

February 15, 2021

Iowa Cancer Registrar's Association
Rodney R. Burnett, CTR – President

To: ICRA Members
RE: Greeting and Offer

Dear Members,

As we journey into this current year 2021 and forward, I'm very grateful to have the chance to serve the Iowa Cancer Registrar's Association as president. I have a lot to learn going forward and will lean on our past president Beth Bunn for guidance as I most likely will have many questions. I would like to thank the previous board for serving and they include: Beth Bunn – President, Rhonada Weber – Past President, Erin Hoffa – Vice-President, Kim Williams – Treasurer, and Kelsi Fryauf-Perkins – Secretary. They have done a great job the past two years. Some of their accomplishments include: 1) Developed an exam stipend for new CTR's. 2) Registration fee give-away for two members for the 2019 NCRA Conference 3) Registration fee give-away for ten members to view the 2020 NCRA Virtual Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were able to pay for the registration for ten members. 4) Creation of a new ICRA website. Again, GREAT JOB! You have served the ICRA well. I am very excited to work with our new ICRA board. We have a good group of bright individuals with many years of experience in the cancer registry field. The new board includes the following individuals: Beth Bunn – Past President, Bonnie Thomann – Vice President, Freda Selk – Treasurer, Jean Malo-Roberts – Secretary, and me.

As we move forward as an association, remember you are who make the association. I want to be the voice for our members and to serve your needs. I strongly feel we have some of the best cancer registrars in the country in the State of Iowa. I feel we set the bar for quality and you should be very proud of the work that you do. Our membership includes a mixture of central registry staff and CoC hospital registry staff. I want all members to continue to see value in the ICRA. I want to continue to promote educational opportunities for all and collaboration among all members. I promote transparency for the voicing of any concerns or ideas that members may have.

The ICRA started in 1977 and was initially called the Iowa Tumor Registrar's Association (ITRA). Bylaws were created on March 31, 1977 and the birth of the ITRA happened. The association evolved throughout the years and has seen many changes including a name change to its current Iowa Cancer Registrar's Association (ICRA). We have evolved with changes which have been changes directly affecting our jobs such as staging schema changes, reporting changes, the evolution from abstracting on paper to using computer technology, etc. This past year we have encountered a different challenge, the challenge of dealing with COVID-19 and living in a pandemic. We've learned to adjust our working operations secondary to COVID-19 and we will

continue to thrive and transition going forward during this pandemic. We will view challenges as obstacles, not barriers. We will continue to evolve for the benefits of our members.

What is my vision for the future? I have discussed with the board about the possibility of hosting virtual ICRA educational conferences. We can view this as an opportunity as a virtual conference can provide some benefits. The availability of speakers or presentations can be expanded. We will not be limited to a specific geographical area for speakers which could provide an opportunity for national speakers. We may be able to show recorded presentations. A virtual conference would allow flexibility in scheduling, I.E. Scheduling 4 hrs a day for 2 days, etc... In addition, there would be no travel issues for members to attend, such as bad weather. The obvious goal will be to get back to face-to-face meetings so we can collaborate and enjoy each other's presence once this pandemic is over. We just do not know when that time will be at this point. I would like to continue to work to increase membership. We currently have around 45 members and have lost some recently secondary to retirements. We need to provide value to members to retain membership and to grow our membership. Any ideas for the ICRA to provide more value to members will be appreciated and evaluated. We want to continue to offer more resources to our members.

Our ICRA board recently met and we discussed providing a benefit to members by having the ICRA pay for a certain number of registrations to the 2021 NCRA Virtual Conference which is being held from June 3-5, 2021. The NCRA is offering a group rate for state cancer registry associations. They require a *State Group Registration Form* to be completed and submitted by April 1, 2021 and request one single payment from each association. I would like to get an idea of how many members are interested in attending the 2021 NCRA Virtual Conference. **If you are a current member and are interested in this benefit, please email me at rodney-burnett@uiowa.edu by **February 19, 2021** to notify me you are interested, or you can call me at 319-384-3226. YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER!** After I receive the responses, the board and I will meet to evaluate how many registrations the ICRA can afford to pay within our current ICRA budget. Once the number of registrations the ICRA will pay for is decided, if needed, we will perform a random drawing to select the members who will receive this benefit, only if we have more confirmations than the number of registrations that can be paid. At this time, I believe we will be able to at least match the number of paid registrations for the 2020 NCRA Virtual Conference which was ten. The board will evaluate if this number can be increased, again contingent on the budget. If you have already paid the 2021 NCRA Virtual Conference registration, we will be able to reimburse you if you are selected to receive the benefit.

I want to thank you all again for your support and I look forward to continuing to work with you all to make the ICRA the best that it can be. Thank you.

Rodney R. Burnett, CTR

President of ICRA
