

# THE COALITION VOICE

**A newsletter of the  
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition  
July 2006**

**Inside:**

*List of Smoke-Free Cities Grows  
TCC Welcomes New Program Specialist  
Pain Study Announced*



## NEWS MAKERS

### ***Texas Cancer Registry is Good as Gold***

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) is a statewide cancer surveillance system administered by the Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch of the Texas Department of State Health Services. The purpose of the TCR is to collect, analyze, and disseminate population-based cancer incidence data to reduce the burden of cancer in Texas. Approximately 200,000 reports of cancer are received annually from approximately 500 health care facilities located throughout the state.

The TCR was recently awarded Gold Certification by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), indicating that the registry has achieved the highest standard of quality among central cancer registries. Certification levels of gold and silver are awarded based on a rigorous review of cancer registry timeliness, completeness, and quality of cancer registry data. Based on the NAACCR call for data submitted in December 2005, the TCR earned the NAACCR Gold Certification of its 2003 cancer incidence data.



*L-R: John Hopkins and Nancy Weiss of the Texas Cancer Registry are congratulated by Coalition chair, Mary Lou Adams.*

The NAACCR is a professional organization that develops and promotes uniform data standards for cancer registration; provides education and training; certifies population-based registries; aggregates and publishes data from central cancer registries; and promotes the use of cancer surveillance data and systems for cancer control and epidemiologic research, public health programs, and patient care to reduce the burden of cancer in North America. To be eligible for gold certification, a registry must meet a number of criteria and standards, including at least a 95% completeness level, timely availability of the data (within 24 months of close of accession year), less than a 0.1% case duplication rate, at least a 99% error free rate, and no more than 3% of cases identified solely from death records.

Achievement of NAACCR Gold Certification was possible this year due to increased legislature funding to enhance the TCR's infrastructure. Support from academic partners and the cooperation of health care facilities and associated health professionals in timely reporting of cancer case information to the TCR contributed to this success. The NAACCR Gold Certification will lead to new funding and research opportunities for the TCR, the research community and the cancer control community in general. Gold certification also ensures that Texas cancer incidence data are complete and of high quality for purposes of conducting research, performing investigations of possible cancer clusters and making decisions regarding allocation of dollars and resources for cancer prevention and control efforts. Now that NAACCR Gold Certification has been obtained, the TCR is working towards ensuring that appropriate infrastructure remains in place to retain certification in future years.

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**NEWS FROM  
COALITION  
PARTNERS**

***Texas Approves \$1.00 Per Pack Cigarette Tax Increase***

After a four-year campaign of phone calls, e-mails, and letters from advocates in support of a long overdue cigarette tax increase, the Texas Legislature passed a \$1 per pack cigarette tax increase during the recent special legislative session. The bill, recently signed by Governor Perry after passage through the Texas House and Senate, will increase Texas' cigarette tax for the first time since 1990.

The cigarette tax will increase from 41 cents to \$1.41 per pack when it takes effect January 1, 2007. Big Tobacco pulled out all the stops, spending almost \$3 million trying to defeat the legislation that will effectively decrease smoking rates and the toll tobacco takes on Americans. The cigarette tax increase will save 128,800 Texans (adults and children) from smoking-caused deaths and prevent 284,200 Texas youth from ever starting to smoke.

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***Another Round of Texas Communities Go Smoke-Free***

Last month, the cities of Beaumont, Victoria, and Laredo joined the ranks of communities who are 100% smoke-free. The residents of more than 40 towns and cities in Texas are now breathing easier under strong smoke-free ordinances. However, Coalition partners and cancer-control advocates across Texas must remain vigilant and poised to help these communities fight any attempts to weaken the ordinances.

If you are interested in working on a smoke-free ordinance for your city and would like to see what other cities have done, the interactive Texas smoke-free ordinance database website allows users to download text of local ordinances (PDF files) and/or view corresponding summary profiles evaluating the ordinance for each municipality. Users can generate customized reports that compare ordinances at the state, public health region, and county level. These reports can be further customized by the user specification of population size range and percentage of minority population coverage of interest. View the Texas smoke-free ordinance database at: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/tobacco/ordinance.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tobacco/ordinance.shtm)

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### **TCC Welcomes New Program Specialist**

Michelle Frerich (pronounced Fair-ick) joined the Texas Cancer Council June 20 as a Program Specialist. Her work at TCC will focus on tracking, verifying, and analyzing program performance measurements and providing technical assistance to programs. Prior to joining TCC, Michelle worked as a cancer information specialist with the American Cancer Society where she provided cancer information to patients, caregivers, and other callers. She also has experience in home health and third-party administration for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Michelle holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.



*Michelle Frerich, new TCC Program Specialist.*

**2006 Texas Comprehensive  
Cancer Control Coalition  
Meeting Dates**

**August 24-Austin  
November 9-Austin**

[www.texascancercoalition.org](http://www.texascancercoalition.org)

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### **TCC Wins Governor's Cup**



*L-R: Jane Osmond, Michelle Huddleston, Yvette Jimenez, Stephanie Uecker, Lisa Nelson, and Sandra Balderrama with TCC's third Governor's Cup.*

With 100% staff participation, the Texas Cancer Council won the Texas Round-Up Governor's Cup for the third consecutive year in the small state agency category. The Texas Round-Up is a statewide fitness initiative to encourage adults and kids to incorporate daily physical activity into their lives.

### **Partnering to Study Pain**

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is joining the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Lance Armstrong Foundation in an unprecedented public policy collaboration to promote better pain control. The three groups announced June 14 that they are jointly funding a nationwide project to evaluate pain management policies in the United States.

The funding will be applied as a three-year grant to the Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) at the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center to examine policies that govern pain management practices for cancer patients in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. PPSG will issue three report cards during the life of the grant that grade states on their pain policies. The first report card will be issued in September.

PPSG is headed by David E. Joranson, MSSW, and Aaron M. Gilson, PhD, internationally known experts on pain control policy who implemented a first-of-its-kind study in 2003 comparing pain policies throughout the country. The results of that study, reported in *Achieving Balance in State Pain Policy: A Progress Report Card*, revealed positive trends in many states, but also showed that much more progress can be made. A total of 38 states received a grade of C or worse, demonstrating inadequacies in their pain management policies.

Many states reacted to the 2003 report by amending their policies to be more balanced. The grant announced this week is intended to identify where progress is needed to encourage positive momentum for pain relief and palliative care.

This is particularly timely for ACS, as the Texas Cancer Pain Initiative collaborative effort will be hosting an August 2006 Pain Summit to foster dialogue between health professionals and the state's regulatory and licensing bodies, the outcome of which will be the development of consensus recommendations intended to be published and used to:

- Inform & guide regulatory, legislative & law enforcement bodies as they develop, implement, and enforce pain policies & laws
- Create/heighten public awareness
- Educate health professionals, patients and families
- Empower pain patients to advocate for the care that they need
- Inform and guide health professional school curriculum decision makers

The overall outcome of the Summit is to improve the Texas Scorecard from Grade C to Grade B. For further information about the Summit contact ACS staffers Helen Petty (512) 919-1827 or Karen Torges (512) 919-1884.

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## RESOURCES

### **Healthy Recipes Just a Click Away**

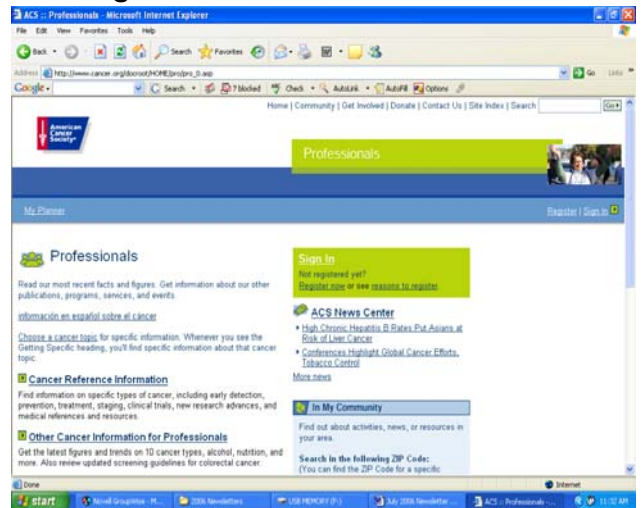
*The Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans (CNNT)* produces *NSights*, a monthly newsletter, that includes a feature story covering important cancer nutrition topics, current events in cancer nutrition, and kitchen tested healthy recipes. Visit [www.utmb.edu/nsights/newsletter.htm](http://www.utmb.edu/nsights/newsletter.htm) to sign up for your copy of the *NSights* newsletter today.

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## For Professionals on Cancer.org

If you have not already done so, you may like to review the [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) web content for professionals. This is a great place to refer health care professionals for tools, fact sheets, presentations, and other helpful educational resources. Recent upgrades to the site include a link (below) to easy reading health information for people with low health literacy or limited English

proficiency: [www.cancer.org/easyreading](http://www.cancer.org/easyreading). The content for professionals can be reached at [www.cancer.org/docroot/HOME/pro/pro\\_0.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/HOME/pro/pro_0.asp).



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## NCI Ride-On

If the National Cancer Institute (NCI) ordering limits make it difficult for you to supply NCI materials to all your patients, you may be interested in purchasing your own supplies. An economical way to do this is to "Ride-On" the NCI print order. A Ride-On is a way of adding on the number of copies you want to the print order that NCI submits to its printer.

NCI is printing many patient education brochures this summer which makes it an ideal time to consider purchasing your own supplies. Coming soon, there will be Ride-On printing opportunities for:

- *Eating Hints*
- *Coping with Advanced Cancer*
- *When Cancer Returns*
- *Facing Forward: Life After Cancer Treatment*
- *Trainer's Guide for Cancer Education*
- *When Your Parent Has Cancer: A Guide for Teens*
- *When Your Brother or Sister Has Cancer: A Guide for Teens*
- *What You Need To Know About™ Cancer publication series: Cancer of the Colon and Rectum Ovarian Cancer*

Later this year and in early 2007, new versions of *Radiation Therapy and You* and *Chemotherapy and You*, both in English and Spanish, will be printed.

Please e-mail [ncipoetinfo@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ncipoetinfo@mail.nih.gov) for a Ride-On fact sheet or for more information.

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### ***Shade Planning for America's Schools***

Childhood sunburns can cause skin cancer. Fortunately, skin cancer is often preventable. And, school is a great place to expose kids to sun safety lessons that can make a lifelong difference. The *Shade Planning for American's Schools* manual provides information to help schools create and maintain a physical environment that supports sun safety by ensuring that school grounds have adequate shade. The manual also explains how school administrators, staff, parents, and community healthcare service providers can promote sun safety. You can download the manual at [www.skincancerprevention.org](http://www.skincancerprevention.org)

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### ***Scholarships for Nurses:***

#### ***Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Training Course***

Each scholarship of \$200 covers the two-day course fee only. Topics include the preparation, handling, and administration of antineoplastic drugs. Discussion of nursing interventions, policies, and procedures based on ONS guidelines is included.

Course location: MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

Contact hours: 15.3

**Course dates: July 12-13 or August 16-17**

For eligibility requirements and an application, call (800) 515-6770 or Visit [www.noeptexas.org](http://www.noeptexas.org).

*The Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP)* is a project of the Texas Nurses Association/Foundation (TNA/F) funded by the Texas Cancer Council. TNA/F is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity meets Type I criteria for mandatory continuing education requirements toward relicensure established by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

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### ***NOEP 2006 Training Dates***

<b>August 15-17</b>	Texas Rural Health Association Conference, Austin
<b>September 15</b>	Survivorship, Pain and Palliative Care, Paris
<b>September 15-16</b>	Oncology Nurse Review Course, San Antonio
<b>September 15-16</b>	Texas Nurses Assoc. Leadership Conference, Austin
<b>September 22</b>	Breast and Gynecological Cancers, Laredo
<b>October 7</b>	Pain Management, Austin
<b>October 26-29</b>	Texas Nurse Practitioner's Conference, San Antonio
<b>October TBA</b>	Pain, Nutrition, and Oral Care, College Station

For information or to register for NOEP training, visit [www.noeptexas.org](http://www.noeptexas.org) or call (800) 515-6770.

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### ***CNNT Presents: "Cancer Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity"***

*The Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans (CNNT)* will be traveling to Lubbock, McAllen, Longview, Victoria, and Ft. Worth this summer presenting "Cancer Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity" to survivors. This presentation addresses the role of nutrition for survivors, obesity trends in the United States, and the links between some cancers and obesity. For more information or to schedule a workshop in your community, please contact Libby Smith at (409) 747-2239 or [easmith@utmb.edu](mailto:easmith@utmb.edu).

### **Texas Cancer Registry Training**

The Texas Cancer Registry will be hosting mini-educational regional conferences across Texas. This year's conference theme is "*Consistency in Cancer Data – Improvement for a Better Tomorrow.*" A wide variety of topics will be presented including a TCR update, revisions of collaborative staging, and multiple primaries. Cancer reporters may register for the mini-educational regional conferences online at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr).

- **July 12** Houston
- **July 13-14** Fort Worth
- **July 20-21** Lubbock
- **July 27-28** McAllen

The Texas Cancer Registry is also hosting technical trainings for our state cancer reporters. John Young Jr., DrPH, CTR, of Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University will be conducting the training. The objective of the training is to provide hands-on technical assistance to state reporters at all levels for improving the completeness, timeliness, and quality of cancer data reported in Texas. Cancer reporters may register for the technical training online at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr).

- **August 7-8** Tyler
- **August 10-11** Irving
- **August 14-15** Houston
- **August 17-18** McAllen
- **August 29-30** San Antonio

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### **Cancer Survivorship: Embracing the Future**

Third Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference, **October 4-6, 2006**, Bethesda North Marriott Hotel, Bethesda, MD.  
[www.blsmeetings.net/survivorship06](http://www.blsmeetings.net/survivorship06).

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### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Approach to Symptom Control, Palliative, and Hospice Care Conference**

**October 7-8, 2006** at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.

The following board reviews will be offered:

- Palliative Care Board Review – October 5-6, 2006 (ABHPM Board Review)
- Hospice and Palliative Generalist Nurse Certification Review October 6, 2006

Contact Veronica Kathukya at (713) 745-4125 or [vmkathuky@mdanderson.org](mailto:vmkathuky@mdanderson.org) to register.

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### **Surgical Management of Breast Disease for the General Surgeon**

**November 17 and 18, 2006** at the El Paso Marriott. Contact (410) 992-5470 or [mboyer@breastsurgeons.org](mailto:mboyer@breastsurgeons.org). Presented by the American Society of Breast Surgeons. For program brochure and registration information visit: [www.breastsurgeons.org/PDF/regionalcourses\\_2006.pdf](http://www.breastsurgeons.org/PDF/regionalcourses_2006.pdf).

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*Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter feedback to Stephanie Uecker, [suecker@tcc.state.tx.us](mailto:suecker@tcc.state.tx.us) or call (512) 438-3096. News items are collected from a variety of sources including the media and our cancer-control partners throughout the state.*