Greetings, and welcome to spring! The JRCERT Board of Directors has just completed its April 2016 meeting, April 7-8, here in Chicago and several key decisions were made that will affect all of our accredited programs. For example, the Directors approved the discontinuance of the current process requiring programs to deactivate/reactivate clinical education settings. The board also adopted a position statement on the JRCERT Standards regarding mammography clinical rotations. Please be sure to read the articles regarding these important decisions in this issue of the Pulse and review the Summary of the April 2016 Board Meeting. The Board Meeting Summary is also available at www.jrcert.org under the News tab.

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

Effective immediately, programs will no longer need to deactivate/reactivate clinical settings based on varying student rotation schedules. Programs with clinical settings currently identified as “Deactivated” will therefore need to perform a one-time update of these settings or disaffiliate them. Any updated settings will be identified simply as “Approved” settings. The rationale for the elimination of the “Deactivated” status is detailed on page 2 together with a link to instructions on how to complete the one-time update. All updates or disaffiliations of clinical settings identified as “Deactivated” on your program database must be submitted no later than June 1st.

See page 2 for more details.
The JRCERT continues to simplify the management of clinical settings. Last year, the JRCERT streamlined the requirements for approval signatures, affiliation agreement components, and documentation of resources required for new clinical setting applications. We also simplified the cumbersome process involved in sharing clinical settings among programs. Eliminating the time and work involved with continually deactivating/reactivating clinical settings based on changing student rotation schedules will allow programs to focus on the goals of the program.

Effective immediately, programs will no longer need to notify the JRCERT that a clinical setting is being “Deactivated,” when the setting is not currently being utilized for student clinical experience, or provide notification that the setting is being “Reactivated” upon the program resuming utilization of the setting. JRCERT records will simply identify a clinical setting as “Approved” until the program completely “Disaffiliates” with the clinical setting, i.e., the program has no plans to continue utilizing the setting for student clinical experience and would like to have it removed from the program’s listing of approved clinical settings. Should the program wish to again begin utilizing a disaffiliated setting, it would need to submit a new application, with fee, for recognition of the setting.

Radiography, Radiation Therapy, and Magnetic Resonance programs will still need to meet the requirements for a full-time clinical coordinator (educational coordinator for MR) as identified in Standard Two - Objective 2.2 of the relevant JRCERT Standards.

Radiography, Radiation Therapy: Full-time clinical coordinator required if the program has more than five (5) active clinical settings or more than 30 students enrolled in the clinical component.

Magnetic Resonance: Full-time educational coordinator required if the program has more than eight (8) clinical settings.

Programs are advised that when determining the need for a clinical coordinator or educational coordinator (MR), they will need to consider the total number of clinical settings utilized at any one time to determine continued compliance with the STANDARDS.

Programs are also reminded that sufficient physical and human resources must be available to provide an educationally valid clinical experience. Additionally, for shared clinical settings, programs must agree to coordinate schedules to ensure that the combined maximum number of students assigned at any one time does not exceed the available resources.

Click here for Instructions for One-time Update of “Deactivated Clinical Settings.” The instructions are also available at www.jrcert.org under Programs & Faculty/Program Resources.

Disaffiliations and/or updates to clinical settings currently identified as “Deactivated” must be completed by June 1st. If you have questions regarding this one-time update, please do not hesitate to contact the JRCERT office.
Meet The New Board!

The makeup of the JRCERT Board of Directors is once again changing as Directors complete their terms of service. At the conclusion of the April 2016 meeting, two Directors completed their maximum six-year terms: Darcy Wolfman, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer, and Susan Hatfield, Ph.D., the Board’s public member. The dedication and commitment of these two individuals to the organization has been invaluable. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Darcy and Susan for their tremendous service during their tenure on the Board and extend our wishes for their continued success. Director Laura Borghardt, M.S., CMD will now assume the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

We now welcome two new Directors to the Board. Jason Stephenson, M.D., nominated to the Board from the American College of Radiology (ACR), and Beverly Felder, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.A., public member. Dr. Stephenson is currently Assistant Professor, Associate Residency Program Director, and Director of Medical Student Education at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health - Madison, while Ms. Felder has recently retired from her position as Health Professions Retention Specialist at Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL.

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

JRCERT Organizational Report Now Available

The JRCERT 2015 Organizational Report is now available on the JRCERT Web site. The report contains the following information:

- Demographic information on accredited programs
- Summary of program accreditation actions taken by the JRCERT Board of Directors in 2015
- Complete listing of JRCERT site visitors performing site visits during 2015
- Details on the composition of the JRCERT Board of Directors

If you have any questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to call the office.
JRCERT Launches New Accreditation Management System (AMS)

The JRCERT launched its new Accreditation Management System (AMS) on March 22nd with a broadcast e-mail to program directors. Based on feedback from programs, the system is working well! Programs are reminded to refer to the Portal Helps available on the JRCERT Web site home page (upper right corner) to access instructional videos to help give you a working knowledge of the AMS. The Portal Helps also include a continually updated listing of frequently asked questions (FAQs) along with helpful, straightforward answers.

If, after accessing the Portal Helps, you still need further assistance in answering your question, you may e-mail our Information Technology Administrator, Paul Luhn, at pluhn@jrcert.org. Your e-mails will be responded to in a timely manner to help resolve your portal issue.

We appreciate your feedback on the new AMS.

- Watch for AMS Portal “Tip of The Week” broadcast e-mails . . . coming soon!
- Some programs apparently are not receiving broadcast e-mails from the JRCERT. If you believe you are not receiving these broadcast e-mails, please contact your IT department to check firewalls or other possible obstacles.

JRCERT Approves Another Agency to Accredit Program Clinical Settings

Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ)

Consistent with JRCERT Standards, clinical settings must be accredited to assure compliance with applicable laws that promote safe environments for students and others. The JRCERT Board, at its April Meeting, approved an additional agency that will be acceptable as an accreditor of clinical settings utilized by our programs. The agency is the Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ). CIHQ, established in 1999, is a membership-based organization comprised primarily of acute care and critical access hospitals. For further information regarding CIHQ, please see their Web site at http://www.cihq.org/hospital_accreditation_division.asp

The current listing of JRCERT-approved clinical setting accreditors is as follows:

- The Joint Commission (TJC)
- DNV Healthcare, Inc.
- Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)
- American College of Radiology (ACR)
- American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO)
- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC)
- Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ)

Note:
Documentation of a state-issued license is also acceptable.
Important Information!

**JRCERT Adopts New Position Statement on Mammography Clinical Rotations**

The JRCERT Board of Directors, at its April 2016 meeting adopted a Position Statement on Mammography Clinical Rotations. The position statement provides clarification regarding **Standard One - Objective 1.2** of the JRCERT Standards which require programs to “provide equitable learning opportunities for all students.”

The JRCERT does not provide legal advice to program officials; nevertheless, the JRCERT has received numerous inquiries regarding the placement of students in mammography clinical rotations. The JRCERT understands that there have been significant concerns regarding the interpretation of the JRCERT Standards regarding equitable learning opportunities for all students.

With regard to mammography, the JRCERT has determined programs must make every effort to place a male student in a mammography clinical rotation if requested; however, programs will not be expected to attempt to override clinical site policies that restrict mammography rotations to female students. Male students should be advised that placement in a mammography rotation is not guaranteed and, in fact, would be very unlikely. To deny mammography educational experience to female students, however, would place those students at a disadvantage in the workforce where there is a demand for appropriately educated professionals to address the needs of patients.

The JRCERT reiterates that it is the responsibility of each clinical site to address any legal challenges related to a program’s inability to place male students in a mammography rotation. All students should be informed and educated about the various employment opportunities and potential barriers that may affect their ability to work in a particular clinical staff position.

Based on the recent JRCERT Position Statement, programs may, at their discretion, choose to modify their clinical mammography rotation policies. If the program’s current policy is revised, it must be publicly disclosed on its Web site, along with the rationale for the revision. To assist programs with transparency regarding this issue, the JRCERT has developed a “template” that can be modified as necessary for publication by the program. Click here for:

**JRCERT Position Statement on Mammography Clinical Rotations**

AND

**Template for Publication of Revised Policy on Mammography Clinical Rotations**

Both of these documents are also available at www.jrcert.org under Programs & Faculty/Program Resources.

If programs have questions on the new Position Statement, please do not hesitate to contact the JRCERT office.

**Assessment Corner**

The **Assessment Corner** area of the JRCERT Web site contains multiple resources to assist our programs with assessing student learning which ultimately leads to program improvement — the goal of every educational program!

Here is another outstanding Web site that will provide you with a tremendous amount of guidance on outcomes assessment:

http://assessmentcommons.org
The JRCERT Welcomes NEW Programs

Congratulations and welcome to these newly accredited programs. Since the October 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors, four 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 levels of professionalism:

- Augusta Technical College
  - Augusta, GA
  - Radiography
- Pioneer Pacific College
  - Springfield, OR
  - Radiography
- Grand Valley State University
  - Grand Rapids, MI
  - Medical Dosimetry
- Radiological Technologies University VT
  - South Bend, IN
  - Medical Dosimetry

Standards Revision Survey Available on the JRCERT Web Site

As the initial step in the comprehensive revision of the current JRCERT Standards for an Accredited Educational Program (2014) – Radiography, Radiation Therapy, Magnetic Resonance, and Medical Dosimetry, the JRCERT has published to our programs a survey to assess the validity, reliability, and ease of interpretation of the current Standards and to identify potential issues and direction. You can find the Standards Revision Survey under the Standards Revision area on the Web site home page at www.jrcert.org or by clicking here.

As part of the Standards revision process, the JRCERT will also be surveying other communities of interest, such as professional societies and agencies, to seek their input on the development of the new Standards.

We look forward to your feedback and wish to thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey. Extensive input from our programs is critically important to the development of standards that truly reflect the goals and future direction of our profession.

Stephanie Eatmon, Ed.D., R.T.(R)(T), FASRT
Standards Committee Chair
First Vice Chair-JRCERT Board of Directors

Watch for the 2015 Program Annual Report – Coming July 11th

The 2015 Program Annual Report will be available to programs on the Accreditation Management System (AMS) portal, the week of July 11, 2016. Programs will receive a broadcast e-mail announcing the availability of the annual report on the portal. Additionally, a link will be provided in the e-mail to a Guide for Completing the 2015 Program Annual Report. The guide will also be made available on the JRCERT Web site under Programs & Faculty/Program Resources. The guide is a valuable resource to help answer questions you may have about completing the annual report.

The due dates for submitting the 2015 Program Annual Report are as follows:

- Programs with final graduation of students between January 1 and September 30, 2015 - October 3, 2016.
- Programs with final graduation of students between October 1 and December 31, 2015 - January 18, 2017.
Reviewing Student Supervision Requirements with Clinical Staff

It has always been a challenge for radiography programs to make certain that all clinical staff at the clinical settings are periodically reminded of the program’s student supervision policies.

Now there is an easy and effective way to meet the requirements of JRCERT Standard Four - Objectives 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6 which require programs to document that its supervision policies are made known to students, clinical instructors, and clinical staff. In January, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) published an informative and entertaining, 5-minute, animated module on its Web site, www.asrt.org/store, titled, Student Supervision | 2016 at the ASRT Store (keyword search “supervision”). A link to the module is also available on the JRCERT Web site under the Programs & Faculty tab, Program Resources. The module is an excellent resource that can be used as one method to assist programs in reminding clinical staff working with students of the program’s direct, indirect, and repeat image supervision policies.

After viewing the module and successfully completing a brief 5-question quiz, participants will receive a certificate from the ASRT recognizing their achievement. Technologists who want to complete the module will need to create an account in the ASRT Store. There is no charge to create an account or to access this specific module.

The module uses the JRCERT Standards on supervision as its framework; therefore, programs submitting self-study reports or interim reports may choose to provide documentation to the JRCERT that clinical staff have reviewed this module as an additional way to document compliance with Objectives 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6.

Programs can purchase their own Student Supervision institutional module on disc for $50 member/$100 nonmember, plus $4.95 shipping/handling. To place order, the program may contact Erin Livermore by phone at (800) 444-2778, Ext. 1097, or e-mail elivermore@asrt.org. The package includes the module on disc, a transcript, test bank of questions, and completion certificate blank to be used locally.

The JRCERT wishes to express its sincere thanks to the ASRT for creating this very effective and

Options for Documenting Compliance: Objectives 4.4, 4.5, 4.6

- Documentation of completion of the ASRT “Supervision | 2016” module.
- Published program materials (e.g., student handbook containing supervision policies, introductory course outlines, etc.)
- Representative agenda from meetings with clinical instructors and clinical staff
- Newsletters, broadcast e-mails and other communications to students, clinical instructors, and/or clinical staff reminding them of the program’s supervision policies
- Clinical evaluation forms/tools containing question(s) on the adequacy of student supervision
- Clinical forms/tools documenting the implementation of supervision policies, etc.
JRCERT Support for Image Gently Campaign
...thoughts and comments from a radiologist and recent JRCERT Director

The mission of the JRCERT focuses on two distinct but related elements: “promotes excellence in education and elevates the quality and safety of patient care.” Quite often, programs and the public tend to overlook the JRCERT’s activities in support of patient care and safety. The JRCERT Standards for educational programs include several objectives that guide programs in assuring students employ proper radiation safety practices to protect themselves and their patients from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

As a practicing radiologist and recent member of the JRCERT Board of Directors, I am dedicated to the precepts of the JRCERT’s mission. I am especially proud that the JRCERT is identified as one of more than 95 Alliance Organizations that have pledged their support for the Image Gently Campaign from the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging. The Alliance is a coalition founded by the Society for Pediatric Imaging, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the American College of Radiology, and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. The goal of the Alliance is to “change practice by raising awareness of the opportunities to lower radiation dose in the imaging of children.” This goal is directly in line with the mission of the JRCERT.

Pediatric imaging, and imaging in general, should be done as a team, with referring physicians, radiologists, radiologic technologists, and qualified medical physicists, all playing important roles in patient care. The best way radiologic technologists can be involved in changing practice locally is to be judicious in their use of ionizing radiation and serve as advocates for the use of the ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) principle when imaging pediatric patients. The Image Gently campaign is meant to prompt discussion and awareness to ensure that when ionizing radiation is used for imaging children, the imaging procedure is medically necessary and the ALARA principle is followed. The Image Gently campaign is not meant to dissuade the use of appropriate medical imaging in the pediatric population.

The radiologic technology community plays an important role in these discussions. By incorporating these principles into the education of radiologic technologists, the profession can be at the forefront in advocating for these patients. For further information on this important initiative, I recommend visiting the Image Gently Web site, www.imagegently.org, which provides a wealth of information for radiologic technologists, patients, families, and other caregivers.

Darcy Wolfman, M.D.
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, MD
Member of the JRCERT Board of Directors through April 2016 Board Meeting