

President's Report
NAACCR Business Meeting
June 11, 2008

This year has been challenging with the resignation of NAACCR's Executive Director, Holly Howe. Much of my focus has been on activities related to the search for a new Executive Director. I served on the Ad Hoc Leadership Transition Committee (chaired by Dennis Deapen) that started meeting last summer to update NAACCR policies on leadership transition. I was also a member of the Transition of Executive Director Work Group (chaired by Brenda Edwards). This group recommended that, if the Executive Director position became vacant in the event of retirement, resignation, or termination, a "Transition Action Team" be formed.

Upon Holly Howe's resignation, the Executive Director Transition Action Team moved into action, with Betsy Kohler and me as co-chairs. This team reviewed and updated the NAACCR Executive Office Goals and Objectives, established a Search Committee (chaired by Brenda Edwards), focused on the management of the NAACCR office in Springfield, Illinois, and reviewed progress on all transition activities at each conference call. As a member of the Search Committee, I was the contact for all applicants, participated in all interviews, wrote correspondence to applicants, participated on conference calls related to the search for a new Executive Director, and updated the NAACCR membership on Search Committee progress. (As part of this work, the Massachusetts Cancer Registry's epidemiologist/editor provided in-kind services, organizing resumes, summarizing candidates' qualifications, and preparing letters to applicants.)

During this past year, the MCR also provided NAACCR with the in-kind services of a student intern. Rachel Zeig-Owens, an MPH candidate at Columbia University, served as the primary author of *CINA Highlights of Cancer Incidence and Mortality in the United States and Canada, 2000-2004*, which was released in October 2007. (Co-authors of the report were Richard Knowlton, an MCR epidemiologist, myself, and Holly Howe.) The report is posted on the NAACCR website at http://www.naacr.org/filesystem/pdf/CINA_Highlights_00-04_v4.pdf

Much of my time as President has been spent attending meetings and participating in conference calls, which I imagine you can all relate to. I participated in the Board/SMO in-person meeting in Chicago this past January. I chair the monthly Board meetings and Personnel Committee meetings, and also participate on the NAACCR staff's 9:30 a.m. calls every Tuesday and Thursday. Charlie Blackburn, Lois Britton, Betsy Kohler, and I worked on the planning process for the Board/Chairs/SMO Leadership Retreat in San Antonio, TX. The retreat, which was excellent, discussed the search for a new Executive Director, NAACCR's course for 2007-2008, and efficient registry operations. It also featured a creative participation project, "It's a Wonderful Life," which asked the question: what would life be like without NAACCR? I hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy the encore performances at Tuesday night's reception. Another outcome from the retreat was Rich Pinder's idea to offer a "Birds of a Feather" session,

which is often featured at technical conferences, at the Annual Conference. Rich and I moderated this session, which focused on efficient registry operations, early this morning. If you weren't able to attend, we plan to post a summary of the ideas on the NAACCR website and perhaps in the NAACCR Narrative.

In my role as NAACCR President, I was able to attend the International Association of Cancer Registries' (IACR) Annual Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with central cancer registry staff from throughout the world and learn how we can work with these other registries to make cancer surveillance a world-wide priority. I am also a member of the NCRA Program Committee for the 2009 IACR Annual Meeting, which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. To continue with my interest in international cancer surveillance, I am also participating in the Automation Cancer Registration Work Group, which is working on publishing international data standards. Finally, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council for Cancer Registries, which was held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in May. This was a wonderful chance to learn more about the Canadian cancer surveillance system.

My role as President also had me attending the National Coordinating Council Cancer meetings as well as the Cancer Surveillance Information Summit sponsored by C-Change. The latter meeting made me realize how much we still need to do regarding electronic transmission of cancer surveillance data. A definite travel highlight was a visit to the NAACCR Springfield office, where I had the opportunity to attend a staff meeting as well as meet with each member of the staff. I know that the NAACCR community appreciates their hard work to ensure that all activities are met each year.

I had hoped to attend at least one meeting of each standing committee, but was not able to accomplish that this year due to the time spent on the hiring process. I did manage to attend at least one conference call for the Education, Program, Registry Operations, Uniform Data Standards, and Information Technology Committees. I also participated on the Death Clearance Work Group, the Volume III Work Group, and the Security Work Group.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, Betsy Kohler, the NAACCR Committee Chairs, and members of the NAACCR staff for all your hard work and support during this past year. In the second year of my term, I plan to continue my focus on electronic transmission, data use, collaboration, and globalization. I look forward to working with you all as we continue to work towards timely, complete, and high quality data for cancer control efforts.

Susan T. Gershman
NAACCR President 2007-2009