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April 2, 2020

National Cancer Registrars Week is April 6-10, 2020. As president of NAACCR, I want to take a moment to congratulate and thank all of you for your efforts.

This year's theme is "Cancer Registrars: 2020 Vision for the Future". The irony of this theme is not lost as we experience this unprecedented COVID-19 worldwide pandemic – who could have predicted how drastically our lives would change in such a short time? I know one thing for certain about our amazing cancer surveillance community: we are adaptable and resilient. And we will get through these challenging times. And I believe we have a more important job than ever, which is to capture the data on cancer patients in such a way as to chronicle the story of the downstream effects of the pandemic on cancer patients. The people we strive to help through our work will be disproportionately affected through delayed screening and treatment, and perhaps an increased mortality rate due to a COVID-19 infection. We will not know the magnitude of these effects without you.

We also could not have predicted that we would have to celebrate National Cancer Registrars Week virtually – but celebrate we must! Cancer registrars have built an incomparable resource through their knowledge, professionalism, and dedication. Each and every one of you -- whether hospital-based or central registry-based -- contribute to our continued understanding of the burden of cancer in North America and beyond. So please celebrate your successes and contributions as best you can – it's well deserved.

I offer my congratulations once again to all registrars and to our colleagues at the National Cancer Registrars Association who provide phenomenal support to the surveillance community to ensure we continue to collect high quality data used to improve cancer prevention and outcomes for cancer patients and survivors.

Best Wishes,

Randi K. Rycroft, MSPH, CTR  
President  
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries

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