Palm Beach was a wonderful setting for this year’s annual meeting. Many thanks to the FCRA organizers for choosing such a great venue.

This meeting was very special for the FCDS family. This meeting marked the 25th anniversary of the FCDS. It was our distinct pleasure to have Pat Strait and Doug Palin join us as our special guests for this meeting. Without their individual and collective contributions to the FCDS, we would not have an FCDS as we know it.

Thank you to all the participants for allowing us to indulge in some nostalgia. For those that have been around for the past 10 years, you have seen a great many changes.

But for those that have been working with FCDS since the beginning (and there are quite a few of us), the changes are staggering. Not only in the area of cancer registration and management, but the technology of cancer registration and management has revolutionized what and how we do things. We now have computers in our briefcases that are more powerful than the mainframe we worked on in the 1980’s. The World Wide Web has made it possible to communicate in almost real time. We no longer have to live and work in the same area.

As I am allowed to reflect on the past 25 years, the cancer data management professionals in the State of Florida never cease to amaze me. I have said it so many times before and I will continue to say it: Regardless of what is thrown at you, the professionals in Florida take it in stride and rise to the ‘next level’.

I can’t begin to thank everyone that has been and continues to be involved with the success of FCDS. FCDS is truly a partnership and has a personality that is comprised of bits and pieces of each of its participants.

For those of you that are just entering the field, please keep good care of FCDS because I plan to attend the 50th anniversary meeting in July of 2030.

Thank You and Best Wishes,

Jill MacKinnon

Our thoughts and prayers reach out to our friends, colleagues, and all whom have suffered the devastation caused throughout the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
Miami, FL (September 1, 2005) The Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute at UM/Sylvester is partnering with Mark for Life to raise awareness of the need for breast self-examinations in the battle against breast cancer. This unique partnership is centered around a fashion statement that supports breast cancer prevention. Mark for Life has created a breast self-examination T-shirt to help make it easier for women to take a more proactive role in the fight against this disease. Up to ten percent of all nationwide sales of the T-shirt will benefit the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute.

Mark for Life’s Breast Self-Exam Kit includes a form fitting T-shirt that simplifies early detection. In addition to having the exam pattern printed directly on the T-shirt, women can mark any lumps they find right on their shirt with the enclosed pen. Being able to mark the shirt is especially helpful for women who have fibrous breasts, as it helps to keep a record of what is normal for their breasts. The shirt is sized according to bra size, comes in 7 sizes, and fits 32A - 44H.

“We put a lot of work into developing this T-shirt and creating the perfect product,” said Stacie Linsky, president of Mark for Life. “And it was just as important to us to choose the right cancer center. We chose to partner with the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and its Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute because breast cancer research is truly an important focus and we believe strongly in the work they are doing.”

“It’s just a perfect fit for us since a major focus of our mission is educating our community about cancer prevention and early detection,” said W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, UM/Sylvester. “The reason we’re such a great match is because the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute and Mark for Life are both devoted to the same cause. We’re really excited about this partnership and working with them to promote breast cancer awareness.”

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer strikes more than 211,000 women each year in the United States and more than 40,000 will die. But approximately 97 percent of women survive breast cancer when it’s discovered early. Research shows that women who perform regular breast self-exams find 70 percent of all breast cancer masses. The breast self-examination kit, which includes the T-shirt, is a tool that can empower women, encourage the correct procedure, and increase the effectiveness of self-exams.


Dr. Slingerland and her multidisciplinary team of physician-scientists at the Institute are working to find better ways of providing access to breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and care and to develop new therapies that are less toxic and more effective for breast cancer.

Mark for Life will donate a portion of all proceeds, from sales nationwide, to the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute at UM/Sylvester. Through the generous $5 million gift in 2002 from the Norman and Irma Braman Family Foundation, UM/Sylvester created the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute, which combines basic science with clinical trials and world-class care to discover more effective treatments for breast cancer patients, with the ultimate goal of curing this disease. The Institute offers an innovative research and treatment environment unlike any other in the nation.

For more information visit http://www.sylvester.org, and www.MarkforLife.com

Source: Miller School of Medicine website

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**FCDS Abstracting Workshop**

**November 10—11, 2005 • DoubleTree Hotel—Coconut Grove, FL**

Visit FCDS Website at http://fcds.med.miami.edu under ‘What’s New’ Tab for brochure or call Bleu Thompson at 305-243-2635
OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The third Friday in October each year is National Mammography Day, first proclaimed by President Clinton in 1993. On this day, or throughout the month, we encourage women to make a mammography appointment.

In 2005, National Mammography Day will be celebrated on October 21.

To find a facility in your area, please call:
American Cancer Society (800) 227-2345
National Cancer Institute (800) 4-CANCER

Source: http://www.nbcam.org

NAACCR Process Improvement Program

Visit the NAACCR website at http://www.naaccr.org and click on the “Education & Training” button to find out if you are eligible to apply for the NAACCR Process Improvement Program. Organizations such as regional, state/province, and local cancer registry associations, as well as other groups of cancer registry professionals may qualify. Closing dates for the applications are: March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31.

New Staff Members

Please join us in welcoming Sarah Manson, BS, RHIT, CTR and Recinda Sherman, CTR to the FCDS staff.

Sarah relocated from Chicago, Illinois previously holding a position at the University of Chicago Hospital and joined our staff in the Quality Control division this June.

Recinda relocated from Portland, Oregon previously holding a position in the Oregon State Cancer Registry, she joined our staff in August and is responsible for data analysis in the Statistics division.

Collaborative Staging – Update

Replacement pages Melanoma Scheme Only is now available. Visit: http://www.cancerstaging.org/cstage to download your copies.
2005 Reabstracting and Casefinding Audits

As part of the FCDS requirements, each year facilities are randomly selected for the reabstracting and casefinding audits. This year FCDS has contracted with The Sein Group to perform the audits. All facilities that were randomly selected have been contacted with the schedule for the audit. The diagnosis year for the cases to be reabstracted is 2003 and will only include analytical cases. The Collaborative Staging Fields will not be audited for this year.

What facilities need to do prior to the audit:

- Coordinate with the Health Information Management/Medical Records Department to have the list of medical records requested available for review.
- Coordinate with the Pathology Laboratory Department to have all Surgical Pathology Reports, Bone Marrow Biopsy Reports and Autopsy Reports for the months of February, June and October, 2003 available for review.
- Arrange a workspace large enough to accommodate one or two people with enough desk space to spread out reference manuals, medical records, etc.

All audits performed by FCDS are mandated and monitored by the Florida Department of Health. Please contact your Field Coordinator at 305 243-4600 if you have any questions.

Completeness Report

As of September 30, 2005
Calendar Year 2005
11% Complete — 25% Expected