

OCCR QUARTERLY

Winter 2023

OKLAHOMA CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

SINGING HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU, PAULA MARSHALL

Lisa Fulkerson, RMA

We are celebrating, and yet saddened, to announce the retirement of Paula Marshall (for the second time). Paula's last day with the OCCR/OSDH was December 31, 2022.

Ms. Paula earned her Associate degree in Business from OSU and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Cameron University in 1996.

After seven years with the Comanche County District Attorney's Office, Paula accepted a position with the OCCR as a consultant in 1998. She received her CTR in 2003 and accepted the Data Manager position in 2006, where she served until her first retirement in 2016. After retirement, Paula continued to assist the registry before returning full time in 2019 as the Quality Assurance and Operations Specialist.

As an active member of the OCRA since 2002, Paula has twice served as the President, Historian, and President-Elect positions, in addition to Vice-President, Nominating Chair, Education Chair and By-Laws Chair. She has also served on the RMCDS Executive Board.

As a mother of three (with four bonus kids), grandmother of six (and four bonus grands) and one great-grand, I am sure she will find plenty to do to stay busy. This February through May, Paula will be babysitting her newest grandbaby, Parks. There are also



plans for gardening, volunteer work and hopefully travel.

Thirty years of dedicated service deserves a long and adventurous retirement. We will surely miss Paula, but we are grateful for the 21 years she chose to spend with OCCR.

Message from Paula: I've been so blessed to be in the same field for 21 years where I played a small part of making a difference in the lives of many Oklahomans, not to mention all the wonderful friendships and special memories along the way. I wouldn't trade any of it for the world! Keep up the good work cancer registrars - Make a Difference!

Inside this issue:

New OCCR Program Manager	2	The Buzz Among Researchers	6
RMCDS Corner	3	National Cancer Registrars Week	7
New Oklahoma CTRs	3	New CTR Credential to be Announced	7
Web Plus Updates	4	Annual Conferences	8
Join Our Team	5	OCCR Staff Listing / Contact Us	9

NEW OCCR PROGRAM MANAGER

Meagan Carter, MS

Greetings, all!

My name is Meagan Carter and I am the new State Cancer Registry Program Manager at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. I will be supervising the registry team and managing the grant operations for the central registry here in Oklahoma.

Since my mother's unexpected diagnosis and passing from late-stage IV colon cancer in 2012, I have felt a calling to work in the cancer related public health position to make a positive difference in prevention and early detection of cancer. My wish is that no one else go through what our family went through with my mother's cancer journey.

I grew up in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and upon graduating high school in 2004 I moved to Edmond to attend the University of Central Oklahoma. I graduated in 2009 with my B.S.Ed. Physical Education & Health Education and graduated with my Master of Science in Wellness Management—Health Studies with Honors in 2013. I am a certified PK-12 teacher and coached volleyball for 12 years. I have nearly 10 years of experience in public health and healthcare, and I previously worked at the OKC-County Health Department, the American Cancer Society, Mercy Hospital OKC, and the Oklahoma Hospital Association.

I am the oldest of three girls and enjoy spending time with my family, especially my 17-month-old nephew, Graham. In my free time I serve as the Minister of World Missions at the Zephaniah Movement, Church of God International and foster rescue dogs for Bella SPCA. My hobbies include hiking and anything else outdoors, watching sports, gardening, crocheting and hand embroidery, and reading. My favorite thing to do is to travel, especially to the mountains.

I am excited to work with Oklahoma's amazing Central Cancer Registry team, statewide reporters, and CDC partners!



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANCER DATA SYSTEM (RMCDS)

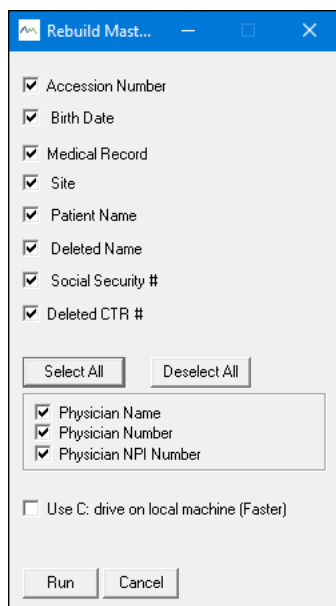
Christy Dabbs, AA, CTR



This is a friendly reminder to please stay current by keeping your software updated. RMCDS pushes out updates almost daily. The OCCR recommends updating RMCDS at least monthly to stay current with minor bug fixes throughout each month. Keep an eye on the version date and confirm that it advances forward when an update is complete.

It's also a good idea to rebuild the master indexes after an update. This keeps things in order and prevents issues like accession numbers being out of sequence. Follow these instructions to rebuild the indexes.

1. All users must be signed out of RMCDS
2. On the main menu go to Utilities→ Indexes→ Rebuild
3. A window will appear with different options
4. Click the button for Select All
5. You will receive a notification when it has completed



NEW OKLAHOMA CTRs

Oklahoma has four new CTRs: Sandra Purdeu of Foyil, Emily Wheeler of Shawnee, Kristine Bommelje of Stillwater, and Cindy Groce of Collinsville.

OCCR congratulates you on this achievement. Excellent job!

WEB PLUS UPDATES

Web Plus Abstractors

The OCCR is not yet ready to accept 2023 cases. An email was sent to all Web Plus abstractors on January 17th describing what to do with 2023 cases. Please refer to the email for a sneak peek of changes coming for 2023 and other detailed information related to 2023.

What Do Reporters need to do with 2023 cases?

You have two choices, 1) you may abstract 2023 cases in Web Plus however you will not be able to release them and will be required to update each case when 2023 cases are accepted or 2) you may wait to abstract 2023 cases when the OCCR can accept them. *The OCCR highly recommends option 2 to avoid confusion.*

- *If you choose to abstract 2023 cases now*
 - ◊ The OCCR recommends that you enter a partial abstract and leave the surgery code and the date flag data items blank. When the OCCR is able to accept 2023 cases, you will be required to go back to each case and update it based on the updated abstract display which will have the 2023 changes and updates. The cases will be required to pass the new 2023 edits.
- *If you choose to wait to abstract 2023 cases*
 - ◊ You will have a backlog of cases to enter however, you will not need to go back and review any partial cases for 2023 entered earlier in the year. You will still be ahead in case reporting according to the submission schedule.

Abstract Quality Review

Last year the OCCR implemented a new process for abstract review at the central registry. When you release your cases, they will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. We are using this as a continual and concurrent educational opportunity for Web Plus abstractors. Currently 10% of released cases from the previous week are reviewed. An email is sent to the abstractor with corrections that were made along with the justification for the corrections. The OCCR has had positive feedback from our reporters about this process and we hope everyone views it as a positive experience. As always, please reach out to your facility consultant with questions.

Web Plus Uploaders

The OCCR is not yet accepting 2023 abstracts in NAACCR v23 XML files. Software vendors usually release their upgrades somewhere between March and May of each year. More information will be provided as the OCCR gets closer to implementing NAACCR v23.

As a reminder each Web Plus user should have their own account. If you need a Web Plus account or if someone with a Web Plus account is no longer at your facility, please contact your facility consultant or myself at christyd@health.ok.gov.

Christy Dabbs, CTR
Data Manager
Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry

THE OCCR IS HIRING FULL-TIME & PART-TIME POSITIONS!

Have you ever wanted to be a part of the Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry team? Now is your chance!

We are in the process of posting the two following full-time **remote** positions. These positions include a [comprehensive benefits package](#) that provides a generous benefit allowance to offset the cost of insurance premiums for employees and their eligible dependents.

Education & Training Specialist

- [Click here to view job posting and apply.](#)

Cancer Registry Consultant

- [Click here to view job posting and apply.](#)

Additionally, our team will have three part-time positions opening soon! These positions will also be fully **remote**.

- 20 hours a week at \$29/hour
- High school diploma and two (2) years of experience in cancer abstraction within healthcare/registry setting; OR an associate's degree from a Health Information Management (HIM) program, certification as a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) or Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). Preferred qualification: Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR)
- Ensuring cancer case completeness by conducting follow-back for "death certificate only" reported cancer cases.
- They will assist on creating and providing tailored training/education for cancer data reporting, stage assignment based on the Data Quality Evaluation (DQE) Summary Report developed by CDC, National Program of Cancer Registries.
- Assist QA data processes such as: cancer case consolidation, review duplicate cancer cases, case finding, abstracting cancer information from hospital records, and cleaning data through edits

The part-time positions will be posted soon through Galt. If you are interested in one of these positions you can send an email to Meagan Carter, State Cancer Registry Program Manager, at Meagan.Carter@health.ok.gov and she will let you know when these positions post.



THE BUZZ AMONG RESEARCHERS



Article submitted by Judy Hanna, HT (ASCP), CTR

Registrars are often expected to provide a high level of accuracy and completeness with limited time and staffing. Often this expectation leaves little time for educational opportunities. To help with this, the OCCR provides a quarterly sampling of the most current published research articles that we feel may be of interest to community registrars.

Cancer: Blood sample 24 hours after start of chemotherapy predicts survival

Date: January 10, 2023

Source: The University of Bergen

Researchers from the University of Bergen, Norway, have found a new method that within hours can predict if certain cancer patients will survive or not after chemotherapy.

Acute myeloid leukemia is an aggressive blood cancer with poor survival. Although high rates of initial chemotherapy response, patients often relapse due to the selection and development of chemotherapy-resistant leukemic cells.

"When treating patients with leukemia, it is challenging to quickly follow if the patient is responding to therapy or not says Benedicte Sjo Tislevoll," researcher at the University of Bergen and leader of the new study.

The response to therapy is currently measured after weeks to months of treatment, thereby losing important time. However, an immediate response to chemotherapy can be measured by investigating the functional properties of the leukemic cells.

"Our results show that the protein ERK1/2 increases within the first 24 hours of chemotherapy in patients who have a poor response to therapy. We believe that this protein is responsible for the cancer cells' resistance to chemotherapy and can be used to distinguish responders from non-responders," the researcher says.

"We think that this is an important key in our understanding of cancer, and our aim is to use this information to change treatment early for patients who are not responding to therapy," Tislevoll concludes.

Journal Reference:

Benedicte Sjo Tislevoll, Monica Hellesøy, Oda Helen Eck Fagerholt, Stein-Erik Gullaksen, Aashish Srivastava, Even Birkeland, Dimitrios Klefogiannis, Pilar Ayuda-Durán, Laure Piechaczyk, Dagim Shiferaw Tadele, Jørn Skavland, Baliakas Panagiotis, Randi Hovland, Vibeke Andresen, Ole Morten Seternes, Tor Henrik Anderson Tvedt, Nima Aghaeepour, Sonia Gavasso, Kimmo Porkka, Inge Jonassen, Yngvar Fløisand, Jorrit Enserink, Nello Blaser, Bjørn Tore Gjertsen. **Early response evaluation by single cell signaling profiling in acute myeloid leukemia.** *Nature Communications*, 2023; 14 (1) DOI: [10.1038/s41467-022-35624-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-35624-4)

The University of Bergen. "Cancer: Blood sample 24 hours after start of chemotherapy predicts survival." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 10 January 2023. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/01/230110103405.htm>.

****DISCLAIMER**** The Oklahoma State Department of Health did not participate in or provide support for the research published within this article. The article is being provided for informational purposes only. The original content of the article has not been altered by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRARS WEEK

Leslie Dill

National Cancer Registrars Week (NCRW) is an annual celebration to promote the work of cancer registry professionals.

In recognition of NCRW, Governor Kevin Stitt will be issuing a proclamation to honor Oklahoma cancer registrars.

With the annual celebration upon us, April 3-7, 2023, the OCCR would like to wish all Oklahoma cancer registrars a great week and say thank you for everything you do!



NCRA CREDENTIALS TO BE UPDATED

Leslie Dill

If you haven't already heard the news, the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) will be announcing a new professional credential for the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) in mid-2023.

As part of a strategic planning process in 2018, the NCRA membership was surveyed. Ranking high on the list of important undertakings for NCRA to pursue was that of updating the name of the CTR credential.

That was the beginning of a 5-year plan of action, abundant with emails, research, online surveys, interviews and focus groups to help the NCRA to *"Devise a plan to update the Certified Tumor Registrar credential name to align with current professional practice terminology and evolving scope of practice."*

[Read More](#)

¹"CTR Name Change." *NCRA's Professional Credential to Be Renamed in 2023*, National Cancer Registrars Association, 2023, www.ncra-usa.org/CTR/CTRNameChange.

2023 NCRA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



For registration and conference agenda, go to [2023 NCRA Annual Conference \(ncra-usa.org\)](https://www.ncra-usa.org)

2023 NAACCR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dates: June 20-22, 2023

Hotel: [The Roosevelt New Orleans](#)

Cost: \$199 standard rate

Registration will be open in February 2023

For any questions contact the NAACCR office. (217) 698-0800



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