

Become a Cancer Registrar – Save Lives with Accurate Data

When it comes to saving lives, sometimes the keyboard is mightier than the scalpel. Cancer registrars collect information from patient files about the patient characteristics, cancer type and location, stage of the disease, treatment and survival, and enter the information for each cancer case into databases using standard codes. This information is used by health care facilities, research institutions, and also goes into state and national databases.

All data are local; National and state data are only as accurate as local data. The Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) is responsible for collecting cancer information on all cancer cases in Wisconsin residents, except for basal and squamous cell skin cancers. A relatively small number of unreported cancer cases can result in undercounting cancers, and that means county, state and national cancer data are inaccurate. Every cancer case represents a person inalterably changed by a disease diagnosis, a disease that becomes more likely with increasing age. Every cancer case must be completely captured, accurately reported in a timely manner, and made available to cancer control programs.

The WCRS Data Quality Task Force recently concluded that there was a critical shortage of cancer registrars in Wisconsin, as well as nationally. After collaborations with workforce development and technical college stakeholders, a newly launched online education program for Cancer Information Management (CIM) is offered at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

<https://www.swtc.edu/academics/programs/health-occupations/cancer-information-management>

In addition to saving lives, registrars have the benefit of flexible career opportunities, average annual salaries of over \$60,000 and job security due to great demand relative to the current workforce shortage. If you are detail-oriented, enjoy the challenge of obtaining complete and accurate data, the first life you save may be your own.

Need to learn more about Certified Tumor Registrars before taking the next steps?

The National Cancer Registrars Association provides detailed materials about the CTR career opportunities.

[http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/Files/Org/f3f3d382a7a242549a9999654105a63b/Site/assets/Become a Cancer Registrar January 2014.pdf](http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/Files/Org/f3f3d382a7a242549a9999654105a63b/Site/assets/Become%20a%20Cancer%20Registrar%20January%202014.pdf)