

MRVector Newsletter

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

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www.armrit.org

ARMRIT 2013 8th Annual Meeting Report 'Because MRI is a Specialty!'

Spring 2014 Issue
Vol. XX No. 1

Ontario, CA, November, 2013

The 8th annual ARMRIT meeting held November 7-9, at the Ontario Airport Hotel & Convention Center, Ontario, California, again presented topics highlighting the specialty and sub-specialties of MRI Technology.

The beautiful Ontario Airport Hotel & Convention Center, located 50 miles east of Los Angeles, provided a venue, accommodations, and service, commensurate with a national organization's professional, educational, and hosting needs.



Ontario Airport Hotel & Convention Center, Ontario, CA

U.S. Department of Labor & ARMRIT

Research Triangle Park, NC

Dear Colleagues:

ARMRIT is participating in a very important initiative for a project of the U.S. Department of Labor called O*NET, The Occupational Information Network.

A group of our most experienced members will be invited to provide input about our profession in order to maintain an accurate description of our work as Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists.

The aggregate information collected from our experts will be used to update the reference of this work at the

O*NET Database:

<http://www.onetonline.org/link/details/29-2035.00>

...for the benefit of students, educators, job seekers, veterans, employers and labor market analysts who need this critical information for career exploration, research and for hiring and training.

Liaisons from the O*NET Operations Center at Research Triangle Institute will be calling on a random sample of experts in 2014 to complete occupational questionnaires that help pinpoint the most important elements of our work.

Participation is completely voluntary but we hope you will consider helping if you are contacted. If you have any questions about the update or the O*NET Database:

www.onetonline.org

Please feel free to email or call Traci Davis, the O*NET liaison who is the point of contact for our organization tdavis@onet.rti.org 877-233-7348 ext. 109.

Thank you once again for your support of the O*NET update and as always, ARMRIT.

CME! CME! CME! MRI! MRI! MRI!

Bellerose, NY December 2013

As a requirement for renewal of Registry Active status, all ARMRIT certified MRI Technologists are required to perform a minimum of six (6) Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits in MRI subjects. (Cont. on Pg. 3)

ARMRIT Board Member Addresses New Mexico MIRTAC Advisory Board

Albuquerque, NM, January 2014

To the honorable members of the New Mexico Environment Department of Radiation Control Bureau:

My name is William Woodward. My family moved to Albuquerque in 1967 and I grew up here in New Mexico. It's great to be back.

I have been an MRI Technologist and Clinical Educator for twenty-five years. For about eight of those years I was an MRI Applications Specialist and later the Senior MRI Applications Specialist for the West Region for GE Medical Systems.

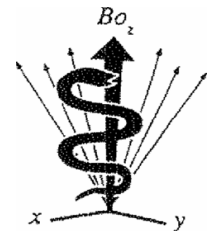


L.- R., Tim Troncale, Benn Bonfantini, Tom Schrack, Bill Woodward, Jim Coffin, Steve Dashnaw in NM.

As a MRI Technologist I worked for years at a large level-one trauma center. I am currently the chief MRI Technologist and Safety Officer at the Advanced Imaging Research Center at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), Portland, Oregon. (Cont. on Pg. 2)

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**ARMRIT 2014:
9th Annual Meeting
&
Seminar
Oct 23-25
at the
San Diego Marriott
Mission Valley,
California**



Save the dates!!
Register and Book Early
&
Save.
Visit: www.armrit.org

I hold an Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) license in the Practice of Magnetic Resonance Imaging. I've been a featured speaker at local and nationally recognized MRI conferences for many years. I have co-authored articles in proper medical journals including Heart, Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, Clinical Cancer Research, and the Journal of Magnetic Resonance to name a few.

As an MRI Technologist I am a member of the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT).

The issues I'd like to address today are complicated. The acronyms that refer to the organizations involved are enough to discourage even the most motivated among us. It can be confusing even for individuals in the diagnostic imaging profession, let alone for a layperson or the public at large. It is a lot to digest but this is an important topic that this board, and the State of New Mexico, will have to address.

Because of time considerations I am limited but I would like to point out, at least on a cursory level, the relationship between the ARRT, the ASRT, and JRCERT. These organizations would have the public at large believe that they are completely separate bodies who are dedicated to quality healthcare and education alone.

The ARRT, with over three hundred thousand members, is headquartered in Minnesota. The ASRT, with one hundred fifty three thousand members, of course, is headquartered here in Albuquerque. And JRCERT is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. There is much more to be discovered about these organizations and the relationship between them. They are **not** independent and I invite and encourage members of this board to research this and draw your own conclusions.

For many years the ARRT and the ASRT have lobbied and helped author legislation on a national level that ostensibly would make diagnostic imaging procedures more safe; Ensuring that individuals who administer ionizing radiation are

properly trained. After all, who couldn't get behind that idea?

Yet buried within these bills is language that would establish the ARRT, ASRT, and their certifying body JRCERT, as the only authorities to determine who can enter certain diagnostic imaging modalities.

MRI is not the first diagnostic imaging modality that the ARRT and ASRT have sought to steam roll. Years back they tried to take over as the only registry for nuclear medicine technologists as well. Fortunately, reason won out which has resulted in two different nuclear medicine technologist registries.

As the field of magnetic resonance imaging began its explosive growth trajectory the ARRT and the ASRT, tasting what had happened to them after not being allowed to dominate the nuclear medicine technologist registry, began an aggressive political campaign to consolidate power over the MRI Technologist registries. And they believe that they have the influence to do just that.

One might wonder what solution they have for those diagnostic imaging professionals who have been practicing their craft, often for many years, but do not belong to the ARRT. Through one stroke of a pen, legislative fiat, they would be out of the field, unable to practice their craft and thus, earn a living. The ARRT and their supporting organization the ASRT are not interested in fair play or reason; They are interested in muddying the water with innuendo, circling the wagons, and fighting off any organization who dares to stand up to them. And they always seem to do so in the name of safety and education. In spite of the money they've spread around in the form of "Lobbying" these erroneous bills that they have lobbied lawmakers to introduce have died in committee each and every year they have been introduced on a national level. So what they have been unable to accomplish on a national level they will now attempt on a state by state basis. It takes some diligence to locate these bills and resolutions, let alone parse them to determine their true meaning, that is what the ARRT, the ASRT and JRCERT are depending on.

It's no surprise that these bills have often come out of New Mexico, Minnesota, and Illinois.

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) are organizations that are inextricably linked to one another. As stated on the ARRT website with respect to governance, "**A nine member board of Trustees establishes ARRT policies [...] Five Trustees are appointed by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)**".

Given that five of the nine members of the ARRT Board of Trustees are appointed by the ASRT, the ASRT is not an impartial body dedicated solely to education and standards.

The ASRT is clearly biased toward individuals who are members of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). After all, the majority of the board members of the ARRT in Minnesota were appointed by the ASRT here in New Mexico. The ARRT is a competitor to my registry the ARMRT.

The ASRT opposes anyone doing MRI who is not a member of the ARRT. Again quoting from their website:

"Opposition to Radiologic Technologists Supervising and/or Training Unlicensed or Uncertified Individuals"

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists opposes any radiologic technologist being required to supervise and/or train any unlicensed or uncertified individuals in the delivery of **medical imaging** or radiation therapy procedures unless they are enrolled in or have graduated from an educational program in the radiologic sciences accredited by a mechanism recognized by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or equivalent. Adopted, Resolution 02-3.01, 2002 Amended, Main Motion, C-08.15, 2008 Amended, Main Motion C-09.49, 2009

Another position statement from the ASRT:

(Cont. on Pg. 3)

Unification of the Profession.

It is the position of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists that the Society fosters unification of the radiologic science profession. Adopted, Resolution 89-1.20, 1989 Amended, Resolution 94-1.19, 1994 Amended, Resolution C-07.13, 2007 Amended, Main Motion, C-09.35, 2009

Well, this is no surprise except their definition of "Radiologic Science" includes diagnostic imaging modalities that have nothing what-so-ever to do with Radiologic Science (X-Ray). Currently, to the best of my knowledge, all individuals licensed to administer ionizing radiation (X-Ray) are already unified. But that is not enough for them.

I am happy to acknowledge that, on the education front, the ASRT offers some enriching tutorials for diagnostic imaging professionals. However, it must also be noted that the real time actions and deeds of the ASRT, the ARRT, and their accrediting body JRCERT have demonstrated that they are dedicated to using their vast financial resources to exclude anyone who does not come from a radiologic science background.

They portray themselves as the definitive authority in MRI. Fact is, in spite of all their money they are one diagnostic imaging registry (and its supporting organizations) among others, nothing less, but certainly nothing more. And they do not have a monopoly on education and safety in the diagnostic imaging field, let alone virtue. Don't let the ARRT or their supporting organization the ASRT fool you. No organization has a monopoly on standards or excellence.

The ARRT and their supporting organization the ASRT have sought for many years to monopolize, control, and serve as the gatekeeper for all individuals who wish to enter the diagnostic imaging field.

Regardless of how exclusionary their practices may be I acknowledge that the ASRT and ARRT have a right to further their political and financial aims through lobbying, (and they do

plenty of it) but the New Mexico Environment Department is a publically funded state mandated body that cannot show obvious bias towards one body of people to the exclusion of another. The New Mexico Environment Department of Radiation Control Bureau is not in the business of furthering the goals of the ASRT or the ARRT. Excluding and disenfranchising all diagnostic imaging professionals who do not come from radiologic science (X-Ray) background is precisely what would happen if the ARRT, ASRT, and their accrediting body, JRCERT have their way.

Respectfully submitted,
William Woodward (ARMRIT)

***To Renew your BLS on-line, ***
Visit: www.armrit.org and click on:



CME! CME! CME! MRI! MRI! MRI!
(Cont. from Pg. 1)

Technologists renewing at the end of 2013 and 2014 must show a total of 12 MRI CME credits performed sometime in 2012/13 & sometime in 2013/14 respectively. Technologists that passed the exam in any calendar year (January thru December) do not have to perform CME credits for the first three (3) calendar years including the year they passed the exam.

Therefore, if a Tech passed the exam in any month in 2013, they are not required to perform CME credits for 2013, 2014, or 2015. If a Tech passed the exam in any month in 2014, they are not required to perform CME credits for 2014, 2015, or 2016.

Although CME credits performed in excess of the minimum does not transfer over to the next renewal period, ARMRIT certified MRI Techs are encouraged to perform MRI CME whenever they are available, affordable, and the Technologist has the time.

ARMRIT Techs renewing at the end of 2013 or 2014 are now taking advantage of a three (3) year renewal. The 3 year renewal has not changed

the CME requirement which is still six (6) per year. This also translated into a lower renewal fee of \$100 per year as opposed to \$125 per year. All techs are encouraged to renew on-time to avoid late fees.

James F. Coffin, ARMRIT President
Bellerose, NY

ARMRIT 2014: 9th Annual Meeting & Seminar - Oct. 23-25 San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, California

To Register-Visit: www.armrit.org

Topics & Lecturers

"Cranial Nerve Imaging in MRI"
Eduardo D. Campuzano, ARMRIT, BS, RT, Chief Tech, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, FL

"MRI and its Functional Applications" Stephen Dashnaw, ARMRIT, Director, Imaging Services, Columbia University, New York, NY

"2014 MR QC Manual"
Dina Hernandez, BSRS, RT, Program Mgr., CT/MR Accreditation, American College of Radiology, Reston, VA

"Interventional MRI Sclerotherapy"
Floyd Knight, BA, ARRT (MR), Lead MR Technologist, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, GA

"Contrast Enhanced MRI for Pediatric Acute Abdominal Pain"
Jeffrey L. Koning, MD, University of California San Diego Health System, San Diego, CA

"What's New in Accreditation?"
Leonard Lucey, Legal Counsel & Senior Director, American College of Radiology, Reston, VA

"Techniques on Improving Diffusion Weighted Images"
Charles G. Nyman, ARMRIT, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

(Cont. on Pg. 4)

"A Practical Guide to MR Physics"
Thomas Schrack, BS, ARMRIT, Mgr.
MR Educ. & Tech. Dev., Fairfax
Radiology Cons., P.C., Fairfax, VA

**"Upper Extremity MRA&Thoracic
Outlet Syndrome Imaging"**
Timothy Smith, ARMRIT, Providence
Health Systems, Portland, OR

**"Hypothermia Treatment for
Asphyxiated Neonates During MRI"**
Benjamin Timpauer, ARMRIT, Sharp
& Children's MRI Center,
San Diego, CA

"MR Imaging of the Prostate"
Timothy Troncale, ARMRIT, RT,
West Coast Ultrasound Institute,
Ontario, CA

**"MRI Cardiac Review & Works in
Progress"**
William Woodward, ARMRIT, Senior
MRI Technologist, MRI Safety
Officer, Advanced Imaging Research
Center, Oregon Health Sciences
University, Portland, OR

To Register-Visit: www.armrit.org

Accommodations

**San Diego Marriott
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Reservations Toll Free:
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Rates: \$139 per night*
thru

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014 only!

*Room rate includes up to
(2) Buffet **Breakfasts
per room, per night stayed.

**Breakfast included only if Attendee
stays at the SD Marriott MV.

MRI DVDs for CME

ARMRIT 2011 DVD

DVD for 12 CME Credits

This course meets all criteria and has
been approved by **AHRA:**
The Association for Medical Imaging
Management for **12 Category A**
Continuing Education Credits.



Fee: \$ 175 each

ARMRIT 2012 DVD

DVD for 12 CME Credits

This course meets all criteria and has
been approved by **AHRA:**
The Association for Medical Imaging
Management for **12 Category A**
Continuing Education Credits.



Fee: \$ 175 each

Order both DVDs and Save!

(Total: 24 credits)

Fee for Both: \$300

ARMRIT 2013 DVD

New-Available Now!

DVD for 12 CME Credits

This course meets all criteria and has
been approved by **AHRA:**
The Association for Medical Imaging
Management for **12.0 Category A**
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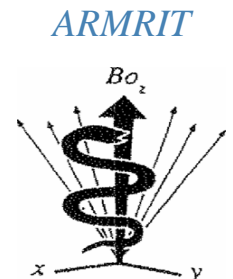
Fee: \$ 195 each

To order - Visit: www.armrit.org

ARMRIT LAB COAT PATCH



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"Because MRI is a
Specialty"