

MRVector Newsletter

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists
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www.armrit.org

ARMRIT 2011 6th Annual Meeting & Seminar ANOTHER BANNER YEAR!

Summer 2012 Issue
Vol. XVIII No. 1

Las Vegas, NV, October, 2011

The 6th annual ARMRIT meeting held at The Stirling Club on Paradise Road in Las Vegas at the Turnberry complex from October 27-29 2011 is hailed as the best in the Registry's history both in attendance, quality of topics discussed and caliber of invited speakers.

As announced in his opening remarks, Wilfrido M. Sy, MD, the Chairman and Executive Director, each year the organizing committee of the Registry endeavors to introduce new topics erstwhile not covered in past meetings. The new topics that elicited great interests included the role of MRI in veterinary neurological practice, the use of MRI in fetal imaging and the criteria and standards set forth by the Commission on Accreditation for MRI Programs offered nationally & internationally. While this COA topic has no overt immediate application for practicing technologists already in the field, the presentation does concern itself with the quality of education and preparation aimed for potential and future technologists who are to undergo such education and training.

The multi level standards and criteria for accrediting a program, while strict and comprehensive, point directly to the need of a unified format and discipline to be observed by program administrators (Cont. on pg.3)

Standing Up To the ARRT/ASRT Lobby

Portland, OR , New York, NY
July 2012

In what would amount to a reversal of their fair and inclusive legislation licensing Medical Imaging Technologists in the State of Oregon, the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) included in their agenda, "Can or Should the OBMI adopt the ASRT Practice Standards".

With short notice, Bill Woodward, ARMRT alerted the OBMI that he would address the session presenting his own statement and a statement from the ARMRT Board of Directors authored by Wilfrido M. Sy, MD, Executive Director with Jim Coffin, President. These statements were presented as follows:

To the honorable members of the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging: July 12 & 13, 2012 Session.

The American Society Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Practice Standards are presented before this august Board for adoption and therefore legislation to become the parameters to determine who can practice and deliver MRI health care services to the citizens of Oregon. The American Registry of MRI Techs (ARMRIT), a 21 year old independently recognized autonomous certifying body which we represent strongly object and take direct issues with the specific standards

(Cont. on pg 2)

Thomas Schrack, ARMRT Authors Newest Booklets for MRI CME for ICPME

Fairfax, VA, July 2012

We are proud to let you know that Thomas Schrack, ARMRT, Manager, MR Education and Technical Development, Fairfax Radiological Consultants, Fairfax, VA, has finished 3 new booklets for the ICPME medical publishing group on MR. They are all on-line and available. Tom is the author of all three and proudly displays the "ARMRIT" credential after his name.

Attached are screen shots from the web site. The 3 new sections are listed as "NEW!" under the *MRI for Technologists* heading. Taking the course is free (but there is a small fee if you want a certificate printed and mailed).

[▶NEW! Advanced MRI Neurological Applications](#)
[▶NEW! MRI Contrast Agent Safety](#)
[▶NEW! MRI of the Brain and Spine](#) (Cont. on pg. 2)

SMRT Gives Honorable Mention of ARMRT

Number 76 2011 Issue 2

In the SMRT (Section for MR Technologists) "Signals" External Relations Report, ARMRT received honorable mention. In a paragraph on 'Licensing', the statement: "Certifying organizations such as the ARRT and ARMRT are recognized as approved for state licensure."

To date, there are only two States that license MRI Techs, Oregon and West Virginia, ARMRT is a requirement in both states. New Mexico has proposed legislation, ARMRT included, but (Cont. on pg.3)

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ARMRIT 2012 7th Annual Meeting & Seminar

October 25th-27th

Las Vegas, Nevada

@

The Las Vegas Country Club



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CME credits are awarded by the ASRT and are acceptable as fulfilling ARMTRIT Techs' MRI CME requirement which is 12 credits in MRI subjects each two year renewal period. ARMTRIT accepts credits from the AHRA, ACCME, and ASRT as long as the subjects have MRI in the title. Visit <http://www.icpme.us/> to access these "**Premium Educational Activities**"

*Standing Up To ARRT/ASRT Lobby.
(Cont. from pg.1)*

that have been detailed, outlined and required, pages MR 4 and MR 5, because they are arbitrary, exclusionary, unfair, unjustified, prejudicial and directly favor and benefit one single and only one group of individuals in the delivery of MRI technology health care to patients who need the service, namely members of the ARRT.

The exclusion of ARMTRIT as a bonafide group of certified technologists to practice the technological aspect of MRI health care delivery has been addressed and fully resolved when the Board of the American College of Radiology, the mother organization, in effect of ARRT (since four of its nine-member governing Board are appointed by the American College of Radiology) fully recognized without qualification, ARMTRIT, as an autonomous certifying organization for MRI technologists in 2008. In the paraphrased words of the ACR Board, ARMTRIT has met all the standards of excellence and parameters to be an autonomous MRI technology certifying body and is so recognized by the ACR. Leonard Lucey, Esq., long standing ACR Counsel and Senior Director and Theresa Branham, the ACR Manager of MRI and CT accreditation and ARRT member, have been alternately guest speakers at the ARMTRIT annual seminar since 2008 and have nothing but positive comments in the way our meetings are held as to the faculty, venue, and substance of lectures for CME credits.

We concur with all other statements that expand on the standards of excellence and the technical

paradigms detailed that are not exclusionary and delimited to a single and one group as these, as written in the submitted documents, do jibe with our own credo of standards of excellence and practice, for to believe otherwise is akin to be against "motherhood and apple pie."

Our main area of contention and basis of our strong objection are contained in the pages MR 4 and MR 5 (of the ASRT MRI Practice Standards) regarding as to who can and who is not included by direct inference eligible to practice MRI technology; if these are adopted as proposed it would clearly and arbitrarily disenfranchise all qualified, bonafide, credentialed, and experienced technologists in the field of MRI because they opted to obtain their expertise and certification in the field through a non-radiologic pathway.

The expertise of becoming an MRI technologist is accessible through a radiologic path and a non-radiologic path and is not a monopoly of one interest group. We submit that the hours of didactic and hands-on clinical training which are fully focused only on MRI as required by ARMTRIT, exemplify the high standard requirements we espoused of any training program requirements. The number of hours directly expended during their clinical internship at certified sites is manifold longer and more extensive or at the minimum at par with training requirements of their other counterparts. The graduates of dedicated and licensed MRI programs must pass the rigorous but fair 4-hour exam administered by ARMTRIT in order to be certified.

Incidentally, perhaps it is a typo but the word "radiopharmacology" as it appears on page MR 4, as far as we know is either unintended or incorrectly used. No radioactive material is used in MRI, that is why it is correctly a non-radiologic modality, just as the discipline of Sonography is also a non-radiologic procedure. These latter two disciplines do not use any ionizing radiation as the source of obtaining the resultant medical imaging, plain x-rays do, as CAT scan does and other permutations such as spiral CT procedures.

It is clear to us that the standards referred to in MR4 and MR 5 are written to exclude a group of qualified technologists who are not ARRT certified but nonetheless duly qualified and certified by ARMTRIT. To disenfranchise these individuals from their rightfully earned vocation, is tantamount to a restraint of trade and can be viewed as nothing else but prejudicial, unfair, exclusionary, slanted to benefit a group, at the exclusion of another. To this we say, we need more qualified and well-trained individuals in the field of MRI technology, not restrict or restrain their growth because they opted to take the venue outside of radiology. It should be duly noted that there are individuals who genuinely have a phobia for radiation, more specifically young women of child bearing-age, but nevertheless have chosen this field as their vocation and ARMTRIT is their venue to this.

In conclusion we petition that this august Board include an ARMTRIT representative in the deliberation of this paramount issue and be represented in this Oregon Board of Medical Imaging. It further behooves this august Board, to include representatives of ARMTRIT in the deliberations, discussion and formulation of the MRI Practice Standards. For reasons already given we further petition that this Board does not allow the practice of MRI technology to one interest group in its deliberations at the expense and exclusion of another group. In the practice of MRI, as in other health delivery systems, no one interest group should be allowed to control the market. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wilfrido M. Sy, MD & James F. Coffin

July 13, 2012

From Bill Woodward to OBMI

To the honorable members of the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging:

It has been established that the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) are

(cont. pg 3)

... has not implemented licensure as of yet.

A second paragraph, under 'Certification', the statement, "There is a second certifying organization in the United States - The American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT). This organization has been gaining recognition and uses its own MRI educational schools with programs that range from one year up to two years (Associate Degree)."

This statement is partially correct. It is important to understand that all schools that offer MRI Programs recognized by the ARMRIT are independent, licensed by their State, and lead to a career in MRI Technology.

James F. Coffin, ARMRIT President

limitations and travails inherent to the use of MRI is clearly emphasized by Dr. Donald Levesque, a veterinarian, certified in veterinary neurology and with a large practice locally and in Phoenix.



Maureen Lawrence attendee with MRI Safety Author and ARMRIT 2012 Speaker Frank Shellock, Ph.D.



Bill Woodward, Maureen Lawrence, and Thomas Schrack (Speakers & Attendees)

ARMRIT 2011 6th Ann. Sem.(Cont. from pg. 1)

...and faculty in the preparation of their graduates for MRI imaging. The speaker and chairman of the COA, Romulo Genato, MD, who has a vast background in Graduate Medical Education of a large institution in New York, clearly underscored these points.

The field of veterinary medicine opens up a new vista of understanding to the use of MRI in veterinary practice and the role it plays, albeit limited at this writing, for MRI technologists in this field. The

Another new topic covered is MR Enterography, and the speaker a local radiologist, Sean Beaty MD, who also has a large practice locally focused on its indication and advantages over conventional tools in the diagnosis and monitoring of some small intestinal diseases such as ulcerative colitis; because of its non-ionizing properties. The lecture of fetal brain imaging was well-covered by Thomas Schrack, who has been a repeat lecturer many times over at our annual meetings, was equally well-appreciated and valued.

The attendees, as gleaned from their evaluation sheets have walked away with very positive feelings of having learned various practical pointers which help enhance their own practice in their respective centers. For the past meetings this was always evident but it is even more palpable in the recently concluded meeting. Already some of the attendees as they were leaving asked if we are holding the next meeting at the Stirling Club.

Each registered attendee received a copy of the Reference Manual for Magnetic Resonance Safety, 2011 Edition, courtesy of the author Frank Shellock, PhD and Alliance Imaging. Dr. Shellock spoke eloquently on his subject.

James F. Coffin, President of ARMRIT, gave the closing remarks with strong motivational slant to keep looking for positions as techs in MRI.

The jobs are out there. He also gave thanks for the support the Registry has gotten from the ARMRIT Techs.

We are happy to announce that the 7th Annual meeting will be held at The Las Vegas Country Club on October 25-27, 2012.

Preparations are complete, ARMRIT 2012 meets all criteria and has been approved by AHRA: The Association for Medical Imaging Management for 12.0 Category A Continuing Medical Education Credits. Wilfrido M. Sy, MD, Exec. Dir.

Comments on ARMRIT 2011

"GREAT COMBINATION OF TOPICS AND SPEAKER! Agree one of the best overall I have attended and I want to thank you for your sincere efforts in standards of excellence in MRI."

"Professional, knowledgeable and topnotch!"

"All the information from guest speakers are informative and to the point. Appreciate tips and info on all aspects of MRI, and Pet/MRI".

The preceding are just some sample comments of what the attendees wrote in their evaluation sheets.

Standing Up To ARRT/ASRT Lobby (cont.)

...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 to education.** A quick scan of the ASRT's website shows that their real time actions and deeds speak much louder than their self serving rhetoric served up for their own financial gain. The ASRT is clearly biased towards individuals who are members of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), after all, the majority of the board members of the ARRT were appointed by the ASRT.

(cont. on pg.4)

...The ARRT is a competitor to my registry, the ARMTRIT.

The ASRT opposes anyone doing MRI who is not a member of the ARRT. Again quoting from their web site: **Opposition to Radiologic Technologists Supervising and/or Training Unlicensed or Uncertified Individuals**

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists opposes any radiologic technologists 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. **(It is important to note that the ARRT does not recognize the ARMTRIT)**

Yes, indeed, the ASRT opposes ARRT registered MRI technologists teaching anyone other than their own members or future members. Yet, right here in Portland, Oregon we have MRI Technologists from the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist (ARMTRIT) teaching students enrolled in Portland Community College’s MRI program during the students’ clinical rotations (it should be noted that the PCC program is under the auspices of the ARRT). These skilled and seasoned ARMTRIT MRI Technologists cannot sign off, noting that a PCC student has successfully completed a required clinical MRI examination, simply because they do not belong to the ARRT.

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ARMTRIT MRI Technologists are happy to teach Portland Community College’s students enrolled in their ARRT sponsored MRI program. I have to assume that PCC welcomes ARMTRIT Technologists teaching their MRI students during their clinical rotations. Yet because the PCC program is under the auspices of the ARRT, an organization clearly linked to the ASRT, PCC MRI students cannot leave a paper trail indicating that it was an ARMTRIT Technologist who helped bring them into the field of MRI technology. I have to note that this comment is in no way intended to disparage the dedicated clinical educators at Portland Community College; they are simply following the rules of the ARRT and their supporting organization the ASRT.

Another position statement from the ASRT: **Unification of the Profession** It is the position of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists that the Society foster 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 whatsoever 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.

Their aim is clear, the ASRT and the ARRT wish to control the field of diagnostic imaging. Once again please note that the majority of the board members of the ARRT, five of nine, were appointed by the ASRT. The ARRT has been openly hostile towards my registry, the ARMTRIT, for many years.

Using antiquated nomenclature for clarity, the ASRT is in the X-Ray (Radiologic Technologist) education business. If one wishes to give a continuing education seminar that is approved by the ASRT one must pay the ASRT per continuing education credit. This is their business and they are paid well. They’ve taken their cue

from the ARRT in that they seek to monopolize the continuing education credit business just as the ARRT has 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 it is their right to further their financial goals.

While the ASRT and ARRT have a right to further their political and financial aims through lobbying (and they do plenty of it) the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging is a publically funded state mandated body that cannot show obvious bias towards one body of people to the exclusion of another. The Oregon Board of Medical Imaging 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 (X-Ray) background is precisely what would happen if the OBMI adopted the ASRT’s standards for continuing education.

Respectfully submitted,
William Woodward (ARMTRIT)
OBMI# 912021

ARMTRIT 2011 DVD

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



[DVD for 12 CME credits.](#)

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