

2021 NPCR OREGON SUCCESS STORY

Oregon State Cancer Registry: Todd Beran; Linda Shan

Quality Partners Assure Quality Data

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The Oregon State Cancer Registry (OSCaR) is partnering with the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to increase Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) capacity and improve cancer data quality. This growing partnership has helped to see OSCaR's CTR support grow by almost four-fold over the past two years. OSCaR is working to formalize this partnership through an intergovernmental agreement and further leverage OHSU's extensive resources. The goal is to improve data quality while reducing the overall burden of cancer reporting.

CHALLENGE

Since its inception in 1996, OSCaR has been funded solely by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries. Moreover, as operating costs continue to rise every year and salaries may not be competitive with hospitals or other facilities to hire and retain CTRs, OSCaR has seen its CTR capacity shrink.

SOLUTION

OSCaR is partnering with OHSU to increase CTR capacity. In recent years this partnership was developed and maintained through a cancer case abstraction and quality assurance support contract that was small relative to overall operating costs. However, in recent years that contract has increased in size and scope. The driver for this partnership has been the value OHSU faculty and staff have seen in cancer data and the role that OHSU sees OSCaR play as Oregon's central cancer registry. OHSU faculty and staff have been very involved with OSCaR's research branch over the years. Many of them conducted research to assess cancer screening and treatment programs using OSCaR data. Now OSCaR is working on expanding the scope of this partnership even further through an intergovernmental agreement with OHSU. The end goal is to delegate all OSCaR operations to OHSU. The benefit of this agreement will allow OSCaR to leverage additional resources through the OHSU Hospital and associated Knight Cancer Institute. Resources include administration, information technology support, research infrastructure, and additional CTR capacity.

RESULTS

Since 2019, this partnership has seen OSCaR's CTR capacity grow from 1 to almost four (4) full-time employees. In addition, current negotiations are underway to add at least another half-time employee with the possibility of garnering additional staff, including dedicated IT personnel to support software and database updates.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

While OHSU is a dedicated partner, sustaining excellence with OSCaR operations will not be easy. Cancer reporting continues to drain the health systems and clinics required to report, so while quality assurance operations are improving, the drive to report will not likely increase. However, with additional capacity, OSCaR may likely take some of the burdens off small facilities that cannot easily absorb the costs of cancer reporting. For example, OSCaR CTRs could access smaller facility electronic systems directly to abstract cancer with more capacity. The result could turn a burden into a time-saving benefit for all.

REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

971-673-1063

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/CHRONICDISEASE/CANCER/OSCAR/Pages/index.aspx>



U.S. Department of
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