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Texas
Cancer
Registry

Texas Cancer Reporting News

Cancer Registry Division 1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 512-502-0680 (800-252-8059)

Walter O. Wilkerson, Jr., M.D.
Chair, Texas Board of Health
David R. Smith, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

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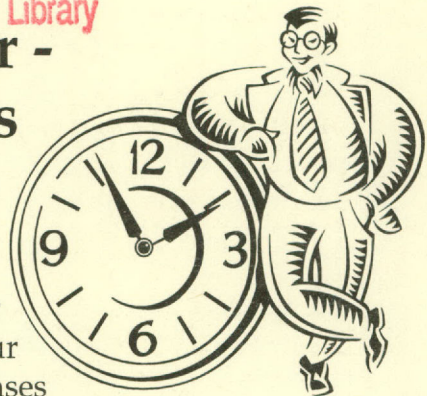
From the Director

These continue to be exciting and somewhat hectic times for us at the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR). Our regional registries are now fully staffed and we hope to soon fill several vacant positions in the central office. Our biggest efforts are being focused on having all institutions in the state meet our 6 months reporting requirement for 1995 cases and forward. Also, we are ever so close to filling the gap for complete statewide reporting of 1992 cancer cases (95% complete at this time). This will result in the first ever report of statewide cancer incidence data for all Texas residents. We will use these data to confirm previous estimates of expected cancer incidence, to compare with 1995 cancer incidence and note the various changes, and to describe regional variations. We also are assessing the completeness of reporting of childhood cancers statewide for 1991 and 1992 to supplement our earlier study of these. As the data continue to be reported, we are creating a solid data structure that is able to provide much needed information to researchers and public health workers committed to reducing the burden of cancer in our state.

Nancy S. Weiss, PhD

Reminder - 1995 cases

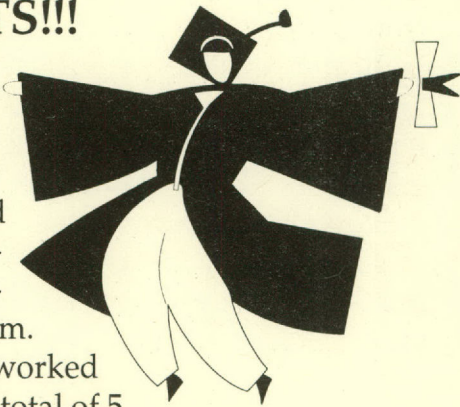
The time is HERE!!!
Time for what?
Time to report those 1995 cancer cases! 100% of your expected cancer cases should have been reported to us by July 1, 1996.



If you have not completed reporting for 1995, please contact your regional program manager to let them know when we can expect your reports. The TCR will start performing quality control audits for 1995 data soon. As a part of our agreement with the CDC, we must produce an annual report of 1995 cases by the end of this year.

CONGRATS!!!

Congratulations go out to Marla Meadors, Judy Gonzales, and Elena Faz for successfully completing the CTR exam. Marla, who has worked for the TCR for a total of 5 1/2 years, received her certification in September. Judy and Elena received their certification in March and have worked with the TCR for 6 and 12 years, respectively. Great work ladies!



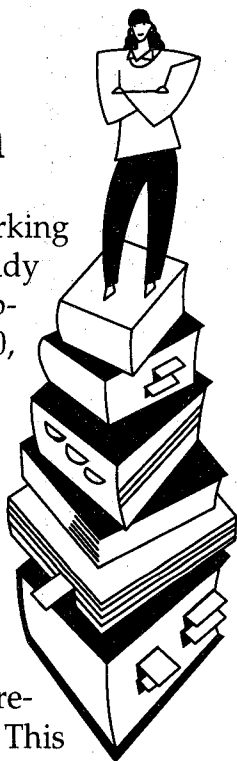
New Grading Scheme for Breast Cancer

A new grading scheme, similar to the Gleason's scheme for prostate cancer, has been approved by national standard-setting organizations for breast cancer cases diagnosed beginning January 1, 1996. The scheme, which is based on a numerical scoring system, can be used for any site, but is usually applied to breast cases. Three separate histological factors (glandular differentiation, nuclear pleomorphism, and mitotic rate) are evaluated and a point value assigned as follows: slight (1 point); moderate (2 points); and marked (3 points). The points are added to obtain a total score, which reflects the grade as follows:

3-5	grade I,	well differentiated, low grade	1
6-7	grade II,	moderately differentiated, intermediate grade	2
8-9	grade III,	poorly differentiated, high grade	3

Back Years Data

TCR staff have been busily working on completing an incidence study from 1985 through 1992 for public health regions 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Thank you to all the hospitals for their help in this endeavor. In addition, we are completing the collection of 1992 cases to be used as part of our first ever statewide cancer incidence report. When the data are complete for these two studies, separate regional reports will also be produced. This will give hospital registrars another source for comparison data.



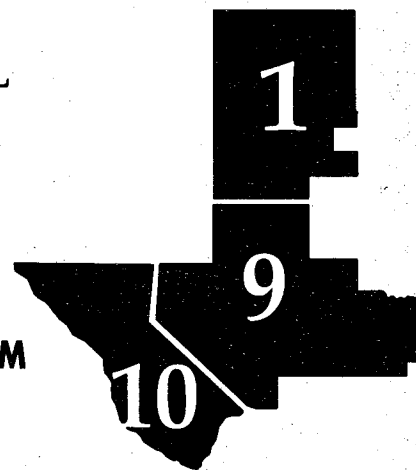
1995 TCR Conference Wrap-up

TCR Annual Conference was an enormous success, from the first speaker Dr. Archie Bleyer of MD Anderson Cancer Center, to the last speakers, Sean Horton of Candlelighters and Diane Puckett of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All sessions provided new and helpful information (as indicated by the evaluations). This year's conference covered topics which included the epidemiology, impact, and treatment of pediatric cancers, basic cancer reporting and electronic submissions, updates from the American College of Surgeons and the National Registrars Association, and a lecture on inherited susceptibility to cancer. Thank you to all who completed the evaluation forms — all suggestions will help make next year's conference even more successful. Plans are already under way for next year's conference, tentatively scheduled for May 15-16, 1997. Mark your calendars!

REGIONAL UPDATES:



GREETINGS FROM LUBBOCK!!!



Pat, Shelley and Karen say Hi! We have been busy as bees this past quarter. Many of you have heard from us several times. We mailed out expected case letters for 1996 and have heard from most of our hospitals. If you have not mailed yours back yet, please do so.

Our focus this quarter has been to gather the "old cases" missing from 1985-1992 in order to

meet our goal of complete reporting for all regions. Many of you have participated in that project through casefinding studies and death clearance cases. These efforts have brought in nearly 1500 reports. We appreciate so much your help and contributions.

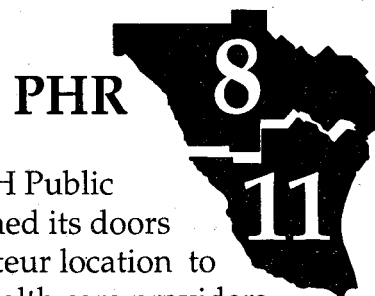
The BIG news is about SANDCRAB Lite. It is really a wonderful software and much, much easier to use than reporting via forms. We have had several hospitals in our regions try it and like it very much. We would like to encourage all the non-registry hospitals to get a copy and try it.

Shelley performed training in San Angelo, Lubbock and El Paso. Our training is primarily directed at non-registry hospitals who have new staff responsible for reporting to the state. We LOVE to do training - it gives us an opportunity to meet you, our reporters, face to face.

On a personal note - Pat was privileged to be able to attend a two week Tumor Registry Training in San Francisco in February. "It was a bit of a refresher course but I learned a lot - a whole lot more than I expected." Karen passed her A.R.T. exam last November. Shelley & Karen were privileged to attend a "Lessons in Leadership" live teleconference in Amarillo. A couple of the guest speakers were Steven Covey and Tom Peters. We all attended the Texas Cancer Registry's Annual Cancer Conference in Austin. Although we were part of the staff we really enjoyed this conference greatly and learned much about childhood cancers. We especially enjoyed visiting with many of you. Shelley and Pat also attended the NCRA conference in New Orleans in May. We want to continue learning and learning. We are considering going for our CTR exam. The hardest part is making the commitment - Pat may go for hers in the fall. It is a scary thing - but I have been told that once you make the commitment and fork over the money - you FIND THE TIME to study. That has been my biggest concern!

We just want all the hospital staff in regions 1, 9 and 10 to know how much we appreciate you and your efforts to support the Texas Cancer Registry.

Pat Ploegsma, RRA
Program Manager, PHR 1/9/10



On April 3, 1996, TDH Public Health Region 8 opened its doors at the 7430 Louis Pasteur location to public and private health care providers from throughout the region. Refreshments and a Mariachi band to greet guests lent a festive atmosphere to the occasion. Guided tours took guests around the facility to see where staff are actually housed. This is the first time the programs of the San Antonio headquarters have been housed in one location in many years and, as part of the Open House activities, the spacious new training facility had informative bulletin boards and displays to show off the pride and particulars of the staff from the over thirty programs represented. Many staff internal to TDH even learned a lot about each others' programs!

The Cancer Registry program showed off its own displays about SANDCRAB and the reporting process, cluster studies, and mammography. One visitor said, "I did not know you did those kind of studies," while another said, "I really am past due for a mammogram." Visiting tumor registry staff from cancer reporting institutions received hands-on tutorials with the new, free and famous SANDCRAB Lite.

The Open House is over, but the welcome is always there, so do not hesitate to just drop by if you are ever in the neighborhood.

Kathryn S. Woehler, MPH
Program Manager PHR 8/11

PHR

7

Things are moving right along in PHR 7! We are currently working on a cancer incidence study that will include data from 1990 through 1992 for this region. Thank you to all of the hospitals who contributed.

Expected number letters were mailed to all hospitals in January. If you have not yet returned the agreements, please do so as soon as possible.

Letters were also mailed May 16th to hospitals reporting less than 60% of their 1995 cases by April. Remember that to be in compliance, 100% of these cases should have been submitted by July 1, 1996. If you are having problems, please let me know.

A basic cancer reporting training was held June 5, 1996 in Waco at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. Many thanks to Kathy Baskin at Hillcrest for hosting this workshop. This time the training included hands-on SANDCRAB Lite training. If you were unable to attend this training and feel you need additional help in abstracting or with SANDCRAB Lite, please contact me.

It was really great to see everybody at the Annual Conference this year. We received a lot of positive feedback from you. Hope to see you at our next conference in May, 1997!

Hope everyone has a great summer!

Deidre M. Davis, CTR
Program Manager, PHR 7

PHR

2/3

PHR 2/3 and covering 4, has a new addition to the family after losing Loretta Carter in January. We are very happy to have Betty Orvig come to us effective May 1. She will be one of the Data Coordinators and Trainers.

We attended the Annual TCR Conference in April at the Four Points Hotel in Austin. We enjoyed meeting with our cancer reporters and making new friends. And as always to our reporters, please call us any time if you have any questions or concerns.

All of you should have been notified of our move in January. We have lots of space now and are very proud of it. Just in case you did not know of our move, our mailing address is: PO Box 181869, Arlington, Texas 76096-1869. Our phone number is 817/264-4479.

We hope to have a cancer reporting workshop this summer in the Wichita Falls area. Again, as always, if you need a one-on-one training session, or if perhaps a group of you would like to get together for a session, give us a call.

We would like to thank you for all of the hard work in cancer reporting. The information you have and the effort to report is very valuable to the registry and to the citizens of Texas, in order to plan appropriate and effective health care.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU, from:
PHR 2/3 and covering 4 Cancer Registry Staff

Cindy Bolton, Program Manager
Taherah Soltani-Duncan, Field Supervisor
Berta Hernandez, Data Coordinator and Trainer
Carol Sorich, Data Coordinator and Trainer
Betty Orvig, Data Coordinator and Trainer
Della Millican, Clinical Record Technician

**Meet the
Staff from PHR**

**5
4
6**

Judy Spong, Program Manager, has a masters degree in health education and 11 years experience in public health. For the past 6 years, Judy managed the prevention, services, and surveillance sections of the Regional HIV Program. Judy

recently completed the University of California Cancer Patient Data Program in San Francisco. She spends her free time cooking, reading, and exercising.

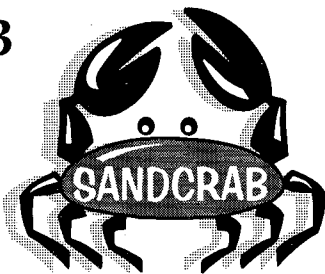
Denis McAuliffe is the new PHT III for PHR 5/6. Denis is a registered nurse with a home health care background. He also served in the United States Marines. Denis looks forward to working with all the staff in the Division and advancing the attack on cancer. In his spare time, Denis enjoys organizing and participating in the MS150 Bike Team annually.

Diann Purvis joined the Houston staff in April as a PHT II. Diann was born and raised in New York City and has been happily married for 22 years. She has one son who is attending Texas A&M and who aspires to become a computer engineer. Diann was employed as a Personal Analyst for 10 years, and has served as an Overseas Processor working with foreign diplomats and embassies to relocate engineering employees and their families. Prior to coming to the Cancer Registry, Diann also worked in HIV in the regional program where she performed technical/administrative functions, coordinated Public Hearings and STD workshops, and acted as a trainer for the 5-day counseling and testing. She looks forward to new endeavors in Cancer Registry.

Marie Longoria, PHT II, has been a part of the Cancer Registry since August 1995. Prior to coming to the Cancer Registry, she worked in CIDC and Immunizations. Marie has worked in the medical field for 20 years in hospital settings and for private practice physicians of diverse medical specialties. One of her proudest accomplishments was managing and supervising a grant issued by TDH Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program for the only private practice gynecologist in west Houston. Marie is married and has a 12 year old son. When she relaxes, she enjoys playing her flute and doing needlework.



SANDCRAB Lite Update



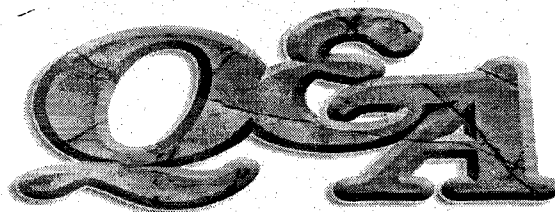
SANDCRAB Lite (SCL), a cancer abstract reporting software developed for non-electronic reporters, is available free of charge. Paper abstract forms are eliminated since cases are entered directly into the computer and submitted to the TCR on diskette. Also, less errors in submitted data occur because of the built-in edit checks.

Since October 1995, almost 200 copies of SCL have been sent to reporting institutions, educational institutions and individual contractors. Diskettes and mailers for submittal and software phone support is also provided free of charge. A software update release is planned for 1996. This version will include laser printer support and other software enhancements.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning SCL or would like to receive the software or bimonthly SCL newsletter, please contact Ms. Madelyn Lock, Systems Support Specialist, at 1-800-252-8059.



Quality Assurance Section



What do I put in the "other pertinent information" text field?

The other pertinent information text field can be used for many purposes. For example:

- * If you run out of room in one of the other text fields, you can use this field for overflow (i.e. additional staging or treatment documentation).

(continued on next page)

- * Use this field to document smoking, alcohol or family history.
- * If there is little documentation in the chart regarding diagnosis, stage or treatment, put a note in this box letting us know that.
- * Or, anything else you feel is important to let us know.

Are abbreviations allowed on the reporting form?

YES! Please feel free to use abbreviations. Just be sure that when using abbreviations that TCR staff will be able to understand them. In the revised handbook, there are some examples of abbreviations that you may use.

What is the correct format that should be used when reporting the dates on the reporting form?

The correct format is MMDDCCYY without slashes or dashes. For example, a patient with an admission date of May 16, 1995 would be recorded as 05161995. A patient with a date of birth of December 20, 1966 would be recorded as 12201966.

How do I stage Kaposi's Sarcoma?

According to Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER), the appropriate general summary stage for Kaposi's Sarcoma is "unstaged".

If a patient has a bone marrow biopsy that shows acute lymphocytic leukemia, what is the correct code for diagnostic confirmation?

Per the American College of Surgeons, SEER, and TCR guidelines, the correct code would be "1", histologically confirmed. Positive hematologic findings relative to leukemia are also included. Bone marrow specimens (including aspiration biopsies) are coded as 1.

Changes to the ICD-0-2 Coding Book

The following changes should be made in the second edition of the ICD-O coding book:

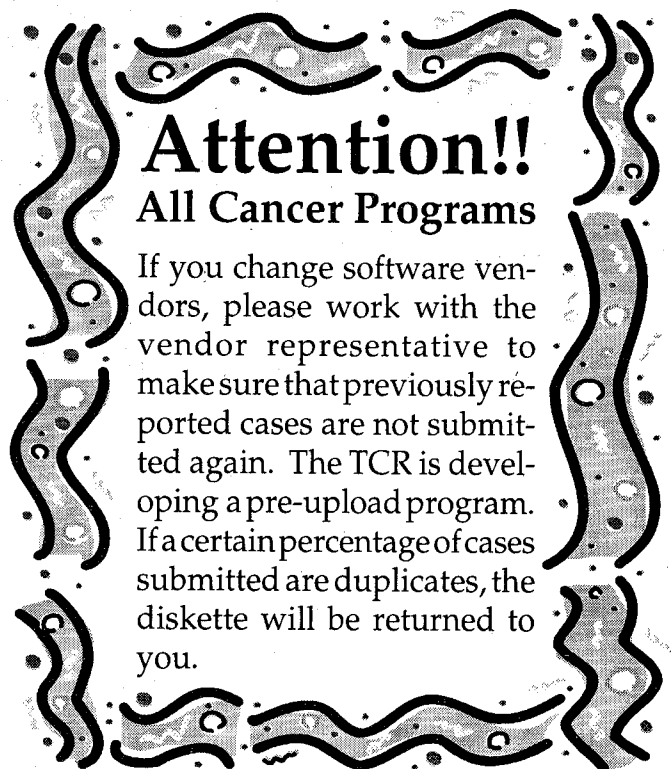
1. C14.1 Laryngopharynx is now an invalid code and should not be used. It should be changed to a synonym of C13.9, under Hypopharynx, NOS effective for cases January 1, 1995.
2. Add 97153 MALT Lymphoma to the ICD-O book, effective for cases diagnosed January 1, 1995.
3. Add 9688/36 T-cell rich B-cell lymphoma to the ICD-O book, effective for cases diagnosed January 1, 1996.

How should stem cell transplants be coded?

Code 5 in the field "Biological response modifier". (ROADS, p. 243, TCR Handbook, p. 33)

What site code is used for an extranodal lymphoma: the extranodal site or lymph nodes, NOS?

Code to the organ of origin; for example, tonsil. (ROADS, 103, TCR Handbook, p. 21)

Attention!!
All Cancer Programs

If you change software vendors, please work with the vendor representative to make sure that previously reported cases are not submitted again. The TCR is developing a pre-upload program. If a certain percentage of cases submitted are duplicates, the diskette will be returned to you.

Who do I call for Texas Cancer Registry Information in the Regions?

Regional Offices:	Public Health Region	Staff Contacts	Mailing Address
	PHRs 1-9-10	Patricia "Pat" Ploegsma Shelley Jordan Karen Favars	Texas Department of Health TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY 1109 Kemper Lubbock, Texas 79403 Phone: 806/744-3577 Fax: 806/744-1942
	PHRs 2-3-4	Cindy Bolton Taherah Soltani-Duncan Carol Sorich Berta Hernandez Della Millican Betty Orvig	Texas Department of Health TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY Physical Address: Public Health Region 3 1351 East Bardin Road Arlington, Texas 76018 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181869 Arlington, Texas 76096 Phone: 817/264-4479 FAX: 817/264-4455
	PHRs 5-6	Judy Spong Denis McAuliffe Marie Longoria Diann Purvis	Texas Department of Health TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY 5425 Polk Street Houston, Texas 77023-1497 Phone: 713/767-3180 FAX: 713/767-3193
	PHR 7	Deidre Davis Susan Pauda Dwenda Smith Shawna Waterman	Texas Department of Health TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY Physical Address: 4412 Spicewood Springs Road Austin, Texas 78759 Mailing Address: 1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756-3199 Phone: 512/502-0680 Fax: 512/502-0862
	PHRs 8-11	Kathryn Woehler Daphne Peaker Michelle Tessaro Nelda Gonzalez Lupe Castenada	Texas Department of Health TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY 7430 Louis Pasteur Drive San Antonio, Texas 78229 Phone: 210/949-2165 FAX: 210/949-2058

Handbook Revisions

The TCR Handbook has been recently revised, printed and the first shipments mailed to all reporting institutions. If you would like an additional copy of the handbook, please contact your regional program or the central office at 1/800-252-8059.



mal and are mostly clarifications. For example, beginning on page 25 you will find examples of how to document staging information.



Texas Cancer Reporting News Staff

Deidre Davis _____ *Editor*
Rosalind Nelson _____ *Assistant Editor*
Shawna Waterman _____ *Assistant Editor*
Jim Hall _____ *Assistant Editor*

The biggest change to the handbook was in the reportable list. CIN III and carcinoma in-situ of the cervix are no longer reportable beginning with 1996 cases. Also added were additional codes to use when coding biological response modifier treatments, a list of Spanish/Hispanic surnames, common abbreviations and tabs were added to assist you in finding information in the handbook easier. The other changes are mini-



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