

# MRVector Newsletter

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists  
Phone: 718-347-8690 Fax: 718-347-8691 E-mail: [ARMRIT@msn.com](mailto:ARMRIT@msn.com)

[www.armrit.org](http://www.armrit.org)

## Fourth ARMRIT Annual Meeting Hailed as Best Yet

Las Vegas, Nevada:

October 26, 2009 The recently concluded annual meeting and seminar of the American Registry of MRI Technologists (ARMRIT) held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Stirling Club of the Turnberry Place Complex from October 22-24, 2009 was considered by the attendees as meeting the criteria for a very successful seminar.

The topics for the two-day conference were diverse and the speakers delivered across their messages clearly to the attendees who are mostly MRI technologists. The reception of the lectures was enthusiastic. It was noted that at least 45% of the attendees attended an ARMRIT annual meeting for the first time.

Demographically the attendees come from across the country with many concentrated from the west and east coasts, and also the state of Florida. There was one attendee from Saudi Arabia and there were participants from MIPM, a manufacturer of ancillary MRI equipment from Mamenndorfer, Germany.

Repeat speakers Albert D. Cayton, MD, Francis Collini, MD, Thomas Schrack BS, Bill Woodward, Stephen Dashnaw, Tim Smith, and Tim Troncale, were as usual delivered their well organized lectures almost impeccably.

In addition, the lecture of Theresa Branham, the Manager of ACR CT and MRI Site Accreditation delivered a clear and succinct topic on the criteria for ACR accreditation of MRI sites. She commented that she was very impressed with the venue, organization, presentation, and food served at the meeting.

Sean Beaty, MD, an ACR member and a local practicing Board Certified Radiologist, gave a comprehensive and well-organized lecture on MRI of the upper extremity, which consisted of shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand.

The subject of Nano-Medicine, albeit totally futuristic, was interesting and the passionate delivery by Frank Collini, MD served as a nano-medicine 101 lecture.

The Mamenndorfer Institut fur Physik unt Medicin from Mamenndorfer, Germany sponsored a small booth at the meeting.

Hans Schwaiger, the President of the company also gave a 40 minute presentation and multiple graphic examples how magnets can quench. The products of patient monitoring of his company are all made from magnet friendly and MRI compatible materials.

Based on the comments and feedback received from all the attendees the overall rating of the meeting was very good to outstanding.

The feedback on the Sahara Hotel accommodations was mixed, with 35 % who roomed there indicating not to return, 30% indicating that they will because of the money value of the accommodations. One wrote at \$28 "you can not beat that." Still additional hotels are being assessed that are within walking distance to the venue of the meeting. There are certainly more areas that need improvement and this is closely being looked into by the organizers.

Wilfrido M. Sy, MD Chairman and Executive Director gave the opening remarks while James F. Coffin ARMRIT President gave a welcome message and the closing remarks. A full text of the President's message appears elsewhere in this newsletter. So concludes the ARMRIT 2009 Fourth Annual Meeting. (W. M. Sy, MD)

### *New ARMRIT Board Member*

New York, NY:  
March 2009 William J. O'Connell, Dr. P.H, DABR was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Registry of MRI Technologists (ARMRIT). At present Dr. O'Connell is the Chief Radiation and Nuclear Medicine Physicist

(Continued on page 3)

Winter/ Spring Issue 2010  
Vol. XVI No. 1

### Inside this issue:

4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Report	1
President's Message	2
New ARMRIT Board Member.	1
Comments on Comments	1
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Seminar	3

### *Comments on Comments* Las Vegas, Nevada

January 22, 2010 This section attempts to address questions, suggestions and issues collected from the evaluation feedback submitted at the 4th annual meeting. The evaluation sheets are required by the AHRA, the organization that grants CME credits for the hours of attendance for our meetings, hence they are an important source of feedback. These evaluation originals are returned to AHRA for their records and ARMRIT retains copies of them as well.

The ARMRIT management reads and assesses all evaluation forms submitted. The feedback received becomes a source of guideline to formulate the following year's annual meeting.

(Continued on page 3)

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE* (Presented at ARMTRIT 2009)

Las Vegas Nevada:  
October 23, 2009.

Entering its 19<sup>th</sup> year as a National Certifying Body, the American Registry of MRI Techs has been setting standards for MRI Technologists as specialists in their chosen field. The Registry has grown and developed with clinical MRI which is less than a decade older. In that time the Registry has met challenge after challenge to its very existence culminating in the respect and recognition of the ARMTRIT credential by the Medical Imaging community. This recognition reached its pinnacle last year on July 25, 2008 when it was reported to us by Mr. Leonard Lucey, Senior Director of the American College of Radiology (ACR) that the ACR accreditation committee voted unanimously to recognize the ARMTRIT as meeting their accreditation standards for MRI facilities. But in fact this was the most recent of many successes:

- To the recognition by the Veterans Administration in 2004 which reimburses Veterans and Active Duty military their application fees.
  - To the inclusion in the standards by the Centers of Medicaid and Medicaid Service (CMS) of many states.
  - To the recognition by the American College of Radiology (ACR) of the ARMTRIT as an autonomous certifying body.
- That being said, I want to thank all of our certified Techs, from the beginning in 1991 to the most recent applicants. To the journeyman MRI Techs with 20+ years experience to recent graduates of the growing MRI Training programs throughout the country.
- Your professionalism, patient care skills and willingness to swim against the tide at all costs has brought us to where we are today and I know that progress will not stop because ARMTRIT certified techs are just that, unstoppable.
- I would also like to thank our Executive Director, Dr. Wilfrido Sy who back in 1993, through sage advice, recommended that I move forward with this, at the
- From the awarding of College credits for our exam by the American Council on Education and our membership in the National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA) in 1997.
  - To the recognition by and inclusion in the Ohio Dept. of Health standards in 2001.

time, fledgling organization. As usual, he was right. Thank You, from all of us, Dr. Sy.

Thanks to our Board of Directors, some who are speaking this weekend, volunteers all, for adding your experience, credentials, and reputations to the cause.

And, of course, thank you to our speakers, your hard work, time and effort has made this meeting a success every year.

Lastly, I want to thank the schools who are represented here today for producing quality graduates and the employers who hire them.

James F. Coffin, ARMTRIT  
President

*"This recognition reached its pinnacle last year on July 25, 2008 when it was reported to us by Mr. Leonard Lucey, Senior Director of the American College of Radiology (ACR), that the ACR accreditation committee voted unanimously to recognize the ARMTRIT as meeting their accreditation standards for MRI facilities.."*

**ARMTRIT**  
**"Because MRI is a Specialty"**

*E-mail:*  
[armrit@msn.com](mailto:armrit@msn.com)

*Web:* [www.armrit.org](http://www.armrit.org)

**ARMTRIT**  
8815 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Bellerose, NY 11426

*New Member* (continued from page 1)

...as well as Radiation Safety Officer at Saint Vincent's Hospital in New York City. He is an Assistant Professor in Radiology at New York Medical College, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Manhattan College and Adjunct Professor at Fordham University.

William received his Doctorate of Public Health / Medical Physics from Columbia University in New York, Master of Science / Health Policy and Management from New York Medical College in 1987 in Valhalla, New York and his Bachelor of Science/Physics/Nuclear Medicine Technology in 1978 from Rochester Institute of Technology in

Rochester, New York.

He is certified by the American Board of Radiology-Medical Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board and American Registry of Radiological Technologists. His licensures include New York State Medical Physics both Medical Nuclear and Diagnostic Radiology and New York State Radiology Technologist-Nuclear Medicine.

He is a long time member of good standing of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and American Association of Physicists in Medicine. (J.F. Coffin, President)

Many, if not most of the topics presented and discussed are the result of suggestions by you, the mostly MRI Technologist attendees. While there are many good suggestions, some are not feasible for an organization such as ours because of size.

For instance the shuttling of attendees to the venue site is not doable because of the number of attendees to our meeting; the cost to undertake it would be exorbitant. It is for this reason that accommodations at hotels at very reasonable rates have been negotiated and these hotels are less than 10-minute walking distance to the place of meeting.

For instance rooms at the Las Vegas Hilton have been negotiated additionally for the next meeting on top of the Sahara Hotel.

Both hotels are equidistant to the Stirling Club, the venue of the meeting. Even more established organizations, such as the SNM, has limited the use of shuttle buses because of sheer cost. The logistics associated for such arrangements are also complex.

Holding the annual meeting at one of the upscale casinos was also suggested. We have looked into this, but again the constraint is the cost to hold such a meeting at these places. Moreover, unless one comes up with 500-1000 attendees the upscale casino hotels are not receptive. Additionally the contract to be signed (about 50 pages) has detailed stipulations and really



*COMMENTS on COMMENTS* (continued)

needs to be assessed by legal counsel the cost of which we decline to incur at this time.

ARMRIT is always mindful of the eventual cost to the attendees for the 2.5 day meeting. The earlier meetings have all been subsidized by the Registry. At the same time the Registry does its very best to return to the attendees the money-value of attending the annual meetings.

Request for special food during the meeting; This request for special food whether vegetarian or kosher has always been honored. If such a need exists, the best time to make this known is to note this on your registration form at the time you register. It will be honored accordingly.

A number of feedbacks wrote ARMRIT vs. ARRT: ARMRIT does not hold any adversarial position against ARRT. The ARMRIT mantra is to give a forum to those technologists in the MRI field who did go through the route of a radiologic oriented training program. Moreover many members of ARMRIT are also members of ARRT. Furthermore since the recognition by the ACR that ARMRIT is an autonomous body for certifying MRI technologists, ARMRIT took this opportunity to invite Theresa Braham as one of the speakers at the 4th annual meeting. Leonard Lucey, the official counsel for ACR has also been invited to speak at the coming annual meeting on the topic of legislation affecting MRI in 2012. Hopefully ARMRIT through its president could also speak about ARMRIT at an ARRT-sponsored MRI meeting sometime in the future. It is hoped that with this mutual recognition by the two organizations ARMRIT certified techs will enjoy a level playing field in the hiring market.

Please continue to give us your comments and feedback at our annual meetings; they are very important to us. (W. M. Sy, MD)

**ARMRIT 2010:  
5th Annual Meeting & Seminar  
Oct. 21-23  
Stirling Club-Turnberry Place  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**For Accommodations:** at the World Famous Las Vegas Hilton thru September 21, 2010:  
Call Directly - **800-635-7711**  
between 6:00am to 12am Daily. Ask for Rooms for the **ARMRIT group**.

**Program Schedule:**

Thursday	Oct. 21	6pm – 8pm	Cocktail Reception
Friday	Oct. 22	8am – 4pm	Lecture Series-Breakfast & Lunch Provided
Saturday	Oct. 23	8am – 4pm	Lecture Series-Breakfast & Lunch Provided

Fill Out Registration Form and Fax to: 718-347-8691  
Or visit [www.armrit.org](http://www.armrit.org) and Click on the Acteva Box!

