



**National Cancer Registrars Association**  
**53rd Annual Educational Conference**  
**Town and Country Resort™ San Diego**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**May 10-13, 2027**

**Abstract Submission Guidance and Topics**

Share your expertise with the cancer registrar community at NCRA's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Educational Conference to be held in San Diego, California, at the Town and Country Resort San Diego, May 10-13, 2027. Oral presentations and poster abstracts will be accepted through the [2027 NCRA Online Abstract Collection Site](#). The submission deadline is Friday, August 14, 2026.

**Submission Guidelines**

Cancer registrars, clinicians, standard setters, national partners, and other cancer registry professionals are encouraged to submit an abstract through NCRA's Online Abstract Collection Site. Submitters may indicate a preference for an oral or poster presentation, but the 2027 Program Committee will make the final decision on presentation format, title, and description.

All oral and poster abstracts must include a short, descriptive title, three learning objectives, and a description of no more than 175 words. Submitters must also provide a bio of up to 150 words for each presenter or author and complete all profile information. Oral abstract proposals may be submitted for plenary sessions (45–60 minutes) or concurrent sessions (30–45 minutes). Submitters must select a session type and, for concurrent sessions, a track. The Program Committee will make the final placement decision.

Do not submit supplemental materials, such as articles, reports, or PowerPoint presentations; the Program Committee will not review them. The abstract submitter will be the primary contact for communications with NCRA and is responsible for informing any co-presenters.

**All selected speakers and poster presenters must present in-person in San Diego, California.**

**Speaker/Poster Presenter Support**

NCRA provides the following support to invited speakers and primary poster author/presenters. *Complimentary conference registration is not provided.*

<b>Plenary Speaker</b>	<b>Concurrent Speaker</b>	<b>Primary Author/Presenter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airfare</li> <li>• One night of accommodation at the Town and Country Resort San Diego</li> <li>• \$200 honorarium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$200 honorarium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$200 honorarium</li> </ul>

## **Abstract Review Process**

NCRA's 2027 Program Committee reviews and scores all submissions. Authors should prepare their abstracts with care, using clear and concise language. This will ensure Program Committee members understand the significance of the topic, the objectives of the presentation, along with its relevance to the cancer registry community. The Program Committee uses the highest scored abstracts to develop the final conference program. Authors of selected abstracts will be notified by mid-November 2026.

## **Requested General Topics**

A list of requested topics is detailed below.

### **Updates from National/Federal Cancer Registry Partners**

- American Cancer Society
- CDC-NPCR
- NCI-SEER
- NAACCR
- Update on cancer surveillance advocacy efforts, review successes, and outline challenges ahead.

### **Update from the American Joint Committee on Cancer**

- Detailed updates and clarifications on the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual rules.
- Review of FAQs submitted to AJCC.

### **Artificial Intelligence/Informatics and the Impact on the Cancer Registry Profession**

- How is AI impacting cancer registries and the work of cancer registrars. Showcase AI tools that help registries with specific tasks, such as case finding, data quality, and productivity. Present detailed examples.
- How are healthcare systems and cancer registries addressing the cost of implementing AI initiatives.
- Address the challenges with interoperability and highlight successes in addressing those challenges.
- Best practices for integrating registry workflows with EHR systems, automation, and AI.
- Demonstrate ways to visually present registry data using data tools like Excel, Power BI, and Tableau.
- Ethical considerations in AI and cancer registry data use.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP) and machine learning for registry operations.

### **Abstracting/Coding/Staging**

- Presentations on how to use manuals and reference materials.
- Showcase common coding errors and review how best to address.
- Extensive updates with detailed explanations of any pending abstraction, collection, and reporting changes planned for 2027 and beyond, including the new and revised SSDIs.
- Detailed review of the anatomy of specific sites to help registrars improve their coding for issues such as primary site, laterality, surgical procedures, distinguishing regional vs. distant, etc.

### **Case Finding**

- Showcase new case finding practices, including how AI has been incorporated into activities.

### **Data Quality**

- Methods for conducting quality assurance, including proven methods and tools, especially AI.
- Outline successful quality improvement initiatives and how to conduct them throughout the year.
- Highlight the value of the ODS credential and its impact on data quality.

## **Data Use**

- Detail the importance of high-quality facility, state, national, and international cancer registry data and illustrate how the data are used to advance cancer treatment and care.
- Explain how cancer data translates to epidemiological studies and funding opportunities.
- Review how to generate useful reports for cancer registry managers to monitor and showcase data trends.

## **Follow-Up**

- Highlight new and innovative ways to address follow-up, including how automation is impacting this process.

## **Pathology**

- Review how to read pathology reports, using specific cases. Pathologists are encouraged to submit.
- Describe the significance of pathology, cytology, consults, addenda, and other lab testing, and their precedence in cancer diagnosis and coding.
- Share updates on synoptic pathology reporting and interoperability and their impact on cancer data quality.
- Showcase the emergence of new tumor markers and genetic markers.

## **Pediatrics**

- Review statistics for cancers in children, adolescents, and young adults (AYA). Highlight the theories on why certain pediatric/AYA cancers are increasing.
- Updates on the treatments for pediatric/AYA cancers.
- Review how to abstract pediatric/AYA cancer cases, including coding, SSDIs, text documentation, and consolidation.

## **Radiation**

- Review how to code radiation therapy for particularly difficult sites (e.g. Head and Neck, Brain/CNS, gynecologic, etc.), highlighting complicated cases.
- Review current and new radiation therapy techniques and explain how cancer registrars should code them.

## **Recurrence**

- Provide specific education for hospital registrars on how to collect recurrence data and/or code it.
- Share perspectives on how clinicians diagnose recurrence (imaging vs. markers) and document recurrence, and on their use of language in disease status (e.g., NED, no active disease, remission, etc.); give examples for prostate, lung, colon, and leukemia.

## **Treatments**

- Highlight new cancer treatments, including systemic therapy (biologic drugs, chemotherapy, immunotherapy), and radiation therapy.
- Review new surgical treatments and updated codes.
- Provide updates on advancements in genetics and precision medicine.

## **CONCURRENT TRACKS**

### **Central Registries**

- Best practices in central registry operations, including data management, quality/audits, education, on-boarding new facilities/physicians, and follow-back procedures.
- How to manage early incidence reporting and increased data flows.
- Highlight ways central registries and hospital registries can communicate better.

- Review advances in data modernization and electronic data exchange.
- Illustrate collaboration projects with Cancer Education and Early Intervention programs.
- Highlight central registry organizational charts and how different roles are used to manage workflow.

### **CoC Cancer Programs**

- Best practices on meeting compliance with operative standards.
- In-depth updates on CoC, NAPBC, and NAPRC standards.
- Information on new or expanding CoC accreditations.
- Quality-focused topics or goals related to NCDB data.
- Showcase how to have successful and meaningful communication with physicians and/or pathologists.

### **Professional Development**

- Highlight ways to improve leadership skills, manage remote staff, and keep your team engaged.
- Showcase the importance of volunteering at the state or national level to develop professionally.
- Demonstrate how cancer registries can support cancer registry student practicums.
- How to use social media platforms to build a network and procure skills to thrive in the cancer registry profession.
- How to build and maintain a robust state cancer registry association.
- Transitioning from individual contributor to leadership roles and building the confidence to lead.
- Developing executive presence and communication skills.
- Stress management and work-life balance.

### **Registry Management**

- Best practices to manage registry workflow and ways to address productivity.
- Outline successful strategies for recruiting and retaining registrars, initiatives to train new registrars, and proven ways to manage contractors or a hospital system's outsourcing contract.
- Best practices in budget development.
- Strategies to support ODS-certified cancer registrars in securing education and training.
- Success at promoting the work of the registry within one's facility.
- Demonstrate ways cancer registry data can drive clinical decision-making.
- Using registry metrics to advocate for staffing/resources
- Succession planning and mentoring future leaders in the cancer registry
- Managing difficult conversations and employee performance.