

# Indiana Abstract

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## President, Gail Henderson, LPN, CTR

*"One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks" ~ Jack Penn*

This quote was shared by an extraordinary physician, Jack Penn - the first president and force behind the establishment of the Association of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. South African born, Dr Penn had an interest in oral surgery and served in London during World War II. Eventually he came to the United States where he established clinics and had academic positions at Oxford, Harvard, Pennsylvania University and several others throughout the world. An author and artist, he wrote a book, "The Right to Look Human" where he gives an autobiography of his quest for not only technical knowledge but his passion for treating the whole patient.

As President of the Indiana Cancer Registrar's Association (ICRA), I hope to reach out to all of those working in the Cancer Registry and programs throughout Indiana. CTR's are the backbone of cancer data collection and cancer program administration; support staff keep the wheels moving and those in training are the future of the profession – all integral parts of "The Registry".

We are excited about the "refurbishing" of our ICRA website and this should be up and running within the next few weeks. We apologize for the downtime over the past few months but we've been busy enlisting a new Webmaster. We'll spice up the look, make it easier for newcomers to find us on search engines and will be offering more comprehensive Registry information throughout the year. Details on the upcoming Fall Workshop will be included. As President, one of my goals is to use this website to promote professional education through links and workshop announcements as well as keeping you informed of updates and changes within the cancer registry profession. We know this upgrade will prove to be a very useful tool for you.

Fall Conference will be here before you know it! Our theme this year is "People, Purpose and Passion – *the Pathway to Success*". Our plan is to provide a workshop that is focused on detailed and comprehensive COC, CS and Fords changes taking place in 2011-2012 while offering you the level of expertise you need to take back real tools of the trade – knowledge. I think you will be impressed with the quality of our speakers. We "heard" your feedback from 2010 and hope you'll plan to attend.

*“One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks” ~Jack Penn*

The role of Cancer Registrars is newly defined every day. Program changes implemented in 2012 will impact the way we think and perform. In April's COC Flash, the cover story explains how the ACOS/COC wants the President, Congress, healthcare leaders and the public to know that common ground can be found while delivering high-quality care. The College has proven ways to improve patient care and reduce costs. The implementation of CP3R, NCDB activities and other performance ratings make us way ahead of the game! As cancer information specialists, we are being called on to produce and monitor more specific, measurable quality data that help identify weak links in our hospital's Cancer Program. Hospitals utilize our tools to gauge where we may be falling short in providing the best possible care for a cancer patient. Survival and treatment outcomes are vital but a patient's navigation through their cancer experience, identification of psychosocial needs and better palliative care programs are a few of the compliance areas the new COC Standards will address. The Flash goes on to state "...quality of care leads to fewer complications and that translates into better outcomes..." We will identify and create new oncology parameters/measures that assist healthcare providers. Scorecards and dashboards are here to stay and CMS' focus on improving care while containing cost will be a challenge for every specialty. New measurements will result in new user defined data fields. Our registry software companies are implementing these as I write.

This year, over 1,500,000 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. and one of these "people" is my husband. Last month, he was diagnosed with oral cancer and "addressing the needs of the cancer patient" has taken on a personal as well as professional meaning. As a wife, I was thankful for the excellent care that Bill received. Michelle, the social worker hooked me up with Caringbridge.org, the dietician, Sue gave me ideas for the soft diet and Pam, RT oncology nurse assured me that he'll get through radiation just fine. Important to note is my friend and colleague, Karen – the CTR who helped us find the best head and neck surgeon in the area. I'm reminded that a Cancer Program is all about the *people*...

Jack Penn was a surgeon with a vision. While pioneering many procedures that improved facial appearance after head and neck cancers, he tells how he met with "stumbling blocks" along the course of his long career. His key to success is obviously attributed to perseverance and the ability to turn adversity into steppingstones. With personal and professional challenges, I look forward to the coming year. I appreciate the support our board is giving me. Until serving on this board, I never realized the sacrifice and hard work they do to keep you informed and bring a great Fall Workshop year after year. I hope you will join me and support this fantastic ICRA team in our efforts to remind you of your path to success – People, purpose and passion.

Respectfully,

Gail Henderson, LPN, CTR

ICRA President

## Greetings from your ICRA Vice President, Jan Duncan, RHIT, CTR

Hello, everyone, hope you all survived the winter and are looking forward to spring. I'm pleased to be serving as vice president for ICRA this year and am looking forward to working with Gail and the Program Committee on events for 2011.

NCRA's Educational Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, from May 15 – 18 this year. The theme is "Enchantment, Enrichment & Education". Pre-conference events include NAPBC Workshop, Central Cancer Registries Workshop, and Survey Savvy Review Workshop (all require separate registration). General sessions include a practicum approach to collaborative staging, guidelines for staffing cancer registries, revised multiple primary rules, and of course, changes to the new survey process. New CTR's will be recognized, vendors will have an exhibition hall, and the annual basket raffle will continue. ICRA will be participating in the basket raffle in 2011.

NCRA has an ongoing Webinar series, including advanced quality abstracting for hematopoietics on April 14 and for pancreas on May 26. The Workload Study Webinar held on December 14, 2010, has been archived and is available.

Some recent updates have been released. One is Appendix C of the SEER Program Code Manual, created to eliminate the use of several manuals. The link is <http://www.seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2010/appendixc.html>. The Collaborative Stage Management Team would also like to make registrars aware that there are updates related to the status of CS version 02.03.02 in January, 2011. Software vendors were notified of this in January, 2011. A user-friendly electronic CS Manual for the new version was due for release in February.

The spring CTR exam is ongoing, and will end on March 19. Application for the fall exam is August 1, and the testing period is September 10 – 24. Passing score is 175 of 250 questions.

The Commission on Cancer published a first draft of revised standards in February, 2011, with the final version due in July. Implementation will begin in 2012. Important changes include cancer committee attendance requirements, presentation of 15% of cases annually, and all abstracting to be done by CTR's, with a three-year phase in for new hires. Patient centered services are expanded to include palliative care, risk assessment and genetics services, patient navigation, distress screening, and survivorship care plans. The Cancer Liaison physician will have an enhanced leadership role, and Cancer Committees will be establishing monitoring plans to use COC quality tools. There will be required performances on quality metrics with care review and corrective plans. Quality metric tools include benchmark and survival reports, cancer practice profile reports, and rapid quality reporting system.

The COC is also expanding collaborations with the American Cancer Society, Patient Support and Advocacy Organizations, and Oncology and Quality Organizations. The perceived value of the new accreditation standards are improved quality care and the ability to demonstrate quality to insurance payers, regulatory agencies, and the public.

Survey online resources have been updated to assist programs with 2011 SAR preparations. Survey Savvy Workshop will also be held in the fall, September 15-16, at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Spa, with registration scheduled to open in June.

Upcoming webinars include New ACS Prostate Cancer Guidelines; Move to the Fast Track: Getting your Cancer Program Ready for the RQRS (April 19); and Understanding NAPBC Components and Standards (May 24). Programs from 2009 and 2010 are still available on-demand at any time of the day or night, seven days a week. Each program is \$50 and offers CE credit. For more information please visit <http://eo2.commpartners.com/users/acs/archived.php>.

I think that about wraps up the current news from NCRA and COC. If anyone knows of Indiana residents who are new CTR's, please let me know at 219-836-4541 or by email [jduncan@comhs.org](mailto:jduncan@comhs.org). ICRA recognizes our new CTR's at the annual fall conference and we certainly do not want to miss anyone. Thanks so much and have a good spring and summer, everyone!



## President-Elect/Audit & Bylaws, Sherry Dowling, CTR

First, I would like to thank Judi Reininga for agreeing to serve on the Bylaws committee again this year. Judi is always ready to help when called upon.

The Bylaws have been revised to incorporate the amendment approved by the membership at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting. The current ICRA Bylaws and the current ICRA Code of Ethics will be coming to you soon on our NEW and improved ICRA website. You will be notified when the new website is up and running.

Article IX: Amendment, Section I - permits voting members to propose an amendment to our Bylaws. ...*Individual voting members may propose amendments provided such amendments are accompanied by a written endorsement of at least five additional voting members...* Proposed amendments from members must be received by this committee before July 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for the 2011 annual business meeting.

This committee will continue to review our bylaws and recommend necessary revisions. If you have suggestions, questions or recommendations please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

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## Cassandra (Cassie) Nobbe, Secretary

This marks my first year holding an ICRA Board member position. My role as Secretary is to take meeting minutes during the board meetings which are scheduled for January, May and September at the Indiana Heart Hospital. I am also responsible for taking minutes at the Annual Business Meeting during our Fall Conference in November. One of my goals for this year is to help ICRA go green, by archiving many years worth of ICRA meeting minutes. I am also working with the Board of Directors to help improve/update our website so we can better communicate and disseminate information to our membership.

As I still consider myself fairly new to the Cancer Registry field and ICRA, I would like to add a section to our future newsletter titled, "Spotlight on a Cancer Registrar." This would allow the membership to get to know a little more about our fellow registrars. Each one of us has a unique story about how or why we became a registrar. I know that I didn't dream of being a cancer registrar as a little girl. I will need help from each one of you to make this happen. If you are interested in sharing your story for our newsletter, please contact me at [cassandra.nobbe@mmch.org](mailto:cassandra.nobbe@mmch.org).

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## Public Relations, Brandy Lewis, CTR

Reminder: Please contact Public Relations if you know of any member who has lost a loved one from their immediate family. ICRA would like to assure them of our genuine concern and support.

We would like to emphasize that the Public Relations Committee always welcomes ideas for the newsletter and encourage articles from you, the membership. You don't need to be on the Board to submit an article. Let's hear from you!

## Treasurer, Lori Carroll, CTR

4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010	October	November	December	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>				<b>\$36,181.75</b>
Income				
Interest (checking)	\$1.22	\$1.03	\$0.59	\$2.84
Fall Conference 2010	\$10,555.50	\$1,125.00		\$11,680.50
Cookbooks		\$81.00		\$81.00
Silent Auction		\$281.00		\$281.00
Ways and Means		\$30.00		\$30.00
Sponsorship		\$600.00		\$600.00
Total	\$10,556.72	\$2,118.03	\$0.59	\$12,675.34
				<b>\$48, 57.09</b>
<b>Total Balance with Income</b>				
Expenses				
Firth Third Certificate of Deposit	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
Fifth Third Transfer to Savings Account	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
Honorariums		\$533.20		\$533.20
Printing-Annual Report		\$529.00		\$529.00
Embassy Suites Hotel-2010 Fall Conference		\$13,447.53		\$13, 47.53
The Trophy Shop-Awards		\$61.00		\$61.00
Misc. Fall Conference (supplies)		\$14.97		\$14.97
Board Expenses(mileage)		\$253.73		\$253.73
Fall Conference Speaker		\$784.32		\$784.32
Total	\$20,000.00	\$15,623.75		\$35,623.75
<b>Ending Balance 12/31/2010</b>				<b>\$13,233.34</b>
Certificate of Deposit Fifth Third Bank				\$10,009.20
Savings Fifth Third Bank				\$10,010.27
<b>Balance of ICRA Treasurer</b>				<b>\$33,252.81</b>

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## Education, Ellen Hurd, LPN, CTR

### ~~~~~Attention all Follow-up staff~~~~~

2011 Education offerings this year will be for you the Follow-up staff!

**Right & Wrong ways to get the follow up you seek?**

As Education chair this year, I would like to focus on the follow up registry staff and their education. I will be hosting a meeting for all follow up staff who wish to attend this free session and educational offerings.

Please register with me via my email address at [Ellen.Hurd@elekta.com](mailto:Ellen.Hurd@elekta.com)

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## Ways & Means Committee, Joann Schultz, RHIT, CTR

Thank you to all who participated in the Silent Auction at the Fall Conference. This year a record 16 members submitted their names for the NCRA scholarship drawing. Due to decrease revenue only one member's registration to NCRA will be paid this year. Congratulations to the winner Wendy Manchester. Hopefully we will have increased revenue at this year's Fall Conference enabling additional members registration to NCRA to be funded.

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## Membership Committee Chair,

### Judi Reininga, CTR

The 2011-2012 Membership drive began with the mailing of renewal applications in February. Non-members of ICRA attending the 2010 Fall Conference were sent information on becoming a member. Dues are still \$25.00 for active membership and \$20.00 for an associate membership. You can avoid a \$5.00 late fee by paying your dues prior to June 1, 2011. Don't forget as a member you will receive the *Indian Abstract* and a discounted registration for the Fall Conference. If you have questions or need information sent to a co-worker, contact me at 812-8588-3049 or [judi.reininga@deaconess.com](mailto:judi.reininga@deaconess.com).

Join me in welcoming Paula Kepner, RHIT, CTR, from Champs Oncology as a new ICRA member.

## Cookbook Update,

### Judi Reininga, CTR

We now have only 39 ICRA Cookbooks left. A thanks to those who bought cookbooks and made donations at the Fall Conference. All profits from the cookbook go into the scholarship fund to supplement the Silent Auction profits. These books are excellent birthday, Mother's Day, wedding shower gifts. At only \$8.00, they are a bargain. I hope you will consider buying just one book at the Fall Conference. You can keep the book for yourself, give as gift, or sell. To date \$1141.13 has been raised from this project. We would like to move forward with a new project but need to deplete the inventory of books first.



## Spotlight on a Cancer Registrar

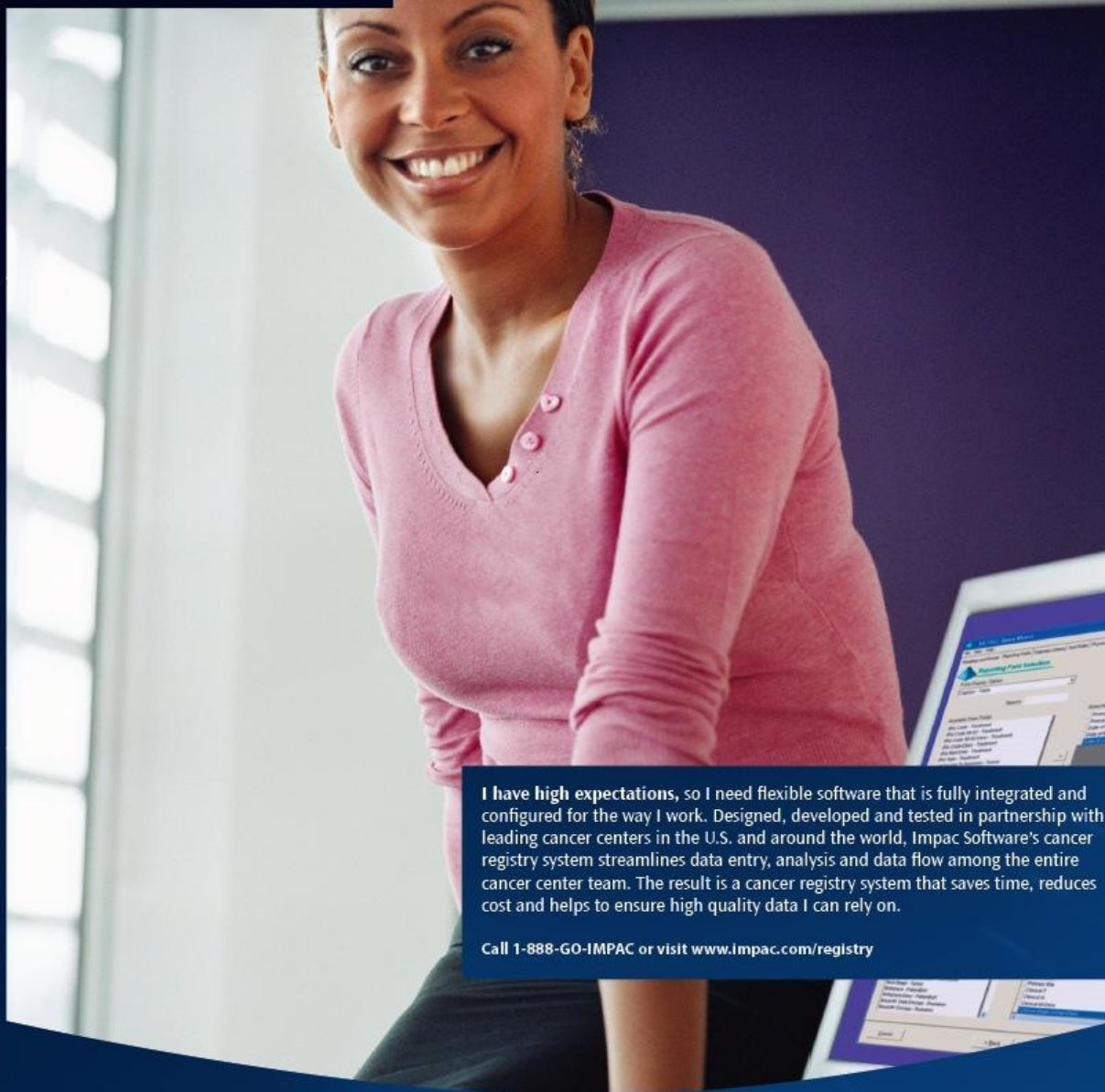


### WAY TO GO TEAM!!!!!!

Schneck Medical Center received the "2010 Relay for Life Team Excellence Award" from the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, for raising over \$10,000 for *Relay for Life*. The award is on display in the Cancer Center. Schneck had three teams in 2010. Receiving the award is Sherry Dowling, Caring Hearts team captain. Other team captains were Sarah Whipker, Bayon's Believers and "Cure"ibbean co-captains, Amberly Brewer & Cathy Hackman. Pictured left to right are Rexanne Ude, SMC leadership representative, Sarah Whipker, Terri Brown, Pat Cockerham, Amy Kinker, Director, Southeast IN Area Service Center, ACS representative, Cathy Hackman, Sherry Dowling, Amberly Brewer, Francis Clark and Susie Lewis.

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Terri Richardson, CTR  
DeKalb Medical Center  
Decatur, GA

"ERS really listens to their customers and updates the system with the cancer registrars' needs in mind."

Cathy Rimmer  
Forsyth Hospital  
Winston-Salem, NC

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Lisa Robinson  
Aurora Healthcare  
Milwaukee, WI

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