



OCCR Quarterly

Critical Position Filled

By Paula Marshall, BBA, CTR

OCCR is excited to introduce Alexandra “Ali” Feld as our new Cancer Surveillance Coordinator. A graduate of Ohio State University, Ali received her BS in Microbiology with a Spanish minor and graduated with Honors, Magna Cum Laude. She also earned her MPH in Epidemiology from Saint Louis University’s College for Public Health and Social Justice. During her time in St. Louis she worked two years as an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist at the County Department of Public Health and simultaneously completed a 1-year CDC fellowship, Informatics Training in Place Program. After her fellowship, she worked as the Senior Data Coordinator for Washington University in St. Louis at a youth health and social services center called The SPOT (Supporting Positive Opportunities for Teens). Her next adventure took her to Israel with her husband, Jesse, for his post doctorate position where she worked as a Data Analyst for DavidShield (an insurance company that insures Israelis who live abroad). After 2 years in Israel, Ali, Jesse and their new son moved to Stillwater, OK, where her husband is a Teaching Assistant Professor within the Integrative Biology Department at Oklahoma State University.



Ali has played soccer since she was 3 years old! She played Division 1 soccer at the Ohio State University, amateur league in Minnesota and semi-professional while living in Israel. She also earned 2 gold medals playing in the Jewish Olympics in Israel in 2004 and 2009. During the years 2000-2016, Ali was a soccer referee for youth games, high-level club, and a college referee for 5 years. Since 2010, Ali has coached high school varsity girls and youth club teams ranging from 6-18 years of age.

Ali is originally from Minnesota where her parents are still living. Her husband, Jesse, is from Chicago and their 16-month-old son, Asher, was born in Tel Aviv. Most of Ali’s hobbies are sports and food related: loves soccer, music, traveling, and cooking. She enjoys running, lifting, and hiking – just staying active! Her adventurous side took her and Jesse backpacking through South America for 6 months after college.

As the new Cancer Surveillance Coordinator, Ali’s major responsibility is to coordinate the activities of the statewide OCCR surveillance system, which includes oversight of the registry staff and other duties to ensure that the annual data submission is completed and meets or exceeds the national data quality standards. The second component to her position is to function as the cancer epidemiologist, providing epidemiological support and advanced analysis related to cancer and associated chronic diseases.

To say the least, Ali is full of adventure with a BIG personality and we are so happy that she has joined the family at OCCR!

Inside this issue

Out of Retirement.....	2
NAACCR Webinars.....	2
New Consultant.....	3
NPCR and NAACCR Submission Update.....	4
Updates from The Brief...	4
In Memory.....	5
Next Tool in the Fight Against Bladder Cancer...	6
OCCR Staff Listing.....	7

OUT OF RETIREMENT

By Leslie Dill

In May of 2016, Paula Marshall, an original staff member of the very first OCCR, retired and started a new chapter in her life. Although we were happy for her and proud of her 25 years with the State of Oklahoma, the team was truly saddened to lose her fun-loving spirit around the office and her extensive cancer registry knowledge.



Since retirement, Paula has taken a knitting class, spent a lot of time with her family, especially her 9 grandchildren, traveled, worked in her garden, and continued to support her beloved OSU Cowboys. While she has enjoyed every minute of it, she found herself missing the camaraderie of co-workers and challenging her brain every day. When a position opened within the OCCR for the Quality Assurance and Operations Specialist, Paula applied. A certified tumor registrar since 2003, Paula's years of experience as a registry consultant, system administrator for RMCDS and Web Plus, and data management specialist made her an excellent choice for the position.

Paula's new duties include overseeing all case-finding and quality assurance activities and conducting quality control review to ensure reliability, completeness, and comparability of cancer registry data. She will also coordinate the processes for annual re-abstraction audits and death clearance.

Welcome, Paula. We are so happy to have you back!

UPCOMING NAACCR WEBINARS

By Lisa Fulkerson, RMA

OCCR has purchased the NAACCR webinars and is offering them free to all Oklahoma cancer reporters. The LIVE webinars are available in OKC and Tulsa on the dates below, or you may register to receive a link to the recorded webinar to view at a later date. In OKC, the Oklahoma State Department of Health at 1000 NE 10th, OKC, OK 73117, will host the live webinars. For those closer to Tulsa, the webinar will be presented at Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southwestern Regional Medical Center, 10109 E 79th St, Tulsa, OK, 74133.

NEXT IN THE WEBINAR SERIES:

01/09/2020	8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Prostate
02/06/2020	8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	SSDI's - An In-Depth Look
03/05/2020	8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Abstracting and Coding Boot Camp: Cancer Case Scenarios

Remember to register ahead of time for the live or recorded webinars to ensure that the handouts are emailed to you. Please register by emailing LeslieD@health.ok.gov.



MEET NEW CONSULTANT, LISA FULKERSON

By Julie Bennett, RHIA

It truly is my honor to introduce you to the newest OCCR consultant, Lisa Fulkerson. With Lisa and various family members having had their brush with cancer, it soon became a field that was very dear to her heart and one in which she saw the potential for education and growth.

Lisa graduated from Star Spencer High School and then attended OSU for a couple of years before returning home and working various jobs while helping care for her aging parents. She moved into the medical field as a pharmacy tech and started working towards getting into nursing school. She obtained her CNA and was working at a nursing home before being recruited by her father's personal physician. That's where her love for the medical field took off. She has worked in Internal Medicine, Nephrology and most recently in Oncology/Radiation. While working at a local oncology facility, an opportunity arose in the cancer registry and Lisa began abstracting cancer cases. After her facility closed, she moved into a clinical position as an RMA for the director of a larger hospital.

After fostering two young siblings for a couple of years, the blessing arose for Lisa to adopt them and become their mother forever. Fast forward a few years, Lisa is the proud mother of two teenagers. Her son keeps her active and full of school spirit with his senior year in high school football and various activities. Her daughter is a member of a Christian-based dance team that performs in various venues. Along with extensive family and friends, Lisa also has seven God kids and 12 great grand God kids.

When Lisa finds herself with free time, she enjoys tennis and baking old family recipes. She admits she isn't a crafty person but likes to create and make her own vases out of various glass pieces she finds at her local dollar store. Most recently another door of opportunity has opened and she finds herself decorating for various events including weddings, birthday parties and family functions.

Having started this life as a shy girl, Lisa fully admits to the fact that now she would talk to a tree if it would talk back. She is outgoing and friendly and has a passion for whatever she is doing at the moment. Her daily prayer is simple, yet powerful.....she asks God to allow her to be a bright spot for someone's day.

Her position at the OCCR is Registry Consultant for large facilities and hospitals.

Please join us and send a warm welcome to Lisa.



NPCR AND NAACCR SUBMISSION UPDATE

By Christy Dabbs, AA, CTR

The Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry is currently working on the call for data to the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). By the time this newsletter is published we will have submitted data from 1997-2017. This year we have a delayed deadline for the call for data to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), which is normally due at the same time as NAACCR. This delay is welcome since this has been a year of change and delays. Our goal for NAACCR data submission is to obtain Gold certification for high quality data.

- Case ascertainment achieved 95% or higher completeness.
- Death certificate is the only source for identification of fewer than 3% of reported cancer cases.
- Fewer than 0.1% duplicate case reports.
- All data variables used to create incidence statistics by cancer type, sex, race, age, and county are 100% error-free.
- Less than 2% of the case reports are missing demographic information on age, sex, and county.
- Less than 3% of the cases are missing information on race.
- The data is submitted to NAACCR for evaluation within 23 months of the close of the diagnosis year under review.

The OCCR works hard all year long preparing the data for submission each November and January. The Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry appreciates all of your hard work in providing us with accurate and timely reported data. Your hard work does not go unnoticed as we all continue to do our part in the fight against cancer.

UPDATES FROM THE BRIEF

By Christy Dabbs, AA, CTR

2020 CoC Standards

In the October 24, 2019 release of The Brief, the publication made two important announcements, the 2020 CoC Standards are now available for download and additional information was provided for coding skin/melanoma surgery. Cancer programs that are CoC accredited or are seeking CoC accreditation will want to download the new CoC Standards if you have not already done so. Programs are expected to implement the 2020 standards beginning January 1, 2020. <https://www.facs.org/2020cocstandards>

Skin/Melanoma Surgery Coding

An important update was made to skin/melanoma surgery coding. “The Technical Advisory Group (TAG), an ad hoc group with representatives from all the standard setters, has made a consensus decision to use the pathology reports as the first priority for assigning melanoma surgery codes. If margin information is not available on the pathology report, the operative report may be used when margins are specified. Note: this decision does not apply to the margins data item, only to surgery codes. If margins are not stated on either report, use unknown”. In the past we were instructed not to use the margins stated in the operative report when coding skin/melanoma surgery codes. <http://multibriefs.com/briefs/ACSORG/ACSORG102419.php> These instructions will apply to all Oklahoma cancer reporters submitting data to NCDB and/or the Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry and is in effect as of the date of the article.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE TAKEN BY CANCER

Submitted By Judy Hanna, HT (ASCP), CTR

Author Unknown

The Right to be a Bird

To grace the morning with your song
To fly so freely all day long
To perch upon a sturdy tree
And watch the world pass peacefully
To see the beauty from great height
To feel so resonant and light
To watch the river flowing past
Your body free from pain at last
To change your course when you see fit

To fly some more, then rest a bit

To sit on church tops, spirit free
To feel close to divinity
To visit people at your will
To cheep and chirp and call and trill
To have the time for contemplation

Travel lots during migration
To soak up sunbeams on your face
To take the day at your own pace
To make great patterns in the sky
To swoop and soar and flutter by

Your body's left a life absurd
You've earned the right to be a bird.

<https://www.keep-healthy.com/poems-about-cancer/>



ANTHRAX MAY BE THE NEXT TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BLADDER CANCER

Article submitted by Judy Hanna, HT (ASCP), CTR

Materials provided by Purdue University. Original written by Chris Adam

Anthrax may soon help more people win the fight against bladder cancer, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says strikes about 72,000 Americans each year and kills about 16,000, and is one of the most expensive cancers to treat.

The current treatments for bladder cancer are invasive for patients -- who often must sit for hours at a time with a bladder full of an agent designed to kill cancer cells and tumors. Bladder cancer also is one of the most reoccurring for people diagnosed with the disease.

Now, researchers at Purdue University have come up with a way to combine the anthrax toxin with a growth factor to kill bladder cancer cells and tumors. The research is published in the Oct. 4 edition of the *International Journal of Cancer*.

"We have effectively come up with a promising method to kill the cancer cells without harming the normal cells in the bladder," said R. Claudio Aguilar, an associate professor and the assistant head of biological sciences in Purdue's College of Science. "It is basically like creating a special solution that targets cancer cells while leaving healthy cells alone."

Aguilar said the bladder has its own protective layer, which saves the good cells from the anthrax mixture but offers no protection for the cancer cells and tumors. He said the Purdue system works within minutes -- instead of the usual hours for bladder cancer treatment -- to target the cancer cells in the bladder.

"We have seen outstanding results with our treatment," said Aguilar, who works as part of a team focused on cell identity and signaling at the Purdue University Center for Cancer Research. "It is fast and effective, both of which are critical for people dealing with this devastating disease."

Aguilar and his group worked with the Purdue teams led by Timothy Ratliff and Deborah Knapp to test their solution in dogs with bladder cancer who had run out of other treatment options. They found this new agent decreased the tumor size without causing any other side effects in the animals.

The Purdue team thinks a similar treatment may help people and animals with other cancers, including those affecting the lungs or skin.

The researchers also worked with partners in the Indiana University School of Medicine, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.



Purdue University. "Anthrax may be the next tool in the fight against bladder cancer." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 12 November 2019. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/11/191112095747.htm>.

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*Wishing you a
Happy Holiday
season and a
prosperous New Year!*



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