



Texas Cancer Reporting News

Volume XII, No. 2 Winter 2010-11 Publication No. E10-10542



Texas Cancer Registry



The mission of the Texas Cancer Registry is to collect, maintain, and disseminate high quality cancer data that contribute towards cancer prevention and control, research, improving diagnoses, treatment, survival, and quality of life for all cancer patients.

Recognition of TCR Funding Sources:

Maintaining a statewide cancer registry that meets Centers for Disease Control and Prevention high quality data standards and North American Association of Central Cancer Registries gold certification is accomplished through collaborative funding efforts.

The Texas Cancer Registry recognizes the following whose financial support is essential to accomplishing the Texas Cancer Registry mission for our State, and as the 4th largest cancer registry in the Nation.

Federal Grant Funding

We acknowledge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its financial support under Cooperative Agreement #5U58/DP000824-04.

State Agency Funding

- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Academic Institutions

Appreciation is also extended to the following academic institutions for their past funding of the Texas Cancer Registry:

Through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Baylor College of Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Additional financial support was provided by:

- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth
- Texas Tech University
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas State University - San Marcos
- University of Texas at Brownsville
- Texas Woman's University
- Texas Southern University
- University of Texas - Pan American
- University of Texas at El Paso
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- University of Houston - Clear Lake
- University of Texas at Dallas

Editorial Committee:

Dianna Watkins, CTR
Quality Assurance, Austin

John Hopkins
Core Business Operations, Austin

Susana Perez, RHIT, CTR
Quality Assurance, Austin

Leticia Vargas, CTR
Quality Assurance, Austin

Cindy Dorsey, CTR
Program Specialist, Austin

Marie Longoria, CTR
Program Specialist, Houston

Henry Pinter
Graphic Design, Austin

Alison Little
Program Specialist, Austin

How to Contact Us:

Texas Cancer Registry
Cancer Epidemiology and
Surveillance Branch
MC 1928
Texas Department of
State Health Services
PO Box 149347
Austin, TX 78714-9347

Regional Offices:

Arlington: 817-264-4590

Austin: 512-458-7523 -or-
800-252-8059

Houston: 713-767-3180

San Antonio: 210-949-2165

Tyler: 903-877-7935



In this issue:

One-Stop Shop Websites for 2010 2

2010 Cancer Reporting Handbook 3

Ask a SEER Registrar 4

CAnswer Forum Replaces Inquiry and Response System 5

Coding Corner 6

Newly Accredited 2009 CoC Texas Facilities 7

Technology Corner 8

TCR to Host NAACCR and NCRA Webinars 9

Uploading Data Submissions to TCR 10

Texas Cancer Registry Accomplishments 12

Employee Update 13

Tenure of TCR Employees 15

New Certified Tumor Registrars in Texas 15

Using TCR Online 16

Case Completeness by Dx Year 16



Questions regarding information found in this newsletter, or suggestions for future editions can be directed to Alison Little, M.P.P., in Austin at (512) 458-7523, (800) 252-8059 (in Texas), or email at Alison.Little@dshs.state.tx.us.

This publication was supported by CDC Cooperative Agreement # 5U58/DP000824-04. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

The Texas Cancer Reporting News is published three times each year by the Texas Cancer Registry, Texas Department of State Health Services. For the most recent issue, please visit: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/news_tcrn.shtm

Visit us online: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr

Publication No. E10-10542



One-Stop Shop Websites for 2010



- NAACCR has a website with a comprehensive listing of links to all the 2010 changes located at <http://www.naacr.org/StandardsandRegistryOperations/Everything2010.aspx>.
- The American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC) has released an erratum for the AJCC 7th Edition. Be sure to download this document from <http://www.cancerstaging.org/>. Listed on this page are also AJCC hosted webinars.
- The Commission on Cancer has released the *FORDS Revised 2010 Manual* which can be accessed for download at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/fordsmanual.html>. A list of modifications to the initial *FORDS 2010 Manual* released in January 2010 is located in Appendix C of the revised 2010 version so that those who already have the initially released manual can print the pages that were modified instead of the entire publication.
- SEER*RX Interactive Antineoplastic Drugs Database Version 1.5.0 was released September 27, 2010. This database can be downloaded here: <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/seerrx/index.html>.
- The Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual Version 1.6.1 is now available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/index.html> and should be used for lymphoid and hematopoietic cases diagnosed January 1, 2010 and forward. This electronic tool contains data collection instructions, abstracting and coding information, and rules for determining multiple primaries, as well as standard treatment information for these diseases.
- There have been changes to the 2010 case finding list which are located at <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/casefinding/index.html>. This website also contains links for training opportunities and software for conversions. Please be sure to bookmark this page and check it often for additional changes and erratum to resources for cases diagnosed beginning January 1, 2010.
- The 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system for the collection of industry and occupation data contains links to major groups, the complete hierarchical structure, broad occupational definitions, and detailed occupational definitions. Just type in the kind of work the person does and it gives you the larger professional category. There is also an alphabetical list of SOC Occupations. Use the following link to access the system - <http://www.bls.gov/soc/#materials>.

Susana Perez, CTR
Quality Assurance/Training Manager
Austin



2010 Cancer Reporting Handbook



The 2010 Handbook on compact disc was mailed on September 24, 2010. The handbook is also now available on the Texas Cancer Registry Website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/2010crhb.shtm>. As discrepancies are identified, corrected pages/sections are placed on our webpage. Be sure to visit our website regularly.

Cindy Dorsey, CTR
Program Specialist
Austin



Ask a SEER Registrar

There is a new, refreshing procedure for the cancer registrar community to submit questions to SEER about coding cancer cases or registrar materials distributed through the SEER website. “Ask a SEER Registrar” can be accessed through the SEER website at <http://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html>. Here you will find an electronic form available for you to complete and state your inquiry. The question will be sent electronically to the appropriate SEER expert who will respond to you through the email you provide on the electronic form. Questions submitted through this forum may or may not be added to the SEER Inquiry System for public view.

Inquiries regarding Collaborative Stage should be submitted through the Commission on Cancer’s CAnswer Forum and not through this site. The SEER Inquiry System will still be available for your research. Please access the Inquiry System to be sure that your question has not already been addressed before you submit it through “Ask a SEER Registrar”.

As always, your TCR regional office is available to assist you with any question or concern you may have. You may contact your appropriate regional office staff through the TCR website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/contact-tcr.shtm>. If we cannot satisfactorily answer your inquiry we can submit your question for you through “Ask a SEER Registrar” and report the answer back to you by phone or email.

Dianna Watkins, CTR

Quality Assurance

Austin



Remember:

Questions regarding the *Hematopoietic Database* or the *Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual* that cannot be resolved through research can be referred to NCISEERQI@mail.nih.gov. Current news and updates regarding our new *Collaborative Stage Data Collection System Coding Instructions* can be found on www.cancerstaging.org/cstage.

CAnswer Forum Replaces Inquiry and Response System

On October 4, 2010, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) replaced our outdated Inquiry and Response System (I & R System) with a new, more modern and user friendly interactive virtual bulletin board called CAnswer Forum. Like the current I & R System, the CAnswer Forum can be used to clarify issues and answer questions regarding FORDS, Cancer Program Standards, the AJCC 7th Edition Cancer Staging Manual, the Collaborative Staging System, 2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Rules, NCDB and NAPBC.

The activation of CAnswer Forum will allow users to submit and answer questions in an open forum with the benefit of more real time responses. The user can post a question to an appropriate forum as well as answer questions posted. There are exceptions to this community based forum. Questions regarding Collaborative Stage will be answered by the Collaborative Stage Technical Advisory Panel and a panel from SEER will be responsible for answering questions regarding Multiple Primary/Histology, ICD-O and hematopoietic issues.

The old I & R System is now closed to new inquiries. Existing data within the system has been turned into a view only format for searching and referencing past questions.

Participants are required to complete a one-time registration and create a user ID and password. Register by going to <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/content/php>. Once you register and navigate to the home page in the system you will notice a host of supportive and instructional information to access. Clicking on the “Help” button at the top of the page will take you to FAQ documents with instruction on how to use the new system.

Questions regarding CAnswer Forum can be emailed to CAnswerforum@facs.org.

Dianna Watkins, CTR

Quality Assurance

Austin



Remember:

2010 changes include a new code for laterality of a paired site. The new code, 5, should be used to indicate a midline tumor within a paired site such as skin of back (C44.5). Use code 9 only when the laterality is truly unknown for cases diagnosed in 2010 and forward. Reference: *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook*, pgs. 94-95 and *2010 Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS)*, pg. 108.

Coding Corner

Class of Case

Question:

A patient was diagnosed and had surgery at an outside facility in 2010. Chemotherapy was begun at an outside oncology office. The patient then transferred care to our facility for the remainder of the treatments. What should the Class of Case be for our facility?

Answer:

The correct Class of Case for your facility is 20; diagnosed elsewhere and all or part of first course treatment at your facility.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction ID No 46738

Question:

If a patient was diagnosed at our facility but received all treatment at a staff physician's office, what would the Class of Case be for 2010?

Answer:

The Class of Case for this example is 00; initial diagnosis at the reporting facility and all treatment or a decision not to treat was done elsewhere.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction ID No 46768

Laterality

Question:

Which sites can be coded using the new laterality code 5?

Answer:

The laterality code 5 - midline - applies to the paired sites connected at the mid point such as skin of face or skin of trunk, where the lesion can locate at the midline point. It is not applicable to the paired organs that are anatomically separate, such as kidneys.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction ID No 47136

Collaborative Stage Site Specific Factors

Question:

A patient has a primary lung cancer in the left upper lobe. There are also 2 nodules in the right upper lobe and right lower lobe. Should the 2 nodules in the right lung be coded in Site Specific Factor 1?

Answer:

CS Site Specific Factor 1 is to be used for separate tumor nodules in the ipsilateral lung. Since the primary site is in the left lung, and the other nodules are in the right (contralateral) lung, these should be coded in CS Mets at Diagnosis.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction ID No 47689

Question:

A patient with a breast primary has 2 lesions with the same histology. One lesion is progesterone receptor positive and the other is negative. How should CS Site Specific Factor 2 be coded?

continued on page 7...

Coding Corner *continued...*

Answer:

CS Site Specific Factor 2 would be coded as positive because this is what treatment decisions would be based on.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction Id No 24602

Question:

For a breast primary, if HER2 is ordered but there is not enough tissue to complete the test, how should Site Specific Factor 8 be coded?

Answer:

Since the test was not completed, code 998, test not done. Be sure to document this information in text.

Resource:

<http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm> Transaction Id No 48127

Cindy Dorsey, CTR

Program Specialist
Austin

Congratulations to the Texas Facilities Newly Accredited in 2009 by the CoC

The TCR is proud to announce two newly CoC accredited Texas facilities for 2009:

- William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, TX
- Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX

We salute your commitment and hard work reflected in the exceptional health care you provide to the people of Texas.

Susana Perez, CTR

Quality Assurance/Training Manager
Austin

Remember:

An adenoma in the pituitary (C75.1) should be coded to "pituitary adenoma" (M8272/0), not to adenoma, nos (8370/0). A site-specific code should also be used for a carcinoma within the pituitary. Code to pituitary carcinoma (8272/3) not carcinoma, nos (8010/3). Reference: *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology*, Third Edition, pg. 190, Pituitary adenoma, nos & Pituitary carcinoma, nos.

Technology Corner

NAACCR version 12 (2010 Changes):

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) has implemented the new NAACCR v12 edits for Texas (TCRCRV12C.RMF). For facilities that use commercial software to submit their data to the TCR, the edits are available via our TCR website (<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/vendors.shtm>). For facilities that use SandCrab Lite (SCLv10), the edits and updated SCL software should automatically download and install when you access the application.

New System Registry Software Planned for the Texas Cancer Registry:

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) has received approval to replace the current SandCrab system. The new system, Registry Plus is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). Registry Plus is a suite of publicly available free software programs for collecting and processing cancer registry data. The software programs are compliant with national standards.

The Registry Plus software is currently scheduled to be implemented by August 2011, primarily due to hardware procurement, data migration, business process re-engineering, testing, training, and implementation. The implementation of the new software will impact both TCR staff and cancer reporters (facilities).

The Registry Plus suite of software includes a product called Web Plus designed for cancer reporter submissions. This software will replace SandCrab Lite (SCL) and SandCrab Lite for Pathlabs (SCL-P). The TCR is planning to test and implement Web Plus within the next five (5) months (by April 2011). For additional details about Web Plus, please view the CDC hyperlink: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/tools/registryplus/wp.htm>.

Pathlab Data Submissions to the Texas Cancer Registry:

The TCR can now process Pathlab Health Level 7 (HL7) data submissions. The TCR can receive HL7 data through multiple sources including WS_FTP and the Public Health Information Network Messaging System (PHINMS) provided by CDC (preferred method). Upon receipt of HL7 data, this data is processed through Electronic Mapping Reporting and Coding (eMaRC) Plus pathlab software. For additional information about eMaRC Plus, please view the following hyperlink: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/tools/registryplus/mp.htm>.

Jonathan Unnasch

Business Manager

Austin



TCR to Host NAACCR and NCRA Webinars

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) will continue to host North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) training opportunities.

We will broadcast the 2011 NAACCR webinar series which can be viewed in Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, McAllen, San Antonio and Tyler. Each webinar is three hours in length. Please check our website for specific location information at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/webinars.shtm>. Certificates will be emailed to you unless you prefer a hard copy, in which case, email your request to Judy.Gonzales@dshs.state.tx.us.

New Schedule for 2011:

02/03/11	Collecting Cancer Data: Testis
03/03/11	Collecting Cancer Data: Bladder
04/07/11	Collecting Cancer Data: Breast
05/05/11	Collecting Cancer Data: Prostate
06/02/11	Best Practices for Developing and Working with Survival Data

07/07/11	Complete Case Identification and Ascertainment
08/04/11	NAACCR Interoperability Activities and the Electronic Health Record
09/01/11	Coding Pitfalls

The NCRA will present an Advanced Webinar Series. This was developed by NCRA's Advanced Education Committee and will be taught by experts in the industry. Each webinar will include approximately 100 minutes of lecture and review of exercises and a Q&A session. The 2010-2011 schedule has not been posted. You can visit the NCRA website at <http://www.ncra-usa.org> or TCR website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/webinars.shtm> for the webinar schedule when it becomes available. Be sure to visit our website for additional training opportunities.

Judy Gonzales, CTR
Training Specialist
Austin



Remember:

For cases diagnosed beginning in 2010, the following new Date Flag fields must be coded if the corresponding date field is blank: RX Date Radiation Flag, RX Date Chemo Flag, RX Date Hormone Flag, Rx Date Immunotherapy Flag. The Date Flag field should be blank if the corresponding treatment date is complete or partially complete. Reference: *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook*, pgs. 117, 124, 128 and 132. **Note: The new RX Date Surgery Flag field and RX Date Other Flag field will be automatically populated by the TCR.**

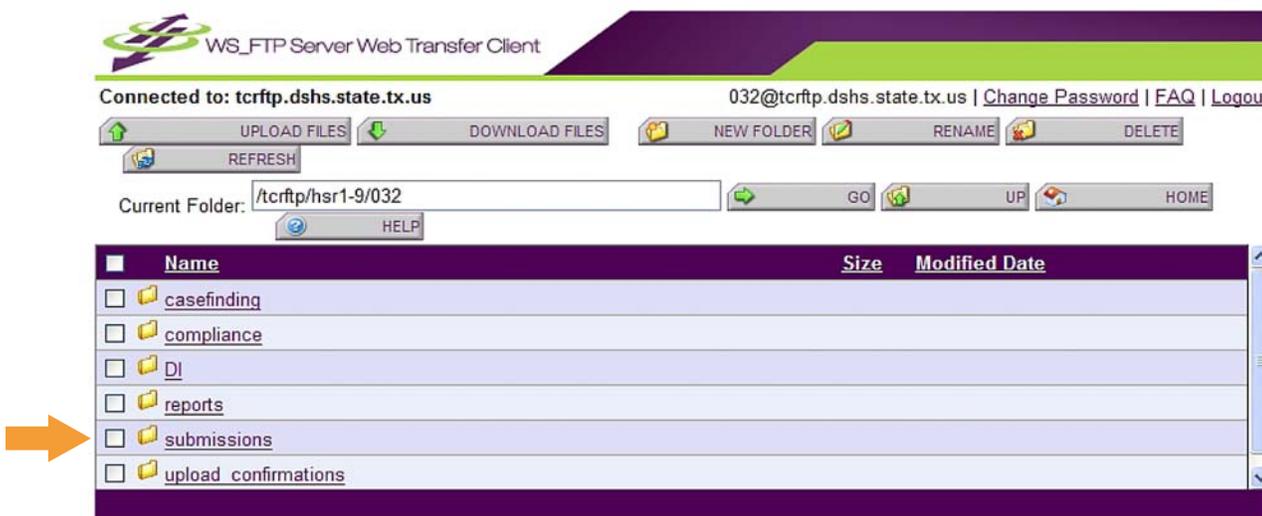
Uploading Data Submissions to TCR

It has been noted that uploads are not being placed in the correct WS-FTP folder. To expedite your uploads, data submissions must be placed in the “Submissions” folder. The instructions below will ensure your upload is placed in the correct folder. Please follow the instructions below and if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Pam Jatzlau at (800) 252-8059 ext. 3617 or Jonathan Unnasch at (800) 252-8059 ext. 3626.

1. Log in using your user name and password



2. To upload files, Click the folder “submissions” to open the file.



continued on page 11...

Uploading Data Submissions to TCR *continued...*

3. Click the <Browse> button to select the drive/path location of the file you would like to load into your WS-FTP sub-folder; then Click on the “Upload button.”

UPLOAD FILES

Click "Browse" to select a File. You can attach File(s) up to a total size of 1000 MB.
The Files will be uploaded to "/tcrcftp/hsr1-9/032/submissions" Folder.

Overwrite selected Files on the server

File 1:

File 2:

File 3:

File 4:

File 5:

Elena Torres, CTR
Quality Assurance
Austin



Remember:

2010 changes include new Class of Case codes as well as changing this field from one digit to two digits. Analytic Class of Case codes are 00-22. Non-Analytic Class of Case codes are 30-49 and 99. A quick reference table and code descriptions can be found in our new *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook*. Reference: *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook*, pgs. 48-51.

Texas Cancer Registry Accomplishments

Spotlight on...

Susana Perez

Susana Perez of the Texas Cancer Registry was awarded the NAACCR Member Recognition Award. Established in 2004, NAACCR acknowledges the contributions made by NAACCR members. These awards are part of a plan in which specific activities are assigned a range of point values. The Merit Award is awarded after an individual has earned 100 member points. Susana has been on the Education Committee since 2000.

TCR receives first place for NAACCR poster

Eric Miller, Stephanie Easterday and Melanie Williams of the Texas Cancer Registry, received first place for their poster “Linkage with State Medicaid Data for Case-Finding Purposes. Is It Worth the Effort?” in the Data Quality/Registry Operations and Management group at the 2010 Annual Conference of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), which was held in Quebec, Canada.

NAACCR 2010 Certification

In the last issue of this newsletter (Summer 2010) we reported that the TCR had once again achieved the CDC “High Quality Data Standards”. We are now happy to report the TCR has achieved Gold Certification by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) again this year. Cancer incidence data for diagnosis year 2007 was evaluated for timeliness, completeness and quality. Again, thanks for helping us remain “gold.”

ARRA CER Funding Award

On September 1, 2010, the TCR was selected for participation in the Enhancing Cancer Registry Data for Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Project. The project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the period September 1, 2010, to September 30, 2013. The total contract award is \$1,524,471. The fifteen cancer registries selected, including the TCR, are now designated by the CDC-National Program of Cancer Registries as Specialized Central Cancer Registries to enhance data collection for comparative effectiveness research. Activities include additional data collection, training, methodological development and pilot testing activities with the goal of developing sustainable methods to enhance cancer registry data for clinical follow-up. Outcomes will include a data set to be used for comparative effectiveness and other research which will be updated over time through linkages with the National Death Index.

Leticia Vargas, CTR

Quality Assurance

Austin



Employee Update

New Employees

Cheryl Bowcock, M.P.H., joined the TCR as an Epidemiologist on June 1, 2010. Cheryl was with the Registry previously for six years, working first as a Statistician, later as a Research Specialist and finally as the Registry Operations Manager. She completed her Master's of Public Health degree while employed at the Registry in 2003, with a focus on cancer epidemiology and demographics. In addition to providing epidemiological support to the Registry, Cheryl is one of four TCR employees who will serve as on-site resources to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) at their Austin headquarters.

Alison Little, M.P.P., has been hired as our new Program Specialist III for the Texas Cancer Registry, Core Business Operations Group, she began October 1, 2010. Alison holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley. She was previously a Research Specialist with the DSHS Centers for Program Coordination, Policy and Innovation (CPCPI) where she had been helping DSHS assess the impacts on state programs and services of federal healthcare reform legislation, including research and compiling grant information. She has additional experience in healthcare policy, legislation and grant administration with the Center for Social Work Research – The University of Texas at Austin, and with Texans Care for Children, among others.

Kris Puramsetti joined the Registry on October 11, 2010 as a new Research Specialist with the Epidemiology Group. Kris previously worked in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in DSHS doing many similar activities with their surveillance registry. He is already very familiar with large data files and annual data submissions. Kris has been with DSHS for 5 years and received his degree in mathematics from The University of Texas in 2006.

Yolanda Conde began working with the Texas Cancer Registry on January 3, 2011, as a Program Specialist I on the Quality Assurance Team. Yolanda comes to TCR from the DSHS Birth Defects Program in the Harlingen Region Office. She has been with the Birth Defects Program for over 4 years and prior to that worked with APC Home Health Services. Yolanda holds an Associates Degree in Applied Science, Health Information Technology.

Maria Annette Brown has been hired for the Public Health Technician III position supporting the CPRIT office. Annette has a bachelor's degree in social psychology and is currently working on her masters degree in Health Care Administration. She has over 900 hours in Medicaid coding/billing experience and has NCICS Certification (National Certified Insurance and Coding Specialist). She has 9 years ICD-9/CPT coding experience and teaches billing and medical coding part time at Virginia College. Annette most recently worked in the Risk Assessment area for the Waiver, Survey and Certification Unit at the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). Annette's first day was January 6, 2011.

Tina Cullors, CTR was hired for the Public Health Technician III position in the central office on January 10, 2011. Tina has an MBA specializing in Healthcare Management, a bachelor's degree in computer science, and is currently working on her Ph.D. in epidemiology. She is a Certified Tumor Registrar with 8 years of experience working at an American College of Surgeons accredited facility. Tina will be working temporarily out of the Houston office and will move to Austin in June 2011.

continued on page 14...

Employee Update *continued...*

Promotions

Kimberly Willis has accepted the Program Specialist IV (Team Lead), position working in state-wide data acquisition. Kimberly will be instrumental in developing the pathology laboratory reporting process for non-hospital reporting sources, thus expanding the registry's scope for reportable case ascertainment. Kimberly will also oversee the transition to eMaRC, CDC's electronic pathology reporting application, part of the TCR's new web based reporting system. Kimberly will be housed at the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Austin headquarters. She has previously worked in the Arlington office and central office in Austin as a Consolidation Specialist and Public Health Technician III at the CPRIT Austin location.

Cindy Dorsey is our new Program Specialist II Lead Worker in consolidation. Cindy has been with the TCR for over 4 years and has a total of over 12 years experience in cancer registration. Prior to joining the TCR full time she worked for the Seton Oncology Network system and contracted through Goodwill processing records and coding pathology reports for the TCR. Cindy assumed her new duties September 1st.

Farewells

Jael Anaya has accepted a position with the Georgia Central Cancer Registry. She originally came to us from Georgia in 2003 and now has the opportunity to tele-commute for them full time. Jael has been instrumental in paving the way through four national reporting guidelines changes and implementing consolidation processes; leading our consolidation process during NAACCR and CDC audits; and evaluating and problem solving auto consolidation. Her commitment and technical expertise has been a great asset in all areas of the registry and she will be missed.

Dustin Smith has accepted a position in the financial industry with Morgan Stanley's Global Wealth Management Group. Dustin completed his MBA in Finance last year and has been interested in pursuing a career change that utilizes his degree, skills and interests. During his four years with the TCR, Dustin has accomplished much, including implementing a new strategic direction for the Advisory Committee to the Texas Cancer Registry (ACTCR – formerly Cancer Data Work Group); developing a protocol for new non-hospital reporting sources; bringing efficiencies to our CDC grant reporting and re-application processes; developing our business recovery planning process; and assisting all of us with numerous projects and plans. His commitment, expertise and ability to meet the demands of our ever-changing work will be missed.

Cindy DeAnda from our Lubbock Health Service Region 1 office is no longer with the TCR. The TCR relocated the Lubbock regional office to Austin effective September 13, 2010. This move was made as an effort to provide more comprehensive cancer reporting support to the West Texas Region, as well as simplifying TCR business operations. We had hoped that Cindy would relocate to Austin but we understand her reasons for not doing so and we wish her well in her future work.

Marie Longoria, CTR
Program Specialist
Houston



Tenure of TCR Employees

In August, Texas Cancer Registry employees gathered in Austin to attend our annual statewide staff meeting. Seeing us all together, Melanie Williams, TCR Manager, wondered how many total years of central registry experience were represented in the room. Melanie asked everyone to stand up and announce how long they had worked for the TCR.

The total number of service years for 41 employees is 362 years and 9 months. The average number of service years is 8.8.

Our newest employee, **Kris Puramsetti**, has 2 months experience working for the registry under his belt. Our veteran and sage is **Velma Garza** with 31 years of service with Texas Cancer Registry. New employees bring a fresh perspective and vitality to help us to think out of the box. Seasoned employees have the skill set, the historical perspective, and leadership to bring balance to the team. The range of experience among registry employees is reminiscent of a take on a classic Girl Scout song: "Hire new staff but keep the old; one is silver and the other is gold."

Judy Spong, MS, CTR
Regional Operations Specialist
Houston

New Certified Tumor Registrars in Texas

Congratulations to the New Certified Tumor Registrars in Texas!

The following successfully sat for their CTR exam in September 2010:

Kimberly Willis - Texas Cancer Registry, Austin
Nicole Housinger - Baylor Univ. Medical Ctr., Dallas
Lakersha Jones - Parkland Health and Hospital System, Dallas
Noreen Brown - North Austin Medical Center, Austin
Wendy Enciso
Felicia L. Warren - Memorial Hermann Southwest, Houston

Leticia Vargas, CTR
Quality Assurance
Austin



Remember:

Text documentation is an important element of a complete abstract. Text documentation to support cancer diagnosis, stage and treatment codes must be provided to the TCR by all reporting facilities. Completed text information is a critical part of ensuring quality data. Please reference the *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook* on how to accurately record supporting text information within your submitted cases. Reference: *2010 Texas Cancer Registry Handbook*, pgs 144-163.

Using TCR Online www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr

Get ready for a new look on all things related to the web. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Web Office is hoping to stay on schedule with migration to a new web content management system (WCMS) and in this change the entire DSHS site will be transformed with a new look, including our TCR website.

In advance of the migration, we have also made some fundamental changes to sections of the TCR website and would like to keep you informed about those updates. Here are the latest modifications:

- The 2010 Texas Selected Cancer Facts, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer in Texas Reports are now available.
- We have a new Training section where all subjects related to Training now reside.
- The new Reporting Updates section can be reached from atop the “Recent Additions” list on the home page.
- Another major change is the WS-FTP: File Sharing Server Instructions and FAQs page which has been moved as a menu item underneath the “Software/Data Submissions” tab.
- The 2010 Cancer Reporting Handbook is now online.

We encourage you to continue using the TCR website as your complete information resource for Texas cancer reporting, statistical data, reporting law and rules, epidemiologic and reporting publications, webinars and training, and general information about the registry. Be sure to check the “Recent Additions” section of our home page to see what’s new. When you visit us online, remember to add us to your bookmarks so you can always return to the information and resources we provide to help with your reporting or other cancer data-related activities.

Henry Pinter

*Web Development and Graphic Design
Austin*



Case Completeness by Dx Year

As of: December 22, 2010

HSR 1: 2006 96%	HSR 7: 2006 100%
2007 96%	2007 100%
2008 94%	2008 96%
2009 83%	2009 86%

HSR 2: 2006 91%	HSR 8: 2006 100%
2007 89%	2007 100%
2008 91%	2008 99%
2009 88%	2009 89%

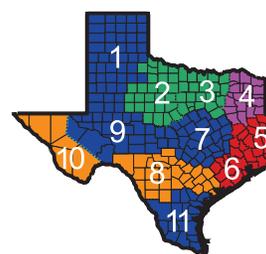
HSR 3: 2006 99%	HSR 9: 2006 94%
2007 99%	2007 95%
2008 95%	2008 92%
2009 89%	2009 86%

HSR 4: 2006 93%	HSR 10: 2006 100%
2007 96%	2007 100%
2008 90%	2008 100%
2009 81%	2009 89%

HSR 5: 2006 100%	HSR 11: 2006 96%
2007 100%	2007 98%
2008 96%	2008 100%
2009 92%	2009 88%

HSR 6: 2006 100%	State: 2006 100%
2007 100%	2007 100%
2008 100%	2008 97%
2009 94%	2009 89%

Texas Health Service Regions



Texas Cancer Registry Regional Offices	
● HSR 1, 7, 9, 11 - Austin	
● HSR 2, 3 - Arlington	
● HSR 4 - Tyler	
● HSR 5, 6 - Houston	
● HSR 8, 10 - San Antonio	