

This Preface is an updated version by earlier writers and editors. Some sections of the earlier writing have been paraphrased herein. Previous editions of this book were published as two separate volumes: one primarily targeted for hospital cancer registries and the other for central or population-based cancer registries. The two separate books were considered companion volumes. This third edition brings the two companion volumes together. The first editions of these companion books were written in the early 1990s; since then, many advances have been made in cancer data collection and reporting. Previous editions were well received throughout the field and seemingly fulfilled its overall objective to provide technical and management issues defined in a comprehensive textbook. This volume, and all except one of the previous editions, is sponsored by the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA). This textbook is largely the result of a collaborative effort of a volunteer team of registry professionals who represent various organizations from the cancer surveillance community in North America. The editors and contributors have received no payment or honoraria.

Cancer registration is an important and fundamental tool in cancer control. A cancer registry has been defined as a system for the collection, storage, analysis, and interpretation of data on persons with cancer, within a healthcare facility or group of healthcare facilities. A population-based cancer registry collects the data from many healthcare facilities in a defined geographic area and can serve to show incidence trends for cancer of different sites over time or between population subdivisions. It can provide data to assess the effects of different types of treatments over time and to evaluate the effects of early detection programs, such as mammography or colorectal screening.

Cancer registry data can be used for epidemiologic studies, to direct resources for screening programs, and for education. Data from cancer registries can be helpful in assessing the need for

new hospital construction, equipment, and staff. The medical community and the public may use registry data to pinpoint locations of facilities for cancer care.

Readers of this edition will recognize several topics and subjects that were covered in previous editions. These topics have been revisited with intent to update, enhance, and enrich the original pretext of those subjects, as new material has been discovered and technologies improved. In all cases throughout this book, new axioms and approaches are delineated in the interest of providing the reader with the most effective strategies available in the essential responsibilities of a cancer registrar.

This edition is composed of 42 chapters, which are organized into 6 sections:

- Planning and Design of Registries
- Informatics
- Operations
- Uses of Registry Data
- Standard Setters and Professional Organizations
- Central and Other Registries

Appendices include a glossary of registry terms and an index.

A Review Guide on a compact disc accompanies the book and includes a set of questions with answers for each chapter. Educators may use the questions for discussion and to help the reader focus on important points within the text. The Review Guide should be used by all readers to check their understanding of each chapter.

More than 50 authors have brought many years of experience with cancer registration to this project. Most importantly, they have brought together a comprehensive text that covers the two main types of cancer registries in North America: the hospital and population-based registries. This book will be a valuable resource for anyone intent on understanding and learning about cancer registration.