From the CEO

Greetings!
The JRCERT Board of Directors and staff extend our best wishes to you and your students as you celebrate National Radiologic Technology Week (November 6-12, 2016) - time to celebrate!

Please be sure to review the Summary of the October 2016 Board Meeting to remain current on the Board’s decisions that may affect your program. The Board Meeting Summary is also available at: www.jrcert.org under the News tab.

Just a reminder - Veterans Day is November 11th. Please remember to thank our veterans for their service.

Finally, accreditation specialist and PULSE editor, Tom Brown, will be retiring at the end of the year. Please see comments on Tom’s retirement on page 7.

On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the holiday season!

-Leslie Winter, CEO

New! Completely Redesigned Outcomes Assessment Conference . . . Strategies for Success

May 11, 2017

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to increase your knowledge of student learning assessment and earn CE credits!

See page 2 for more details.

The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery education programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry.
Strategies for Success... New JRCERT Outcomes Assessment Conference

Producing highest-quality graduates is the goal of all educational programs and assessment of student learning is the key to meeting that goal through continuous program improvement. The JRCERT is excited to announce a new one-day Outcomes Assessment Conference, Strategies for Success, on Thursday, May 11, 2017. We believe the format of this new one-day conference will provide you with a wide array of valuable information presented by national leaders on assessment and student success.

Come for the Outcomes Assessment Conference and stay for the Accreditation Seminar or Site Visitor workshop on Friday, May 12, 2017 at no additional cost. CE credits will be awarded upon completion of the Outcomes Assessment Conference, Accreditation Seminar, and Site Visitor Workshop. A brochure with complete information on the Strategies for Success Conference and the registration form are now available for downloading and printing at the Conference Webpage.

Capacity is limited... register today!

Strategies for Success
(Tentative Program Pending ASRT Category A Credit)

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Location: The Engineers Building 205 W. Wacker Drive Suite 202
Registration Fee: $50/individual (OA Conference only)
Lodging: The JRCERT has not contracted with a specific hotel. There is a listing of nearby hotel accommodations on the JRCERT Web site.

“Backward Design”
Sarah Baker, Ed.D., R.T.(R), FASRT
Dr. Sarah Baker is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for University College at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, (IUPUI).

“Why Grades Don’t Make the Grade in Student Learning Assessment”
Bette Schans, PhD, R.T.(R), FASRT
Dr. Bette Schans is currently the Director of Assessment of Student Learning at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, CO.

“Tools to Assess Student Learning”
Susan R. Hatfield, Ph.D.
Dr. Susan R. Hatfield is Professor Emerita of Communication Studies at Winona State University, Winona, MN. Over her 34 years at WSU, Dr. Hatfield served as Assessment Coordinator and Department Chair. Currently, Dr. Hatfield is a Senior Scholar with the Higher Learning Commission’s Academy projects.

“Here’s the Data, Now What?”
Tricia Leggett, DHEd., R.T.(R)(QM)
Dr. Tricia Leggett currently serves as the Vice President for Student Success at Zane State College, Zanesville, OH.
STANDARDS Revision Update

Greetings, the JRCERT Standards Committee would like to update you on the progress of the comprehensive Standards revision project as introduced in last fall’s Pulse newsletter. Please remember that the JRCERT is dedicated to a transparent revision process and will be expanding our Standards Revision Web site with updates, survey results, and draft documents. Our Standards Revision Project Timetable indicates we are right on schedule with our survey distribution and with seeking input from professional organizations. We extended the timeline for the initial Programs & Faculty Survey until October 15, 2016 in an effort to gain more input and received a total of 485 responses. This survey was sent out to all program directors, clinical/educational coordinators, and faculty of accredited programs with the hope they would forward it to adjunct faculty, clinical faculty, deans, students, and other stakeholders. The Committee and JRCERT Staff are currently organizing this data to develop Draft 1, which will be reviewed at our April 2017 and October 2017 Standards Committee meetings.

During the past year, we’ve also sought salient information regarding the future of medical imaging and radiation therapy, including medical dosimetry, from the leaders of the certification agencies and professional societies to assist our committee in the development of all future draft standards documents. Once Draft 1 is made available, these agencies, as well as all other stakeholders, will have another opportunity to comment on the draft. Refer to our Standards Revision Project – Stakeholder Engagement document for more information on these agencies.

JRCERT CEO Leslie Winter and Executive Associate Director Jay Hicks will host Standards Revision presentations in conjunction with the 42nd Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT) and the 20th West Coast Educators Council (WCEC) Student-Educator-Radiographer Seminar on January 26, 2017 and March 9, 2017, respectively. If you are attending the JRCERT Accreditation Seminar preceding these conferences, you will also have an opportunity to voice your input on the Standards revision project. Click here for JRCERT Accreditation Seminar registration information.

Results of our initial survey should be posted to our Standards Revision Web page after the April 2017 committee meeting.

We welcome comments at any time, so if you were unable to respond to the initial survey, please feel free to send comments to Standards.Revision@jrcert.org. As always, we look forward to your continued input and to publishing the first draft of the Standards in fall 2017.

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

This information, which may have been previously entered into other areas of the AMS portal, is NOT automatically transferred to the self-study report.

- **AMS Portal Instructional Videos:** The process to enter a clinical instructor request in the portal is different for a clinical instructor at the sponsoring institution vs. at a clinical setting. Instructional videos are available by clicking here.
  - To change a clinical instructor at sponsor, select “Changing Program Officials.”
  - To change a clinical instructor at clinical setting, select “Changing an Existing Clinical Setting.”

- **AMS Portal:** If you are making changes to an approved clinical setting that existed prior to the new AMS portal, you may have to upload the affiliation agreement and the clinical setting accreditation documentation. All required fields must be completed before you click “OK” at the bottom of the page to accept your changes. If your changes did not go through, go back and check to make sure the required documents are present.

- **AMS Portal:** When adding a new clinical setting, it will appear in the clinical settings “table” with a status of “Pending.” To submit it to JRCERT for approval, you must highlight the clinical setting name and then click the “Submit” icon above the table which will change the status to “Pending Complete.” Settings with a status of “Pending” have not been submitted to the JRCERT.

Here are some quick reminders to help you in meeting JRCERT accreditation requirements!

- Documentation from The Joint Commission (TJC) or other agencies that the program’s clinical settings are in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws should, if available, contain an expiration date. A current listing of JRCERT-approved clinical setting accreditors is available in the April 2016 Pulse newsletter. Click here.

- Self-study reports are “self-contained” documents; therefore, documentation such as ARRT cards, documentation of sponsoring institution accreditation, documentation that radiation sources at clinical settings and energized labs are in compliance with state and/or federal radiation safety laws, and clinical affiliation agreements must be included under the appropriate objective.
Encourage YOUR Students to Become Future Leaders in the Profession . . . ASRT’s Student Leadership Development Program

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) has a truly outstanding program in place, the Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP), which offers an educational program designed just for students and an opportunity to network with medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals to get to better know the ASRT and its activities. All of this happens when students selected for the program attend ASRT’s annual Educational Symposium and Governance and House of Delegates Meeting. 97 students attended the program during this year’s ASRT annual meeting in Las Vegas in June. Students selected to participate in the program receive airfare, housing, a stipend for meals, and other travel expenses associated with attending the meeting.

The SLDP provides a great opportunity for students to become more involved in the professional organization and prepare for leadership positions in the radiologic sciences. The JRCERT is honored to provide support for this program by supplying each student attending with a backpack imprinted with the JRCERT logo.

To learn more about the ASRT Student Leadership Development Program, go to www.asrt.org/sldp or contact Becky Apodaca, ASRT Director of Professional Practice at bapodaca@asrt.org. The deadline to apply for the 2017 SLDP is December 19, 2016.

Comments on the SLDP experience

How were you oriented to the experience?

Ms. Donovan: “After being selected, I attended two webinars and an onsite orientation in Las Vegas to help students prepare for what to expect at the Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting. These sessions helped put me at ease about the program.”

Ms. Wulff: “I was able to meet many other students and technologists from around the country who share the same passion as I do for our profession. Additionally, I was able to meet with officials from ASRT, ARRT, and the JRCERT. I also learned how ASRT regulations and bylaws are discussed and approved and hear first hand from ASRT officers what they do and how important it is for all of us to be involved.”

What did you gain from the SLDP experience?

Ms. Donovan: “I plan to become more actively involved in the Pennsylvania society and will be making a concentrated effort to get greater numbers of students in the state involved.”

Ms. Wulff: “I will be working to educate those students who are reluctant – as I once was - to step out of their comfort zone and get involved. Stepping out of that comfort zone can potentially lead to incredible opportunities within the profession.”

Pennsylvania Affiliate Selects Students for SLDP

The Pennsylvania affiliate selected two students to attend the 2016 SLDP in Las Vegas - Emily Donovan and Cheyenne Wulff, both from the baccalaureate radiography program sponsored by Misericordia University, Dallas, PA. The program’s director, Loraine (Lorie) Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR) is a strong advocate of the SLDP. “The students selected to participate in the program represent the future leaders of the profession,” said Ms. Zelna. “It’s my hope that the skills they were taught and the networking they experienced, together with their exuberant energy, will continue to guide and motivate them throughout their professional careers.”

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Take a moment to read comments on the experience from two students who attended from the Pennsylvania affiliate society.
We receive several questions each month regarding whether a clinical facility needs to be recognized, “approved,” by the JRCERT for student clinical experience. Additionally, programs are, on occasion, being cited under **Standard Two-Objective 2.5** during a site visit for utilizing clinical settings that have not been recognized.

Questions usually arise when a program is considering utilization of a “satellite” facility, such as an outpatient imaging center or medical office, as a clinical setting for the program. To help decide if a facility needs to be recognized as a clinical setting for the program, you need to ask these two questions:

1. Is the facility under different radiologic administrative control from the currently recognized clinical setting or the program’s sponsoring institution?
2. Is the facility geographically dispersed from the associated, currently recognized clinical setting?

If the answer to either of these questions is **YES**, the facility MUST be recognized by the JRCERT as a separate clinical setting for the program. Programs will need to make application for the new setting through the Accreditation Management System (AMS) portal. Utilization of an unrecognized clinical setting for student clinical experience will result in a fine to the program of $500.

**Observation Sites**

As a method to broaden students’ clinical experience, programs may elect to utilize, on a limited basis, medical facilities for students’ “observation” of specialized procedures not involving clinical competency achievement. An example might be one in which radiography program students observe bone densitometry at a freestanding women’s health clinic. Students may not assist in, or perform, any aspects of patient care during observation assignments, i.e., no physical contact with the patient and no operation of the equipment.

Since the JRCERT does **not** recognize true observation sites, the “hands off” requirement is necessary to protect all parties involved, as there is likely no affiliation agreement in place that addresses student liability. The JRCERT recommends establishing a memorandum of understanding between the clinical setting and the sponsoring institution that, at minimum, addresses the responsibilities of both parties and student liability. Additionally, facilities where students are participating in service learning projects or community-based learning opportunities do **not** require JRCERT recognition.

**Affiliation agreement?**

An affiliation agreement is **not** required for recognition of a new clinical setting if the setting is under the same radiologic administrative control as an associated, currently recognized clinical setting or is owned by the program’s sponsoring institution; however, a memorandum of understanding between the clinical setting and the sponsoring institution is recommended. At a minimum, the memorandum should address responsibilities of both parties and student professional liability insurance.

For those situations in which an affiliation agreement is not required, documentation that the new clinical setting is in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws must still be submitted in support of the recognition of the setting.

**A Consideration for Observation Sites...**

Students may experience pressure to go beyond the “hands off” policy at observation sites, thus placing the student in an awkward, uncomfortable, and potentially libelous situation.
The JRCERT Welcomes NEW Programs

Congratulations and welcome to these newly accredited programs. Since the April 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors, three 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:

- Austin Peay State University
  Clarksville, TN
  Radiation Therapy

- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College - Valdosta Campus
  Valdosta, GA
  Radiography

- Orange County Community College
  Middletown, NY
  Radiography

Accreditation Specialist Tom Brown

“The JRCERT will be losing Tom Brown, Accreditation Specialist and editor of our Pulse newsletter in January as he retires after 13 years with the JRCERT. He has been a tremendous asset to the organization and will be greatly missed. We wish Tom all the best in his future plans. Here are a couple comments from Tom.”

- Leslie

“I’ve truly enjoyed a wonderful run working at the JRCERT. Leslie and executive staff, supported by the Board of Directors, have created a culture that fosters cooperation among everyone in the organization and encourages every member of the team to provide the best service possible to our programs throughout the accreditation process.

“I am looking forward to spending more time on my several hobbies (including bagpiping and banjo picking) traveling with my wife, and enjoying the grandkids.

“It’s bittersweet, as I will definitely miss my colleagues and the many friends I’ve made at the various programs around the country.

“All the best!”

- Tom

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

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