



CoC Flash

A Monthly News Update from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons



April 2003

Highlights of the Month:

- Don't Miss CoC Presentations at the NCRA Annual Conference
- Clarifications to the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, 6th Edition
- AJCC 6th Edition Cancer Staging Information Available in PDA Formats
- AJCC Pocket Staging Cards Available from American Cancer Society
- New State Chair Appointed
- Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: National Cancer Registrars Association
- UICC Knowledge Transfer and ICRET Fellowshipships
- Benefit of Being an Approved Program

Don't Miss CoC Presentations at the NCRA Annual Conference

Cancer registrars and health care professionals attending the National Cancer Registrars Association Annual Conference, May 13-16, in Pittsburgh, PA, are encouraged to attend key CoC and AJCC presentations. Several of these presentations will be taken "on the road" following the meeting, and will become part of the CoC's standard educational offerings for the remainder of this year and into 2004. For more information on requesting a speaker to present on CoC and AJCC topics, visit the CoC Web site at <http://www.facs.org/dept/cancer/coc/presrequests.html>.

Thursday, May 15th

Anatomy of an NCDB Data Submission - Jerri Linn Phillips, CTR, MA, Data Quality and Management Specialist, CoC National Cancer Data Base

Facility Information Profile Systems (FIPS) - Lina Patel-Parekh, Database Specialist, CoC National Cancer Database

FORDS Follow-up - Andrew Stewart, MA, Senior Manager, CoC National Cancer Data Base

The Inquiry and Response System - Nancy Etzold, CTR, Cancer Programs Specialist, CoC Approvals Program

Overview of NCDB Benchmark Reports - Andrew Stewart, MA, Senior Manager, CoC National Cancer Data Base

Friday, May 16th

HIPAA Panel Sharing Experiences in the Registry - Greer Gay, PhD, Manager, Research Unit, CoC National Cancer Database

Preparing for Collaborative Stage Implementation - Stephen B. Edge, MD, Chair, AJCC Collaborative Staging Task Force

New CoC Cancer Program Standards - Asa Carter, CTR, Manager, CoC Approvals Program

Pre- and post-conference workshop opportunities are also available.

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Collaborating Staging Workshop - Learn all about the new Collaborative Staging System scheduled for implementation in 2004.

Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17, 2003

Survey Savvy Workshop - Learn all about the CoC's new cancer program standards scheduled for implementation in 2004.

Contact NCRA for registration information by visiting their Web site at <http://www.ncra-usa.org>.

The CoC and AJCC will also have exhibit booths at the meeting and invite attendees to come by and visit to see what we have to offer. Cancer Programs staff look forward to seeing you there.

Clarifications to the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 6th Edition

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 6th Edition, published in 2002, is effective for cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2003. Clarifications to the 6th Edition are now available on the AJCC Web site at <http://www.cancerstaging.org>. Please download the document and note the changes. Questions and comments can be directed to Valerie Vesich by e-mail at vvesich@facs.org.

AJCC 6th Edition Cancer Staging Information Available in PDA Formats

A PDA version of the *AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook, 6th Edition* is now available from Skyscape. This product contains the full-text, all illustrations and tables, and includes a value-added TNM calculator. The PDA is both Palm OS and Win CE compatible. To order online and receive a 15% discount visit <http://www.skyscape.com/ajcc>. The information is also available as a CD-ROM, and can be purchased at major medical bookstores.

A second palm product, EZTNM will make its debut at the American Society Clinical Oncology meeting, May 31-June 2, 2003. Available from Springer-Verlag, EZTNM is a physician designed, professional-grade cancer staging program for Palm OS handhelds. EZTNM will enhance the work of clinicians and researchers who need quick and reliable TNM staging. EZTNM provides the definition for each TNM parameter, a staging calculator to provide the stage of disease, forty-six different cancer types organized by anatomic region, staging grouping tables for each site, a note pad to detail patient information, and all of the 6th Edition revisions to the AJCC TNM Classification. EZTNM will be packaged and sold three ways:

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual plus EZTNM (\$84.95)
AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook plus EZTNM (\$54.95)
Stand-Alone for the AJCC Manual (\$39.95)

For more information visit Springer-Verlag's Web site at <http://www.cancerstaging.net> in June.

AJCC Pocket Staging Cards Available from American Cancer Society

In conjunction with the AJCC, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has developed pocket staging cards for the major sites included in the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, 6th Edition. Individual cards are available for the breast, bladder, cervix, colorectal, corpus uterus, kidney, lung, ovary, pancreas, prostate, stomach and thyroid sites.

In addition to the individual cards, there is a five-card set that includes the breast, cervix, colorectal, prostate and lung sites. There is no fee for individual orders. A nominal fee will be charged for multiple copies. These staging cards are available through the American Cancer Society Divisions or by calling 1-800-ACS-2345.

New State Chair Appointed

The Commission is pleased to welcome Diana Dickson-Witmer, MD, FACS as the new state chair for Delaware. Dr. Dickson-Witmer is affiliated with the Christiana Care Health System/Helen F. Graham Cancer Center in Wilmington, DE.

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: National Cancer Registrars Association

The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) has been a member of the Commission

on Cancer (CoC) since its inception in 1976. The current representative is Mary Stith, CTR, from Morris Hospital in Morris, IL. Mary has been a member of the CoC since 2001. The NCRA represents cancer registry professionals and Certified Tumor Registrars. Cancer registrars capture a complete summary of patient history, diagnosis, treatment, and status for every cancer patient in the United States. Their efforts lead to creating better treatments, and hopefully, a cure for cancer.

The organization recently completed a strategic management plan for 2003 through 2005 as well as a restructuring plan. The goals in the strategic plan include education, administration, certification, communication, and advocacy, and will be carried out over the next several years. The NCRA's new vision statement focuses on serving those professionals who provide data that make a difference in the war on cancer. The new mission statement for the NCRA promotes education, credentialing, and advocacy for cancer registry professionals. And finally, a set of core values have been defined for networking, mentoring, and making a difference.

NCRA and CoC are true collaborating partners. Many CoC initiatives will be highlighted at the NCRA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, and several of the CoC's new cancer program standards, scheduled for implementation in 2004, support the work of the cancer registrar. We invite you to learn more about NCRA by visiting their recently redesigned Web site at: <http://www.ncra-usa.org>.

UICC Knowledge Transfer and ICRET Fellowshipships

A new UICC strategic direction called Knowledge Transfer covers the UICC fellowships as well as its TNM Classification and other scientific and professional education publications and activities.

The objective of Knowledge Transfer is to close the gap between "what is and what could be" between the treatment that patients receive and what they could receive, between the 50-60 percent survival rate of cancer patients in high-income countries and the 30-40 percent rate of those living in low income countries that dispose of just 5 per cent of the world's resources.

Transferring and exchanging knowledge and skills in research (applied, translational, and basic) and teaching and acquiring new clinical skills all contribute to that goal. The UICC ICRET fellowshipships offer potential candidates who want to learn new skills, or experts who want to teach them, an opportunity to contribute to bridging this gap. Apply for an ICRET fellowship, which will be one month in duration, with an average value of \$3,000. A decision will be made within 60 days.

For more information please visit the fellowships Web site at <http://fellows.uicc.org> and the ICRET site at <http://fellows.uicc.org/fell4icr.shtml>.

Benefit of Being an Approved Program

You'll have a model for organizing and managing your cancer program to ensure multidisciplinary, integrated, and comprehensive oncology services.

To Subscribe To CoC Flash

CoC Flash is e-mailed automatically each month to individuals for whom the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has an e-mail address. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter on a monthly basis, you need do nothing. You can discontinue your subscription by writing to coc@facs.org and requesting that your name be deleted from the database. Individuals not currently receiving the newsletter may subscribe to the publication by sending an e-mail containing your name, address, telephone and fax numbers to coc@facs.org, and asking to be added to our electronic distribution database.

To Submit Information

CoC Flash will accept submissions received by the third week of each month. However, the CoC reserves the right to decide whether or not the materials are appropriate for inclusion. Information for CoC Flash should be timely, newsworthy, brief, and of use and interest to the constituents of the Commission, which include cancer registrars, liaison physicians, cancer

committee chairs, and other cancer-oriented health care professionals. To submit material, send it to coc@facs.org.

Mission

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality of cancer through education, standard setting, and the monitoring of quality. CoC Flash is a monthly news service for constituents of the CoC provided by the Commission and the Cancer Department of the American College of Surgeons.

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