2027. *Please strongly consider volunteering so that we may keep our organization running smoothly.*

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.