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CENTRAL REGISTRY UPDATE

2010 was a challenging year for the ASCR. We submitted 24 month data (2008 data) at the end of November 2010. The completeness rate looked great at the time of the submission. We also submitted 12 month data (2009 data) at the end of January 2011. Although we reached the 90% (by our own expected number), the completeness rate is about 4% lower compared to the same time period for last year's data submission. There were various reasons for the lower rate this year, but it is very important for all reporting sources to follow the reporting schedule to submit cases to the ASCR. As we have learned from past experiences, if you stop reporting your data, it will be very hard to catch up and go back to the normal reporting schedule. In the event that something happens to affect your normal data collection /submission, please have a plan of action in place and contact the ASCR as soon as possible.

With all the significant changes in 2010 data collection– coding rules and software issues, the ASCR's 12 month data submission of 2010 data that will be submitted in January 2012 will be another great challenge. So far, there is no delay or suspension of the abstracting timeline from the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), the ASCR will follow the same 12 and 24 month data submission schedules. To help us maintain the Gold certification, there are two major things that need to be done over the next few months.

1. **2009 death and path follow back** – there are still a large number of inquires not received by the ASCR. We'll contact reporting sources one more time over the next few weeks. Please send the requested information back to us as soon as possible – this is critical for reaching our goal for 24 month data.
2. **2010 data submission** – with the software issues, the ASCR has not required facilities to follow the regular reporting schedules yet. However, if possible, please resume the normal reporting schedule when software issues are resolved. Please abstract the cases in the earliest month first. This will enable the ASCR to process 2010 death and path follow back cases in the most efficient way.

The ASCR completed the first certificate process for the 2009 data submission. The certificates and awards were given out at the ACRA annual fall meeting held in Mobile. Thirty-five self reporting facilities reached the Gold standard, and two reached the Silver standard. The ASCR thanks all of you for all your hard work through the year, and would love to see more facilities reach the Gold or Silver standard in coming year(s).

One of the major goals for the ASCR over the next few years will be reaching out to more physician offices and other free standing non-hospital facilities. We need your help to identify those reporting sources. We appreciated the survey forms that were filled out at the ACRA meeting. **Please feel free to contact our non-hospital reporting coordinator, Teisha Robertson for any possible new reporting sources.**

The NPCR audits took place from January 18 – 28, 2011. Nine facilities were selected for this process. The ASCR and the NPCR auditor Kathy Tinney thanked all the facilities for a smooth audit experience. The results will be used to improve our data quality.

In the first month of 2011, the ASCR has added two new members – Joan Baucom and MisChele White. More information about them can be found on page 4.

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Updates on Abs Plus

Abstract Plus version 3.1 is ready to use for 2010 data. Abs Plus 3.1 will replace abs plus version 2.4. Abs Plus version 3.1 includes more staging fields and treatment options flags for partial or missing dates. All facilities using Abs Plus should have received the installation CD from the Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry (ASCR).

There are still various issues with this version, especially with 2010 cases started in version 2. Please feel free to contact us for your problem. A screenshot will help us to see and reproduce the problem you have.

If you have any questions about the Abs Plus version 3.1 please contact Rhonda Morgan at 334-206-5918 or Rhonda.Morgan@adph.state.alus. Thank you for your patience.

A Parade of Information Update

In October of 2010, the ASCR and other cancer registries across the state of Alabama attended the Alabama Fall Educational Conference "A Parade of Information" held in Mobile, AL. The meeting covered topics such as 2010 Collaborative Staging Changes, new Class of Case, new Abs Plus software version 3.1, 2010 Fords Manual changes, and Hematopoietic Diseases. The committee did a wonderful job planning the meeting.

The ASCR also had a special dinner in Mark K Jackson's home. We enjoyed the great food Mark prepared and had a yummy cake made by Bobbie. Nancy Wright, the director of Cancer Prevention and Control Division, also attended the dinner and the ACRA meeting. She was very impressed by our fun activities and how professional the meeting was organized. She and our deputy director, Chris Haag, have always been very supportive since the ASCR joined the Alabama Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program, Alabama Cancer Control Comprehensive Coalition, and FITWAY program for Colon Cancer Early Detection to form the Cancer Prevention and Control Division. As many of you learnt at the ACRA meeting, the Alabama Department of Public Health has several programs in cancer control and prevention. The ASCR encourages all of the registrars not only to collect the cancer data from patients, but also to tell them about the wonderful programs we have here in Alabama to help patients to live a better life by prevention and early detection. If you need any information from other programs, feel free to contact them directly or through any of our staff members.

Obesity and Cancer Facts

In 2009 obesity was a contributory factor in 100,000 cases of cancer annually. Excess weight increases a person's risk for cancers of the colon, pancreas, breast, endometrium, and esophagus. A high body mass index (BMI) is a risk factor for cancer because of the amount of body fat they have. Obesity increases the risk for these cancers because of the body's high consumption of fat. A diet that consists more of fruits and vegetables can lower the risk of cancer because these foods contain antioxidants. The most prevalent cancers in men are prostate, colon, rectal, and lung. Three prevalent cancers in women are breast, uterine, and colon. According to a CNN report, 49% of endometrial cancers, 35% of esophageal, and 17% of breast cancers are caused by excess body fat. Preventing weight gain by eating healthy and exercising can reduce the risk of certain cancers.

Survey for Non-hospitals Facilities

The Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry wants to make sure that all non-hospital facilities are reporting cases of diagnosed cancer. We have designed a short survey that is available on line, at the following link:

<http://www.adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?formID=2692> . The survey will only take five minutes to complete. Please fill out the survey to help us capture every incidence of cancer.

EDUCATION CORNER

Training Opportunities

- Webinars for the Montgomery area are held at the RSA Tower 201 Monroe St. Montgomery, AL on the 13th floor at 1:00 pm on the date listed below. For more information please contact Teisha Robertson at 334-206-7068.
March 3, 2011, Bladder April 7, 2011, Breast May 5, 2011, Prostate
- A recording of these webinars can be viewed at the Cullman County Health Department and the Mobile County Health Department (Date-TBA). Contact Diane Hadley (256)775-8790 in Cullman County or Mark Jackson (251) 433-7809 in Mobile if you would like to attend meetings in Cullman or Mobile.
- The ASCR would like to know if you will be able to attend a meeting in the Montgomery, Cullman, or Mobile office for Abstract Plus and/or Web Plus training. Please contact Rhonda Morgan if you would like to attend this training and indicate which location and what kind of training you would like to attend.

Occupation and Industry

The occupation and industry section of your abstract form is important to your abstractor. Collecting I & O data helps estimate the cancer burden by industry and occupation, identifies industries at high risk for cancer and guides etiologic and intervention research practice. This information tells researchers if the cancer is work related, the socioeconomic status of the patient, and identifies work site related groups in which cancer screening or prevention activities may be beneficial. The patient's occupation is defined as the line of work the patient was engaged in for most of his or her life and usual industry is defined as the type of activity at the patient's place of work. For example, if the patient worked twenty years in a coal mine and retired; then worked two years at retail store such as Wal-Mart, the patient's occupation would be listed as a coal miner and the industry would be listed as coal mining. The occupation would not be sales clerk and industry would not be listed as retail because it was not the type of work the patient was engaged in for most of his or her life.

If you would like to view this webinar please contact Teisha Robertson 334-206-7068 for more information.

Filling Out Your Abstract Form

Abstract forms are important because of the information they give to abstractors. Here are a few tips in filling out your abstract form: make sure to include the patient's race, and social security number on the form. Also, remember include the primary site (ex: breast, lung) along with the histology, type of cancer (ex: adenocarcinoma), date of first contact (date physician first saw patient in office, hospital, clinic etc.), date of diagnosis (date patient diagnosed with cancer), and patient occupation. Please be sure to fill out your abstract form in its entirety.

The blank form can be downloaded from the Download page at the ASCR website. You can also find a copy of the form with this newsletter

The ASCR encourages electronic reporting to reduce cost and error. Our online abstraction software – Web Plus is customized for low case load facilities. Teisha will be glad to assist you in setting up a Web Plus account.



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Capturing Cancer Data in Alabama
Find us at http://www.adph.org/cancer_registry

ASCR News is published for those involved in cancer data collection in Alabama. Contact us to submit articles for publication.

Teisha Robertson, BS, Editor
Xuejun Shen, Ph. D, Editor

Editorial Reviewers: **Nancy Wright, MPH**

Meetings in 2011

NCRA Annual Meeting – May 15-18, 2011, Orlando, FL
NAACCR Annual Meeting – June 18-24, 2011, Louisville, KY
ACRA Annual Meeting, October 2011, Birmingham, AL

CTR EXAM for 2011

March 5-19, 2011
Application due by January 31, 2011
September 10-24, 2011
Application due by August 1, 2011

ASCR COMPLETENESS SCHEDULE (data year 2010)

Current Month	Completeness %	Cases Due
July 10	8	January 10
August 10	17	February 10
September 10	25	March 10
October 10	33	April 10
November 10	42	May 10
December 10	50	June 10
January 11	8	July 10
February 11	17	August 10
March 11	25	September 10
April 11	33	October 10
May 11	42	November 10
June 11	50	December 10

Meet ASCR New Staff Members

- **Joan Baucom** (left) graduated from UAB with a BS in Cytotechnology and an MBA from UAH. Joan will be the death clearance coordinator. She will work extensively with all reporting sources to ensure that best information will be used to abstract all reportable cancer cases identified in death clearance process.

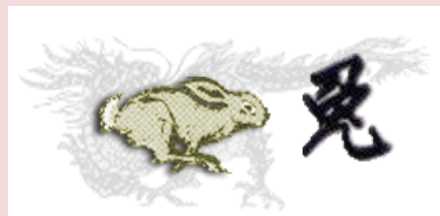


- **MisChele White** (right) received a B.S. in Business Administration from Morgan State University, a Masters in Public Health from University of Baltimore and will receive her PhD in Human Services from Capella University in 2012. MisChele will be ASCR's Follow Back and Research Coordinator. MisChele will be our newsletter editor too. Please let her know if you have any information or news to put in our newsletter.

Chinese New Year - by XJ

Chinese New Year is February 3, 2011. Each year is represented by one animal, like you may see in some Chinese restaurants. There are twelve animals. This year's animal is rabbit – the baby born this year often gets nick name as little rabbit, like I often call my girl little horse since she was born in year of horse.

Like Thanksgiving here, Chinese New Year is the time for the entire family members to gather together. People take one or two week vacation for this. Lots of food, fireworks, and gifts!



Famous Rabbits: Michelangelo, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie

		ALABAMA STATEWIDE CANCER REGISTRY CANCER REPORTING FORM		Today's Date: ___/___/___
HOSPITAL SPECIFIC		NOTE: All fields flagged with a * must not be left blank!		
Reporting Facility		Paired Organ		
Nbr of Tumor (Circle One)	1st 2nd 3rd 4th More	Method of Diagnosis* (Circle One)	<i>Clinical or Pathological</i>	
PATIENT ID		PROGNOSTIC FACTORS (incl. relevant info from each report listed below, with dates of service, descriptive text, values; abbrev. as necessary)		
Last Name *		X-rays/Scans*		
First Name *				
Middle Name				
Maiden Name		Scopes*		
Social Security Nbr*				
Medical Record Nbr*				
Addr at Diagnosis - Street*		Lab Tests*		
Addr at Diagnosis - City*				
Addr at Diagnosis - State*				
Addr at Diagnosis - Zip*		Surgical Procedures*		
County at Diagnosis*				
Phone		Pathologic Diagnosis*		
Marital Status				
Sex*				
Race 1*		TNM Stage* (as documented by physician)		
Hispanic Origin				
DEMOGRAPHIC		TREATMENT (incl. dates & types of treatment)		
Birthdate*		Surgical Treatment		
Usual Occupation				
Usual Industry		Radiation Treatment		
Primary Insurance				
Patient Referred From		Chemotherapy Regimen		
Patient Referred To				
Family History		Biological Response Modifiers		
Alcohol History				
Tobacco History		Other Type Treatment		
CANCER IDENTIFICATION		FOLLOW-UP/RECURRENCE/DEATH		
Date of 1st Contact*		Date of Last Contact/Death*		
Diagnosis Date*		Vital Status*		
Birthplace		Following Physician		
H & P (incl. symptoms & other problems)		Cancer Status		
		Cause of Death		
Managing Physician*		Place of Death		
Primary Surgeon		Follow-Up Contact		
Primary Site*		FU Contact Addr - Street, City, St, Zip		
Histology*		Autopsy Performed	O YES O NO	
		MAIL COMPLETED ABSTRACT TO: Al Statewide Cancer Registry		
Tumor Size		Teisha Robertson	Phone: (334) 206-7068	
		201 Monroe St, ste 1400 F	Fax: (334) 206-3823	
		Montgomery, AL 36104	Email:	
			Teisha.Robertson@adph.state.al.us	
REMARKS (incl. any unusual findings or important information the ASCR needs to understand about this patient's dx and/or tx)				
ASCR encourages all facilities to report cancer cases electronically. Please contact me to find out what option we provide.				