



## New Goal for the GCCR... It Is Here!

By A. Rana Bayakly, GCCR Director

What a great year 2005 is! We made our completeness thanks to all the facilities that worked so hard to make the GCCR 2005 diagnosis year 98% complete by August 2007.

We have come long way in our completeness. Just last year about this time I was panicking, and asking each regional coordinator to contact facilities to bring their 2004 diagnosis year to at least 95%.

Congratulations to all of you, but can we still get better? Yes, of course, and we must do better.

GCCR is being asked by Georgia researchers, the Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC), and by the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR) to be complete in a shorter period of time.

The new GCCR five-year grant cycle just started on July 1, 2007. NPCR is expecting to accomplish 90% completeness

for cancer data 12 months after the close of a calendar year. This goal translates to 90% completeness for the 2006 diagnosis year by December 31, 2007. This must be accomplished by GCCR to continue our current level of funding.

Will this be hard for Georgia? I do not believe so. Our responsible registrars throughout Georgia have been asking for more timely completeness for a while now.

I have been stopped many times during our GCCR annual meetings and GATRA educational meetings by you to ask me this specific question "Why can't the data be complete sooner?" Now is the time to prove to NPCR, GCC, and to Georgia researchers that we can do it.

As of August 31, 2007, GCCR had 84% of the abstracts for 2006 diagnosis year already submitted by large facilities (facilities that have more than 100 cases per

year and submit data electronically).

In order to encourage facilities that procrastinate, GCCR will be implementing the following measures:

1. Facilities that achieve the 95% and 90% goals will be listed in the GCCR Register;
2. Facilities will be asked to resubmit their entire 2006 dataset twice: once by December 31, 2007 and again in September 2008; and
3. Medicare contracts will be changed to read that facilities must meet 90% completeness 12 months after the close of a calendar year and 95% completeness 21 months after the close of a calendar year.

Please review these steps and I do thank you in advance for making the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry one of the top registries in the nation.

## Georgia Data Presented at 2007 CDC Cancer Conference

Atlanta hosted the 2007 CDC Cancer Conference at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency in August. The conference featured several poster presentations containing cancer data from Georgia.

- *Targeting Georgians Living in High and Medium Poverty Counties for Colorectal Cancer Screening Program.* S Singh, AR Bayakly (Georgia Division of Public Health, Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, Atlanta, GA)
- *Associations of Breast Cancer Incidence Rates and Stage at Diagnosis with the County Level Poverty in Georgia.* S Singh, C McNamara, AR Bayakly (Georgia Division of Public Health, Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, Atlanta, GA)
- *Developing an Electronic Cancer Data Reporting system with Secure Web Access: A Collaborative Approach.* A Jamal, AR Bayakly, AJR Cowell (Georgia Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Branch, Atlanta, GA)
- *Recruitment of Cancer Patients for Population-Based Studies in the Rural South: Lessons Learned.* M Goodman, JM Liff, K Steenland, J Fowler, C Crosby, P Roberts, L Almon, K Ward, S Butler, C Dilorio, I Hall, J Lee, D Ekwueme, AR Bayakly (Emory University, Atlanta, GA)
- *Building Partnerships for Population-Bases Studies in the Rural South.* M Goodman, JM Liff, K Steenland, J Fowler, C Crosby, D Fletcher, P Roberts, S Butler, C Dilorio, AR Bayakly, L

Almon, K Ward, I Hall, J Lee, D Ekwueme (Emory University, Atlanta, GA)

- *Quality of Life for Prostate Cancer Patients in Rural Georgia.* K Steenland, M Goodman, JM Liff, J Fowler, C Crosby, P Roberts, L Almon, K Ward, S Butler, C Dilorio, I Hall, J Lee, D Ekwueme, AR Bayakly (Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA)
- *The Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) by Men with Prostate Cancer in a Rural Setting.* S Butler, C Dilorio, F McCarty, K Steenland, M Goodman, J Liff, J Fowler, I Hall, J Lee, D Ekwueme, AR Bayakly, C Crosby (Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA)
- *Creating a Research Network for Population-Based Studies in Rural Georgia.* M Goodman, TW Gillespie, KC Ward, D Fletcher, P Roberts, LA Pollack, LC Richardson, J Lipscomb (Emory University, Atlanta, GA)
- *Completion of Radiation Treatment by Cancer Patients in Rural Georgia.* KC Ward, TW Gillespie, M Goodman, P Roberts, LC Richardson, LA Pollack, J Lipscomb (Emory University, Atlanta, GA)
- *Early Termination of Adjuvant Therapy for Breast and Colorectal Cancers.* TW Gillespie, KC Ward, M Goodman, LC Richardson, LA Pollack, J Lipscomb (Emory University, Atlanta, GA)

## Special Bulletins

**The Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules** are available in three formats: flowchart, matrix and text. It is recommended to choose the one format that works best for you and print the rules in that format. The MP/H Rules manual is

available in PDF format and may be downloaded as a single file or by section at <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/>.

**Beyond the Basics** is an advanced online training course for the 2007 MP/H rules. It is available on the SEER website at

[http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/trainin\\_g\\_advanced.html](http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/trainin_g_advanced.html)

**National Provider Identifiers (NPI)** may be found online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do>.

## Welcome Wagon

Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta has welcomed a new abstractor to their program in the last few months. "I am Dawn Donaldson, age 42. My husband Irvin and I relocated from New Jersey in May, 2006 and bought a home in McDonough. I have

been a CTR for 6 years but I have been in the field for 10 years. I worked at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, New Jersey for 12 years. I have a daughter Brittany who is 18, and she is a freshman at Rutgers University. I am

employed at Piedmont Hospital, and I love it here in Georgia."

Judy Andrews, CTR  
Metro Regional Coordinator

Another registrar in the Metro area is not only new to the hospital, but new to the profession as well. Sheema Ahmed relates that she "previously worked mainly as an analyst/programmer using SAS. I became interested in oncology while

serving as a volunteer at Northside Hospital. I completed the tumor registry certificate program from Ogeechee Tech, and am now working as a Certified Tumor Registrar at the Northside Hospital tumor

registry. As hobbies I like to do gardening, shopping, and sightseeing".

Judy Andrews, CTR  
Metro Regional Coordinator

I would like to welcome Gwen Bankovich to the Southwest Region.

Gwen has accepted the Tumor Registrar's position at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus and will be working with Gladys James there.

She was born and grew up in Atlanta, and now lives in Manchester, GA

with "Rosi" her little rescued dog. She has two children, Jeff and Michelle, and 3 grandchildren, Cheyenne, Brandon and Chloe.

She has been in healthcare for the past 2 ½ years, has an extensive administrative background, and also owned and operated a bed and breakfast for

5 years.

Her hobbies include anything to do with tea (parties, presentations, recipes, etc). Gwen is also an ovarian cancer survivor since Oct. 1999. We are so happy to have Gwen join us!

Carol Crosby, CTR  
Southwest Regional Coordinator

## Blue Ribbon Award



As of August 31, 2007, nine facilities in Georgia have reported 100% of their cases for the 2006 diagnosis year. GCCR would like to thank the following facilities for their outstanding achievement and hard work:

- Cartersville Medical Center
- Coliseum Health System
- Colquitt Regional Medical Center
- Columbus Regional Healthcare System
- Emory Eastside Medical Center
- John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Inc.
- VA Hospital – Augusta
- West Georgia Health System



## Commission on Cancer 2006 CLP Performance Award Winners

The Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) Outstanding Performance Award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond the regular scope of their duties. CLPs were nominated for excellence in the following area(s):

- ✓ Improving the quality of care delivered at a CoC-approved facility
- ✓ Contributing to the Approval status of the cancer program
- ✓ Exceeding CLP expectations to strengthen the cancer program
- ✓ Demonstrating cancer control leadership in the community
- ✓ Serving as a champion and role model for other staff

Please join the CoC and GCCR in congratulating the Georgia liaisons who were awarded for their outstanding performance in 2006!

- James Santoro, MD – Floyd Medical Center
- David W. Retterbush, MD, FACS – South Georgia Medical Center

## New CTRs

The following candidates successfully passed the CTR Exam in March 2007 and formally became Certified Tumor Registrars:

- Mahmoud K. Aboul-Hosn – Tyrone, GA
- Sheema Ahmed – Atlanta, GA
- Yvonne N. Amis – Lithonia, GA
- Aimee R. Bishop – Jonesboro, GA
- Robbin Clark – Ellenwood, GA
- Sandra Farley – Columbus, GA
- Sherita D. Hearn – Atlanta, GA
- Laurie F. Miller – Tifton, GA
- Yolanda M. Nolen – Atlanta, GA
- Renee M. Varner – Decatur, GA

**Congratulations!**

## FAQ's

**Q:** When the SEER Single versus Subsequent Primary of Lymphatic and Hematopoietic Diseases table indicates that a disease is not a new primary, but a pathologist or clinician states that it is a new primary, do we use the physician information or the table?

**A:** If the physician clearly states that this is a new primary, submit it as a new primary. Otherwise, use the Single versus Subsequent Primary of Lymphatic and Hematopoietic Diseases table. (SEER Manual, pg 18)

**Q:** Chemotherapy--Breast: In the absence of more specific information, is the insertion of a port-a-cath one month after mastectomy enough information to code chemotherapy as

recommended?

**A:** Assign chemotherapy code 88 [Chemotherapy was recommended, but it is unknown if it was administered]. Be sure to confirm whether or not treatment was administered and update this code accordingly. (SEER Manual pg 190)

**Q:** A 94 year old patient presents for a routine colonoscopy and is found to have a single polyp in the sigmoid colon. The polyp is removed and the pathology report indicates there is a mucinous adenocarcinoma within the head of the polyp. According to the new MP/H rules, what histology should be coded?

**A:** 8210/3 Adenocarcinoma in an adenomatous polyp.

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## Mark Your Calendars...

### **GCCR/GATRA Annual Training**

**followed by**

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Survivorship Conference**

September 24-28, 2007

Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center

Peachtree City, GA

*GCCR will pay hotel room expenses for registrants whose reporting facility meets the following criteria:*

*By August 2007, the facility is 95% complete for diagnosis year 2005 and 80-90% complete for diagnosis year 2006.*

### **Cancer Registry Training**

*Principles and Practice of Cancer  
Registration, Surveillance, and Control*

October 15-19, 2007

*Complete details are available at <http://www.sph.emory.edu/GCCS>  
Financial aid is available. Contact your regional coordinator.*

### **NAACCR Central Registry Webinars**

*Coding Pitfalls: Collaborative Staging; Multiple Primary/Histology*  
October 25, 2007

*Colon/Rectum Cancer Surveillance Data Collection*  
November 15, 2007

*These webinars have been paid for by GCCR and are available for use by all Georgia facilities. Contact your regional coordinator for details.*

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Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry  
Georgia Department of Human Resources  
2 Peachtree St NW 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

# Thank You Note from the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry

*GCCR thanks the following hospitals for submitting cancer data three months out of three (June, July, and August 2007):*

- Athens Regional Medical Center
- Atlanta Medical Center
- Augusta Plastic Surg Assoc, PC
- Augusta State Medical Prison
- Bacon County Health Services
- Berrien County Hospital
- Bleckley Memorial Hospital
- Brooks County Hospital
- Burke County Hospital
- Calhoun Memorial Hospital
- Candler Health System
- Cartersville Medical Center
- Chatuge Regional Hospital
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Cobb Memorial Hospital
- Coffee Regional Medical Center
- Colquitt Regional Medical Ctr
- Columbus Reg Health Care Sys
- Crisp Regional Hospital
- DeKalb Med Ctr – Central
- DeKalb Med Ctr – Downtown
- DeKalb Med Ctr – Hillandale
- Doctor's Hospital Augusta
- Doctor's Hospital Columbus
- Dodge County Hospital
- Donalsonville Hospital
- Dorminy Medical Center
- Early Memorial Hospital
- East Georgia Regional Med Ctr
- Effingham County Hospital
- Elbert Memorial Hospital
- Emory Adventist Hospital
- Emory Crawford W Long Hosp
- Emory Eastside Medical Center
- Emory John's Creek Medical Ctr
- Emory University Hospital
- Evans Memorial Hospital
- Fairview Park Hospital
- Fannin Regional Hospital
- Fayette Community Hospital
- Flint River Community Hospital
- Floyd Medical Center
- Gordon Hospital
- Grady General Hospital
- Grady Health System
- Gwinnett Health System
- Harbin Clinic
- Hart County Hospital
- Henry Medical Center
- Houston Medical Center
- Hutcheson Medical Center
- Irwin County Hospital
- Jasper Memorial Hospital
- Jeff Davis Hospital
- Jefferson County Hospital
- John D. Archbold Mem Hosp
- Meadows Regional Med Center
- Medical Center of Central GA
- Medical College of Georgia
- Memorial Health Univ Med Ctr
- Memorial Hospital and Manor
- Memorial Hospital of Adel
- Mitchell County Hospital
- Monroe County Hospital
- Morgan Memorial Hospital
- Mountainside Medical Center
- Murray Medical Center
- NE Georgia Medical Center
- Newnan Hospital
- Newton General Hospital
- North Fulton Regional Med Ctr
- Northside Hospital
- Oconee Regional Medical Ctr
- Palmyra Medical Center
- Peach Regional Medical Center
- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hosp
- Phoebe Worth Medical Center
- Piedmont Hospital
- Polk Medical Center
- Redmond Regional Medical Ctr
- Rockdale Hospital
- Satilla Regional Medical Center
- Select Specialty Hospital
- Smith Northview Hospital
- South Fulton Medical Center
- South Georgia Medical Center
- Southern Regional Medical Ctr
- Spalding Regional Hospital
- St Joseph's Hospital – Atlanta
- St Joseph's Candler Health Sys
- St Mary's Health Care System
- Stephens County Hospital
- SW Georgia Regional Med Ctr
- Tanner Health System
- Tattnall Memorial Hospital
- Taylor Regional Hospital
- Telfair Regional Medical Center
- Tift Regional Medical Center
- Trinity Hospital of Augusta
- Union General Hospital
- University Hospital
- VA Medical Center – Atlanta
- VA Medical Center – Augusta
- VA Medical Center – Dublin
- Walton Medical Center
- Warm Springs Medical Center
- Wellstar Health System
- West Georgia Health System
- Wildwood Lifestyle Ctr & Hosp
- Wills Memorial Hospital

*GCCR thanks the following hospitals for submitting cancer data two months out of three (June, July, and August 2007):*

- Appling Health Care System
- BJC Medical Center
- Candler County Hospital
- Charlton Memorial Hospital
- Chestatee Regional Hospital
- Clinch Memorial Hospital
- Coliseum Health System
- Coliseum Northside Hospital
- Habersham County Medical Ctr
- Hamilton Medical Center
- Jenkins County Hospital
- Liberty Regional Medical Center
- Louis Smith Memorial Hospital
- McDuffie Regional Medical Ctr
- North Georgia Medical Center
- Perry Hospital
- Radiation Oncology Services
- Screven County Hospital
- SE GA Health Sys – Brunswick
- SE GA Health Sys – Camden
- Sylvan Grove Hospital
- Upson Regional Medical Center
- Washington Cnty Reg Med Ctr
- Wayne Memorial Hospital
- Wesley Woods Geriatric Hosp
- Wheeler County Hospital

*GCCR thanks the following hospitals for submitting more than 95% of their 2005 cases as of August 31, 2007:*

- Athens Regional Medical Center
- Atlanta Medical Center
- Cartersville Medical Center
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Coliseum Health System
- Colquitt Regional Medical Ctr
- Columbus Reg Health Care Sys
- DeKalb Med Ctr – Central
- Doctor's Hospital Augusta
- Emory Crawford W Long Hosp
- Emory Eastside Medical Center
- Emory University Hospital
- Fairview Park Hospital
- Fayette Community Hospital
- Floyd Medical Center
- Grady Health System
- Gwinnett Health System
- Hamilton Medical Center
- Henry Medical Center
- Houston Medical Center
- Hutcheson Medical Center
- John D. Archbold Mem Hosp
- Medical Center of Central GA
- Memorial Health Univ Med Ctr
- Memorial Hospital and Manor
- NE Georgia Medical Center
- Newnan Hospital
- Newton General Hospital
- North Fulton Regional Med Ctr
- Northside Hospital
- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hosp
- Piedmont Hospital
- Rockdale Hospital
- SE GA Health Sys – Brunswick
- SE GA Health Sys – Camden
- South Fulton Medical Center
- South Georgia Medical Center
- Southern Regional Medical Ctr
- Spalding Regional Hospital
- St Joseph's Candler Health Sys
- St Mary's Health Care System
- Sumter Regional Hospital
- Tift Regional Medical Center
- University Hospital
- VA Medical Center – Atlanta
- VA Medical Center – Dublin
- Wellstar Health System
- West Georgia Health System

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- Coliseum Northside Hospital
- Colquitt Regional Medical Ctr
- Columbus Reg Health Care Sys
- Emory Crawford W Long Hosp
- Emory Eastside Medical Center
- Fairview Park Hospital
- Hamilton Medical Center
- John D. Archbold Mem Hosp
- Medical Center of Central GA
- Memorial Health Univ Med Ctr
- NE Georgia Medical Center
- Newnan Hospital
- North Fulton Regional Med Ctr
- Northside Hospital
- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hosp
- Piedmont Hospital
- SE GA Health Sys – Brunswick
- South Fulton Medical Center
- South Georgia Medical Center
- Southern Regional Medical Ctr
- St Joseph's Candler Health Sys
- Tift Regional Medical Center
- University Hospital
- VA Medical Center – Atlanta
- VA Medical Center – Augusta
- Wellstar Health System
- West Georgia Health System

**Thank you for all of your hard work!**