



Board of Directors

Susan T. Gershman, PhD, CTR
President

Maria J. Schymura, PhD
President-elect

Karen Knight, MS
Treasurer

Lori Swain, BA, MS
Sponsoring Member Representative

Representatives-at-Large

Susan Bolick-Aldrich, MSPH, CTR

Glenn Copeland, MBA

Maureen MacIntyre, BSN, MHSA

Howard J. Martin, PhD

Frances E. Ross, CTR

Xiaocheng Wu, MD, MPH, CTR

Executive Director

Betsy A. Kohler, MPH, CTR

Executive Office

2121 W. White Oaks Drive, Suite B
Springfield, IL 62704-7412
Tel (217) 698-0800
Fax (217) 698-0188
info@naaccr.org

www.naaccr.org

Christie Eheman, MS, PhD
Chief, Cancer Surveillance Branch
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, MS-K53
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3717

April 6, 2009

Dear Dr. Eheman:

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR, Inc.) would like to express its resolute support for the proposed CDC-NPCR Workload Management Study. As you know, NAACCR is a professional association representing all population based cancer registries in the United States and Canada. NAACCR develops and promotes uniform data standards for cancer registration; provides education and training; certifies population-based registries; aggregates and publishes data from central cancer registries; and promotes the use of cancer surveillance data and systems for cancer control and epidemiologic research, public health programs, and patient care to reduce the burden of cancer in North America.

While each state and province has a population-based cancer registry, to our knowledge, there has not been a formal study to evaluate the workforce needs of central cancer registries. There are many staffing models used by central registries, but these models have not been evaluated for their efficiency of operation, nor the necessary staffing components. The proposed CDC-NPCR Workload Management Study is needed to establish efficient staffing guidelines. The central cancer registry environment is changing quickly and an assessment of staffing at this point in time will be critical to establishing the optimum staffing component for the evolving central registry. As data collection for central registries becomes increasingly complex and de-centralized, a thorough study of cancer registry staffing patterns is essential to define the expanding skill sets needed for central cancer registries. Staffing models derived in the past for hospital-based cancer registries have no relevance in a population based cancer registry, and data based on central registry staffing patterns is essential.

Sponsoring Organizations

Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies • Canadian Partnership Against Cancer • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
College of American Pathologists • National Cancer Institute • National Cancer Registrars Association • Public Health Agency of Canada

Sponsors with Distinction

American Cancer Society • American College of Surgeons • American Joint Committee on Cancer

The population-based cancer registries in the US support and applaud your endeavors through the Workload Management Study. The information derived from such a study will help us to ensure that adequate staffing can be established and/or maintained in central registries across the country. On behalf of the NAACCR Membership, we thank you for initiating the Workload Management Study and we look forward to the results.

Sincerely,



Betsy A. Kohler, MPH, CTR
Executive Director