

GATRA 2008 NCRA Scholarship Award
“Overcoming the Hurdles of Casefinding and/or Followup”

Sherri Bailey, CTR
GATRA Vice President

The NCRA Annual Conference Scholarship Award was established for the purpose of enabling a GATRA member to attend an NCRA Annual Conference, when that member might not otherwise have funds to do so. The scholarship covers the Early Bird registration fee, coach airfare/mileage, and a three-night hotel stay, up to a maximum of \$1,500.00. The funds will apply for attendance to the 2009 NCRA Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

To be eligible for the NCRA Scholarship, one must be an active member of NCRA and GATRA for at least one year and must not be the President or Immediate Past President of GATRA. The member must submit an application form to the Vice President and complete a 350-500 word essay on the chosen topic.

The essays are to be submitted to the Vice President via electronic file. The Vice President will assign a unique identifier to each article (names are removed prior to essays being submitted for scoring) and forward the essays to the Immediate Past President.

The essays are then scored by the Immediate Past President and two scholarship judges appointed by the Immediate Past President using the Scholarship Evaluation Form. A minimal score of 40 must be received for the essay to be considered for the scholarship.

Scores are based on:

- Adherence to topic
- Format compliance
- Use of original ideas and/or concepts
- Coherence and completeness

Additional credit is awarded for:

- Registrars working in a hospital registry and participating in GATRA as an officer or committee chair/member
- Applicant's previous inability to attend an NCRA annual meeting, with the highest weight going to those who have never attended a national conference

The Immediate Past President and scholarship judges will notify the President and GATRA Executive Board of the scholarship winner. The President will notify the winner by phone and in writing and announce the winner at the GATRA Fall Education/Business meeting. The winning essay may be printed in the GATRA Connection newsletter. The winner will not be eligible to apply again for three years.

The topic for this year's essay contest is "Overcoming the Hurdles of Casefinding and/or Follow-up." The essay should describe ways you have improved your casefinding and/or follow-up procedures. Have you whittled down a huge lost-to-follow-up list? Do you have ways of finding cases beyond the usual pathology reports and medical records disease index? Share what you've done and you may find yourself on the way to NOLA next year!

The deadline for submission is August 15, 2008! You can obtain an application form from the Vice President. Send your request by e-mail to Sherri Bailey at sbailey@harbinclinic.com.