Greetings from the JRCERT and welcome to the premier issue of the JRCERT Pulse e-Newsletter.

For several years, we have been communicating important announcements to our programs via broadcast e-mails to program directors and through postings on our Web site. As time went on, it became evident that we needed to improve our method for communicating with our programs by consolidating our communications efforts into a single publication, which could be easily accessed and referenced. The result is the Pulse e-Newsletter.

Important Information!
Summary of April 2015 Board

The JRCERT Board of Directors met April 22-24 in Chicago to consider approximately 33 programs, discuss the Standards, revise policies as required, and review the organization’s strategic plan for continuous improvement. This was an extremely busy and productive meeting of the Directors and JRCERT staff. The meeting resulted in several key decisions by the Directors regarding interpretations of the Standards and policy revisions.

You will want to be sure you are up-to-date on these discussions and determinations by the Board. Click here to see a complete Summary of the April 2015 Board Meeting. If you have questions or need clarification after reading the meeting summary, please feel free to contact the JRCERT office.

Initially, the Pulse will be published twice a year – spring and fall – following the meetings of the Board of Directors here in Chicago. We’ll try to keep the content concise and to the point by using URLs linked to our Web site that will take you to more detailed information on a particular topic.

We sincerely hope this publication will serve to simplify and enhance communications with our programs. Let us know what you think – we welcome your suggestions.

Leslie Winter, M.S., R.T.(R)
Chief Executive Officer

“Our thanks to Brian Leonard, accreditation specialist, and Joanne Sauter, administrative assistant, for naming our PULSE e-Newsletter!”

Note: This summary replaces a broadcast e-mail to programs regarding the April Board meeting.
Meet The New Board!

The make up of the JRCERT Board of Directors is once again changing as Directors complete their terms of service. At the conclusion of the spring meeting, Laura Aaron, Ph.D. R.T.(R)(M)(QM), FASRT, formerly first vice chair, moved to the chair position replacing Debra Poelhuis, M.S., R.T.(R)(M), who has completed a very successful 6-year term on the Board. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Debra for her tremendous hard work and dedication during her tenure as a Director and chair of the JRCERT Board.

Thank you, Debra!

We now welcome two new Directors to the board. Loraine (Lorie) Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR), who was nominated to the Board by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). Ms. Zelna is currently an Associate Professor for the Department of Medical Imaging at Misericordia University, Dallas, PA. Additionally, for the first time in the history of the JRCERT, an individual nominated by the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology, Inc. (ACERT) has been seated on our Board. Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT, is currently Director of Assessment and Learning and Professor, Radiologic Technology at Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO.

Both Ms. Zelna and Dr. Schans were installed as Directors at the conclusion of the spring meeting of the JRCERT Board of Directors.

A Message from The New Chair:

On behalf of the JRCERT Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to our newsletter, the Pulse. Many times during board meetings we discuss issues that need to be shared with our programs. The Directors want to share with you key information from these discussions that can be used to help keep your programs functioning smoothly and meeting the Standards.

As the incoming chair of the JRCERT Board of Directors, one of my goals is to continue improving communication between the JRCERT and our programs. This newsletter is one of the strategies that we will employ to help us reach that goal.

In the upcoming months, we will be undergoing a comprehensive revision of the Standards. If you have been through this process with us in the past, you understand how important it is for us to hear your feedback during the process.

I look forward to a productive year for the JRCERT and to hearing your comments and suggestions.

Laura
2014 Program Annual Report

By now, programs should have received information on completing the Program Annual Report for 2014. The information on accessing and completing the annual report was e-mailed to programs April 1, 2015. The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires accrediting agencies to monitor significant program changes and program effectiveness data for accredited programs and assure that the data is made available to the programs’ communities of interest and the general public.

This year’s report has been streamlined wherever possible to meet these requirements . . . and that should result in less work for programs!

Should you have questions, we’ve developed this detailed Step-by-Step Guide to Completion of the 2014 Annual Report to answer any questions you may have when completing the report. You will be submitting your completed report by e-mail to mail@jrcert.org with a due date of October 1, 2015. Programs that graduated classes during the last quarter of 2014 will have until January 18, 2016 to submit the annual report.

If you have questions or need assistance in completing the 2014 Annual Report, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

By now, programs should have received information on completing the Program Annual Report for 2014. The information on accessing and completing the annual report was e-mailed to programs April 1, 2015. The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires accrediting agencies to monitor significant program changes and program effectiveness data for accredited programs and assure that the data is made available to the programs’ communities of interest and the general public.

This year’s report has been streamlined wherever possible to meet these requirements . . . and that should result in less work for programs!

Should you have questions, we’ve developed this detailed Step-by-Step Guide to Completion of the 2014 Annual Report to answer any questions you may have when completing the report. You will be submitting your completed report by e-mail to mail@jrcert.org with a due date of October 1, 2015. Programs that graduated classes during the last quarter of 2014 will have until January 18, 2016 to submit the annual report.

If you have questions or need assistance in completing the 2014 Annual Report, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

JRCERT Accreditation Management System (AMS) 

. . . what’s the status?

We receive calls every day inquiring about the status of the JRCERT’s electronic accreditation management system (AMS). We are pleased to announce that we are indeed working on a new system and have engaged a very capable vendor partner to assure we “get it right” this time. The vendor has been spending a considerable amount of time with JRCERT staff to understand the requirements of the accreditation management system - and most importantly – how the system will be used by our programs to simplify the accreditation process.

To smooth the development, implementation, and the ever-so-important ongoing maintenance of the AMS, the JRCERT has added a full-time Information Technology (IT) Administrator. Paul Luhn, B.A. accepted the IT Administrator position in February. We welcome Paul to the JRCERT team!

Our tentative project timeline currently calls for a launch of the new AMS in 1st quarter, 2016. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Paul Luhn, B.A., Information Technology Administrator
Site Visitors Needed!

Are you interested in sharing your expertise in support of programmatic accreditation while having the opportunity to learn more about other JRCERT-accredited programs? The JRCERT has an immediate need for qualified educators to serve as site visitors for radiation therapy and medical dosimetry programs.

If you have an interest, and want to learn more about becoming a site visitor, please take a look at the Expectations, Qualifications, and Application for Site Visitors on our Web site and then feel free to give us a call to discuss.

Thank you, in advance, for your continuing support of the JRCERT and programmatic accreditation.

Mammography Clinical Rotations

All too often, radiography programs have opted to remove clinical observations and/or participation in mammography rotations from the clinical component based on concerns over equitable treatment of female and male students. The JRCERT Directors believe that removing gender-specific clinical rotations has penalized all groups of students by limiting learning experiences that can prepare them for career opportunities.

Programs are strongly encouraged to review the article, “Mammography Rotations for All Students: How to Make It Work,” by Debra Poelhuis, M.S., R.T.(R)(M). The article was originally published in the Journal of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, September/October 2013 (Vol. 85, Number 1) and is available on the JRCERT Web site. The article provides excellent guidance on how programs can retain mammography clinical experiences in the curriculum and still meet JRCERT requirements regarding equitable learning opportunities.

The JRCERT Welcomes NEW Programs

Congratulations and welcome to these newly accredited programs. Since the beginning of the year, 10 applicant programs have been awarded initial JRCERT accreditation by the Board of Directors. The sponsoring institutions and program officials are to be commended for their hard work and demonstrated high level of professionalism in achieving the “gold standard” in programmatic accreditation:

- 21st Century Oncology, Inc. School for Medical Dosimetry Cape Coral, FL Medical Dosimetry
- Atlanta Technical College Atlanta, GA Radiography
- Elgin Community College Elgin, IL Magnetic Resonance
- Jefferson College Hillsboro, MO Radiography
- Mitchell Technical Institute Mitchell, SD Radiation Therapy
- Owens Community College Toledo, OH Magnetic Resonance
- Randolph Community College Asheboro, NC Radiography
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL Radiography
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL Magnetic Resonance
- Southwest University at El Paso El Paso, TX Radiography
Assessment Corner

Programmatic assessment of student learning - analyzing how well students have learned and progressed as a group - is the basis for program improvement. We fully realize that outcomes assessment can be challenging for our programs and may seem a daunting task, especially for programs having only one, two, or three full-time faculty who are already stretched to the limit with teaching and administrative responsibilities, managing clinical rotations, etc.

The JRCERT is in the process of developing additional resources to assist our programs with the outcomes assessment process. We will be working over the next few months to develop an Assessment Corner on the JRCERT Web site. The dedicated area of the Web will contain an ever-expanding “toolbox” of assessment resources, including, but not limited to:

- Learning Modules for Elements of The Assessment Plan (currently available on Web site)
- Links to Assessment “Best Practices” from Multiple Sources
- Considerations When Reviewing An Assessment Plan
- Evaluation (grading) Rubrics
- Sample Meeting Minutes

Until the Web site Assessment Corner is up and running, programs are encouraged to continue utilizing the current Assessment Resources available on our Web site under the Programs & Faculty tab, including the newly-added Sample Meeting Minutes. The sample minutes can be utilized to assist programs in documenting the analysis and sharing of student learning outcome data and program effectiveness data with communities of interest to demonstrate compliance with Standard Five - Objectives 5.4 and 5.5.

Traci Lang Promoted to Assistant Director

The JRCERT is pleased to announce a recent organizational change. Traci B. Lang, M.S.R.S., R.T.(R)(T) has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director. Traci joined the JRCERT in April 2012 as an accreditation specialist. During her tenure, she has consistently demonstrated her dedication and hard work in support of the organization. Traci received ARRT certification in radiography in 1997 and radiation therapy in 1998. She has experience in medical dosimetry, served as chief radiation therapist at Baton Rouge General Medical Center, Baton Rouge, LA, and prior to coming to the JRCERT, served as program director for the medical center’s radiography program.

Our congratulations to Traci on her promotion!

Programs may want to take a look at the 2014 JRCERT Organizational Report, available on our Web site, to learn even more about the JRCERT and its recent activities.

Pulse Editor: Thomas Brown, M.A.Ed., R.T.(R), Accreditation Specialist

This Pulse Newsletter is archived on the JRCERT Web site, www.jrcert.org, under the “News” tab.