

# Register

A joint project of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
and the Florida Department of Health

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Volume 41 – October, 2008



## FCDS Annual Conference 2008 in Sunrise, Florida

By Gary Levin, CTR

The Crowne Plaza Hotel at Sawgrass Mills in Sunrise was the backdrop for this year's FCDS Annual Conference. The conference was held July 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. The Crowne Plaza has easy access to I-95, I-595 and I-75 as well as being 12 miles from Fort Lauderdale Airport. Located across the street from the Sawgrass Mills Mall, the participants were treated to a variety of restaurants, movies and shopping. From what could be seen, many partook in this activity.

We are very happy to announce that this year's meeting had 132 registered participants. The attendees came from varying backgrounds including hospital based registrars, contract registrars, radiation treatment centers, ambulatory surgery centers, researchers, doctors, epidemiologists, administrators and software vendors.

Day 1 of our meeting started with a warm "Welcome and Introduction" from Dr. Youjie Huang of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Dr. Fleming and Dr. MacKinnon of FCDS. After the initial welcome and introduction, the meeting was underway with program updates and information from "FCDS" presented by Dr. MacKinnon, "The Florida Department of Health" presented by Ms. Tara Hylton and the "Center for Disease

Control (CDC) and the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR)" presented by our Program Consultant Ms. Karen Ledford. We were also happy to welcome our new Program Consultant from NPCR, Ms. Jean Ewing. Completing the meetings first segment, Mayra Alvarez brought the attendees up to date on the changes in "NAACCR 11.2/Collaborative Staging Version 01.04".

After a brief break, the morning session continued with very informative and interesting presentations on: "GIS – Address Edits – Why?" by Recinda Sherman, "Paperless Office" by Sarah Manson, "Environmental Public Health Tracking" by Dr. Greg Kearney of FDOH and concluded with a presentation by the current President of NAACCR and Director of the Massachusetts Central Cancer Registry, Dr. Susan Gershman on the inter-workings of the "North American Association of Central Cancer Registries" or N A A C C R (pronounced NAY SIR).

Following the lunch break, the meeting continued with Dr. Nadji's very

interesting presentation on "Bladder Cancer: A Pathologists View and Kaposi Sarcoma: Is it a single disease?". The next group of presentations included "Disparities in Cancer Care in Florida: What the FCDS tells us" by Dr. Leonidas Koniaris and "Esophageal Cancer – Effects of Tobacco and Socio-Economic Status" by Dr. Lora Fleming and Dr. Jill MacKinnon. Concluding the first segment of the afternoon session was Dr. Paulo Pinheiro who discussed methodologies in "Coding Ethnicity". After the break, the final presentation for the day was a "Quality Control Annual Update" which was presented by Sarah Manson. This led us into a new and exciting segment of the conference entitled "Process

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Improvement". During this segment the participants were broken into six discussion groups.

Each group designated a name and a representative.

The group names included "The Peanut Gallery", "The Purple Pen Pals", "The Prolific Group", "The



Dynamic Cancer Registry Professionals", "The Innovators" and "Edith's Angels". Each group was assigned the following two questions:

1. With regard to education/training, what three topic areas do you feel will enhance your knowledge/productivity? What is the preferred method of training (ie, webinar, face to face, on-demand web based, etc)?
2. With regard to process improvement, what three suggestions would you have to improve the FCDS Internet Data Entry and Acquisition (IDEA) to make your processing more efficient (ie, additional reports, enhance current modules, develop additional modules, etc)?

Based on a time limit, each group's representative went to the podium and expressed the recommendations they derived. During and after each group, constructive discussion took place which was extremely valuable for the future path of process improvement. For group answers to these questions please visit the FCDS web site at:

<http://fcds.med.miami.edu/downloads/Annual2008/Process%20Improvement%20results.pdf>

The days' functions concluded with an invitation by Dr. Jill MacKinnon to the FCDS Reception from 6-8PM. The reception was a relaxing and enjoyable evening among friends and colleagues. All in all, it was a fun evening with plenty of food, music and dancing. All thanks to our sponsors: Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

The following day of our conference was dedicated to education and training. Participants were able to select from "Abstracting for Beginners - Basic Incidence Abstracting Training" presented by the FCDS Staff or "Advanced Training - Lymphomas and CNS" presented by

April Fritz. Both trainings took place simultaneously and concluded at noon.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all of the presenters at this year's conference and a special thanks to our guest speakers: Dr. Youjie Huang, Ms. Tara Hylton, Ms. Karen Ledford, Dr. Greg Kearney, Dr. Susan Gershman, Dr. Nadji, Dr. Leonidas Koniaris, April Fritz and Dr. Lora Fleming for taking time out of their busy schedules to be a part of our conference this year.

Thanks to all the participants who attended. All your hard work makes this possible. We look forward to seeing you next year in Jacksonville, Florida.

NCRA approved the program for 9.0 CE. NCRA Recognition Number is 2008-107.

For your convenience, some of the topics from the annual conference can be downloaded from our web site at:

<http://fcds.med.miami.edu/inc/downloads.shtml#annual>



## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2008

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America



During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to fighting and preventing this devastating disease. Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer among women, and we must strengthen our support of those who are living with this disease while continuing to work toward a cure.

Breast cancer can be attributed to many factors, including age, genetics, obesity, and family history. Women who exercise regularly, maintain healthy diets, and have yearly visits with their doctors are less likely to get breast cancer. Various screening measures such as mammograms, regular breast self-exams, and clinical breast exams can help detect cancer before it has a chance to spread. Early detection allows for early intervention, helps make treatment more effective, and gives hope to patients and saves lives.

America leads the world in medical research, and my Administration will continue to support efforts to treat and cure breast cancer. Since 2005, the Cancer Genome Atlas has studied the genetic sources of all types of cancer, and last year, I signed the "National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007," which will help millions of low-income and uninsured women get the screenings they need to detect cancer early. First Lady Laura Bush has encouraged women around the world to take charge of their health and emphasized the importance of screenings and early detection. In partnership with Federal agencies, State health agencies, and other medical professionals, my Administration has taken action to improve our Nation's healthcare system and helped promote the prevention, detection, and treatment of breast cancer.

This month, we honor those currently battling the disease and all who have survived the fight against breast cancer. We are inspired by their strength and determination. We recognize and applaud the hard-working caregivers and researchers who are dedicated to providing comfort and assistance to those with breast cancer and to treating and curing this disease. We also remember those lost to breast cancer and extend our thoughts and prayers to their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2008 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon Government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and the people of the United States to continue our Nation's strong commitment to preventing, treating, and ultimately curing breast cancer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/10/20081001-11.html>

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## NAACCR CANCER REGISTRY & SURVEILLANCE WEBINAR SERIES 2008—2009

- Time:** 9:00 am—1:00 pm
- Locations:** Boca Raton Community Hospital (Boca Raton, FL)  
Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, FL)  
Shands University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)
- Contact:** Meg Herna at 305-243-2625 or mhera@med.miami.edu
- To Register:** <http://fcds.med.miami.edu>
- Information:** <http://www.naaccr.org/filesystem/pdf/2008-2009%20webinar%20schedule.pdf>
- Dates:**
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 ✧ Collecting Cancer Data: Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Other Hematopoietic Malignancies
  - January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ✧ Measuring and Minimizing the Disclosure Risk of a Cancer Data Public Use File
  - February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ✧ Collecting Cancer Data: Pharynx

## PRINCIPLES OF ONCOLOGY FOR CANCER REGISTRY PROFESSIONALS

- Date:** December 8—12, 2008
- Location:** Reno, NV
- Website:** <http://www.afritz.org>

## CANCER REPORTS AVAILABLE ON THE DOH WEBSITE:

**Uterine Cancer in Florida, 2004** at:

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/cancer/Uterine\\_Report.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/Uterine_Report.pdf)

**Ovarian Cancer in Florida, 2004** at:

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/cancer/Ovarian\\_Report.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/Ovarian_Report.pdf)

**Cancers of Vagina, Vulva, and Other Rare Gynecological Cancers in Florida, 2004**

at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/cancer/Gyn\\_Report.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/Gyn_Report.pdf)

For questions pertaining to these reports, please contact:

Aruna Surendera Babu, Statistical Analyst; Bureau of Epidemiology

Voice: (850) 245-4444 Ext. 2418

## COMPLETENESS REPORT—2008 CASE REPORTING

Month	Complete	Expected
July 2008	1%	8%
August 2008	3%	17%
September 2008	12%	25%

*The art of being wise  
is the art of knowing  
what to overlook.*

*William James*

# Promoting the Use of the FCDS Cancer Registry Data

By Gary Levin, CTR

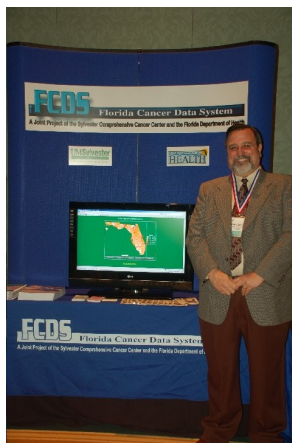
FCDS has been promoting the use of the cancer data we collect statewide. This year FCDS has participated in several statewide meetings with the hopes of alerting public health officials of the availability of our high quality and rich cancer data set. FCDS was a proud exhibitor at the following meetings:


- Florida Department of Health Statewide Epidemiology Conference in Orlando, FL on May 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Florida Public Health Association Annual Educational Conference in Orlando, Florida on July 29<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Florida Environmental Health Association Conference in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on August 11<sup>th</sup> - August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit in Tampa, Florida on August 13<sup>th</sup> - August 15<sup>th</sup>.

During these conferences we were able to meet with various state and county health department individuals, as well as many of the state university public health schools. The ultimate goal in attending these conferences is to make health department staff aware of what tools are currently available for their use. In addition, FCDS wants to promote the usage of this high quality data set for publications and research.

This data set is available due to the hard work of all the cancer registrars and reporting facilities throughout our state. We would like to thank each of you for all the detailed and quality work performed and your contribution to the reduction of the burden of cancer.

If you have any need for the cancer registry data please visit our web site and review the documentation on how to request data. This information can be found at the following link: <http://fcds.med.miami.edu/inc/datarequest.shtml>.





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*A joint project of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Florida Department of Health*

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The FCRA/FCDS Task Force is actively working on many issues that all registrars are facing. If you have any questions, issues or suggestions that you would like the task force to review, please email them to [taskforce@fcra.org](mailto:taskforce@fcra.org).

The task force meets the first Thursday of every month. We will respond back to your inquiries as quickly as possible.



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