

# ICRA Abstract

## January 2004



### Presidents' Corner

It hardly seems possible that one year of my term has passed. The ICRA meeting held in Iowa City in conjunction with the SHRI staff meeting provided educational sessions as well as time to strengthen personal and professional relationships.

The organizational goals of ICRA include education for our members and support for our profession. In an effort to provide incentive for strengthening the profession the ICRA board members decided to provide a monetary incentive for any ICRA member that sits for and passes the Certified Tumor Registrar exam. Upon passing the exam, a reimbursement of one-half the fee for a member of the National Cancer Registrar Association to take the exam will be given to the new ICRA-CTR. To receive the reimbursement the member needs to let either the President or Treasurer know.

This year ICRA is proud to have a member that sat for and passed the CTR exam. The reimbursement has been made and congratulations were extended to Virginia Forest on behalf of the membership. The board also requested members at the meeting to take an active part in the state organization by supporting the goals of the organization. If anyone has a suggestion(s) for education for members

or support to our profession please let a board member know.

As we move into 2004 there will be new challenges facing all registrars. The Collaborative coding system and collection of benign brain cases with new guidelines will be implemented. Change is inevitable, embrace it and strive personally to further both our organization and our profession.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring meeting. Merry everything and happy always!

Cindi

### QC Corner

SEER Central's quality control activities for the 2004 year have been started. There will be two activities; an abstracting reliability study and a case finding audit at selected facilities within the state.

The abstracting reliability study will begin in May. The study has been restructured this year to meet the needs of more registrars. Registrars who do did not work within a SEER program requested the opportunity to take part in the study and earn continuing educational hours. Registrars who work within CoC programs or are self-employed will log into a different web site. The timeframe, study, and feedback will be the same. The results for registrars working within a specific SEER area

can be made available to that SEER program.

The study involves coding tumor related fields for five primary sites. The study is done online and the percentage correct is known immediately. Provisional answers are provided to everyone the day after the study ends by logging into the website for results. The answers are provisional in that there is a wrap up session where arguments based on guidelines can be raised to challenge provisional answers.

The second study is completed by a quality control auditor from another SEER program. The staff at the facilities selected will be involved in the preparation of the planned audit. As information is obtained the specific facilities will be contacted.

Judy Sebern, Cyndi Brugioni and I have been working hard on the development of a formal education training program for the registry. The goal is to cross-train the trainers, the supervisor of medical edit and the field staffs supervisor and me so that anyone could teach any module. The registry will have more flexibility in training and training will not stress any one individual's work responsibilities. The training program includes modules related to registry operations, 6 primary site groups and computer software products/ reports. During the program the different areas of organization for a home office is discussed. The program incorporates training of a site sandwiched with abstracting time for that site prior to moving on to another site. The program timeframe is approximately three months. The goal is to provide timely feedback and evaluation before inadequate training or bad habits become a stumbling block to the registrar. Steve Cook and Vicky Vermazen were trained this summer

using the modules. A new training session will start in January.

Chelsea Prestien, one of the students, has worked very hard on creating a searchable database for the Q&A's. When I began the Q&A's the goal had been to create a database of some type but my technical capabilities are limited in database design. Chelsea has designed a program that requires very little disk space, can be downloaded in less than one minute and can be updated easily. By the time this newsletter is printed each you may already be using it. Please let her know it is appreciated.

Due to the changes at the central registry, specifically within the medical edit department the evaluation of quality is of concern. I know there is apprehension about not doing 100% medical edit but under the circumstances it could not be avoided. There will be an evaluation of the data quality but it will be done differently and not at 100%.

Enough ---- If anyone has a suggestion for training please contact me. I continue to welcome questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone this spring --- hopefully the winter will not be too long or too hard!!!  
Cindi

## **ICRA Fall Business Meeting**

**Thursday, October 9, 2003**

**12:20 p.m.**

**East Room, University Hospital**

**Iowa City, Iowa**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cindi Dryer, President; Carol Anderson Soy, Vice President; Lori Odle, Past-President; Cindy Kalvig, Treasurer; Karla Stork, Secretary.

**MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2002 BUSINESS MEETING:** Minutes from the October 10, 2002 business meeting were distributed in the newsletter. Judy Sebern-Beachy made motion to accept the minutes as distributed, motion was seconded.

### **REPORTS**

**TREASURER:** Balance of \$6,598.86 prior to payments for fall meeting.

**SECRETARY:** No report.

**MEMBERSHIP:** 45 members were registered for fall meeting.

**BYLAWS, JUDY SEBERN-BEACHY:** No bylaw changes.

**NEWSLETTER, CAROLYN HEMESATH:** Deadline for submissions is November 15, 2003.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**WEB PAGE UPDATE, FREDA SELK:** ICRA website can be found at <http://www.iowacra.org>. ICRA will purchase "Front Page" software. This software will be used to design the ICRA website.

### **NCRA PITTSBURGH 2003:**

- NCRA Education Board looked at a central registry track and a college program and encouraged certification. CTR exam moving on line. President Cindi Dryer recommended that all NCRA members read mail from NCRA.
- Cindy Kalvig was the stipend fund winner and attended the NCRA meeting in Pittsburgh.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NEWSLETTER DISSEMINATION:**

Newsletter will no longer be mailed. Newsletter will be posted on ICRA website. An email will be sent to members informing them that the newsletter has been posted on the web. Need current email addresses. Form was passed around at the business meeting and members had opportunity to verify or change email address. It is member's responsibility to contact ICRA organization regarding updates and new email addresses. There was no discussion by membership.

**CTR RECOGNITION:** Board decided will reimburse fifty percent of NCRA member cost to sit for the CTR exam. In order to receive this reimbursement a person must be an ICRA member and member must pass the CTR exam. Current exam fee costs are \$200 NCRA member and \$275 if non-member of NCRA. This reimbursement money for CTR exam is temporary; while under the rein of current ICRA board. This can be addressed in the future when the next ICRA board takes office. There was no discussion by membership.

### **OTHER**

- President Cindi Dryer requested education ideas for meetings from membership.
- NCRA wants to know if they should continue to use the money generated from raffle of NCRA baskets to fund keynote speaker or use that money for scholarships for people to attend NCRA annual meeting. ICRA board voted to use that money for scholarship funding. President Cindi Dryer will relay that decision to NCRA.
- Vendors are charged to be present at an ICRA education meeting. ICRA treasurer will give

a receipt to those vendors for attendance at such meetings.

This software will be used to design the ICRA website.

**ICRA SPRING WORKSHOP:** April 2004 meeting will be hosted by Mercy in Des Moines. Location and exact date has not been determined but may possibly be at University Inn in Des Moines. Thank you to Cindy Burgin and Mercy for hosting our next workshop!

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stork  
ICRA secretary

## **ICRA BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 8, 2003**

**5:15 p.m.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cindi Dryer, President; Carol Anderson Soy, Vice President; Lori Odle, Past-President; Cindy Kalvig, Treasurer; Karla Stork, Secretary; Freda Selk, Webmaster; Carolyn Hemesath, Newsletter Editor.

### **DISSEMINATION OF NEWSLETTER:**

- Newsletter will no longer be mailed. Newsletter will be posted on ICRA website (<http://www.iowacra.org>). An email will be sent to members informing them to check the ICRA website in order to read the newsletter. December 2003 will be next release of newsletter.
- Board decided ICRA will purchase "Front Page" software.

### **CTR ENCOURAGEMENT/RECOGNITION BY ICRA:**

- Discussed financial options that ICRA could do to encourage members to become Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR). Board decided will reimburse fifty percent of NCRA cost to sit for CTR exam. In order to receive this reimbursement person must be an ICRA member and member must pass the CTR exam.
- Discussed purchasing instructional software to help members prepare for CTR exam. ICRA is not going to pursue this purchase at present time.

### **EDUCATIONAL GOALS OF ICRA:**

Money in the treasury is there to support education. Board discussed ways to use ICRA treasury in order to boost education to ICRA members. Discussed ICRA giving financial contribution to those facilities that host an educational meeting in order to help underwrite cost of hosting a meeting. No decision made.

### **VENDOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS:**

Vendors are charged to be present at an ICRA education meeting. A receipt will be given to those vendors for attendance at such meetings and also to vendors that purchase advertising in the newsletter. Receipt will contain name of vendor, date of meeting/newsletter and name of vendor representative.

### **STATE BASKETS AT NCRA MEETING:**

NCRA wants to know if they should continue to use the money generated from raffle of NCRA baskets to fund keynote speaker or use that money for

scholarships for people to attend NCRA annual meeting. Board voted to notify NCRA Iowa would like to see funds used for scholarship funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stork  
Secretary, ICRA

### **Pictures from Fall 2003 ICRA Meeting**



**Theola Rarick and Asa Carter**



**The ICR Group**



**The ICR Group**



**Dr. Charley Platz**



**LaVon Wisor, Juli Kennedy, Austin West, Michele West, and Taylor West**



**Jan Eiler, Renee Hoyt, Sue Buske, and Wanda Mattingley**



**Karla Stork, Carolyn Hemesath, Lori Odle**



**Cindy Brugioni and Al Giovannini**



**Beth Bunn, Carol Anderson-Soy**



**Cindy Burgin, Kari Suhr, Lisa Hughes**



**Judy Sebern-Beachy and Regis**



**Rod Burnett and Al Giovannini**



**Cindi Dryer**