



# JRCERT

Excellence in Education

## Pulse

A Publication of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology

### From the CEO

Greetings, and welcome to spring! The JRCERT Board of Directors has just completed its April 2017 meeting, April 20-21, here in Chicago, during which many important discussions were had.

Please be sure to read the important articles in this issue of the *Pulse* and review the

[Summary of the April 2017 Board Meeting.](#) The Board Meeting Summary is also available at [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org) under the News tab. The Board, staff, and myself wish everyone safe spring and summer months.

Leslie.



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

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## JRCERT Receives Continued Recognition from the United States Department of Education (USDE)

Accreditors undergo an external review by the USDE every five years. The recognition process is overseen by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) established through the Higher Education Act, which delineates the committee's mission and responsibilities. NACIQI is an 18-member committee appointed by the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Education. One of the committee's goals is the establishment and enforcement

of criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies. NACIQI's recognition process is similar to the accreditation process for JRCERT-accredited programs. As an organization, the JRCERT is required to complete a petition to ensure compliance with all federal regulations. The JRCERT was considered by NACIQI at its February 2017 meeting. We are extremely proud to announce that the JRCERT met all of the federal requirements and received full recognition for five years.

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.



## Meet The New Board



Julie Lasley, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(T)

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 2017 meeting, two Directors completed their terms: Stephanie Eatmon, Ed.D., R.T.(R)(T), FASRT, First Vice Chair, completed the maximum six-year term, and Jason L. Scott, M.B.A., R.T.(R)(MR), CRA, FAHRA, completed a three-year term. The dedication and

commitment of these two individuals to the organization has been invaluable. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Stephanie and Jason for their tremendous service during their tenure on the Board and extend our wishes for their continued success.

We welcome two new Directors to the Board: Julie Lasley, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(T) and Lisa F. Schmidt, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(M), CRT(R).

Dr. Lasley is currently Program Chair of Radiation Therapy and Associate Professor at Baptist College of Health Sciences while Dr. Schmidt is currently the Director of the Radiologic Technology Program at Pima Medical Institute - Chula Vista.

Both Dr. Lasley and Dr. Schmidt were installed as Directors at the conclusion of the spring meeting of the JRCERT Board of Directors.



Lisa F. Schmidt, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(M), CRT(R)



### 2017-2018 JRCERT Board of Directors

**(L - R):** Tricia Leggett, D.H.Ed., R.T.(R)(QM), Loraine (Lorie) Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR), Beverly J. Felder, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.A., Laura Borghardt, M.S., CMD, Julie Lasley, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(T), Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT, Laura S. Aaron, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(M)(QM), FASRT, Lisa F. Schmidt, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(M), CRT(R), Jason W. Stephenson, M.D.

## Director Bette Schans Honored

The JRCERT would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Director Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT for receiving Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic

Technology (ACERT) Life Membership. This honor is awarded to those individuals who have provided outstanding service to the radiologic science profession.

Director Schans has been actively

involved with ACERT since 2001, including serving as their President and Board Chair. Her commitment to the radiologic science profession is commendable.

## Standards Revision Update

Greetings from the JRCERT Standards Committee. We would like to update you on the progress of the comprehensive Standards revision project. As previously indicated, we are dedicated to a transparent revision process and have updated the [Standards Revision Web page](#) with the results from our initial Programs & Faculty and Site Visitor surveys. Results, as published, are across all four modalities. We also gained input from multiple professional associations, individual emails, and interactions with you at national, regional, and state conferences. Thank you for your valuable input!

The committee held a virtual meeting in March and met face-to-face just prior to our April 20, 2017 board meeting to thoroughly vet all stakeholder input and begin work on Draft I. Some interesting items that we are anxious to share include:

- Deletion of Standard Six – Institutional/Programmatic Data. The committee feels this information is redundant with information captured during the initial accreditation application and policy requirements for programs undergoing continuing accreditation,
- Subsume all supervision-related objectives into a single objective (Radiography Standard Four – Objectives 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6), and
- Deletion of Standard One - Objective I.1 across all standards yet intertwining the spirit of this objective across multiple objectives.

The committee will be working feverishly during the next few months to prepare Draft I and release it for public comment in late summer or early fall. We are working hard to be ahead of our scheduled release date. You can review the complete timetable at our main Standards Revision Web page or by clicking [Standards Revision Project Timetable](#).

We welcome comments at any time, so if you were unable to respond to one of the initial surveys, please feel free to send comments to [Standards.Revision@jrcert.org](mailto:Standards.Revision@jrcert.org) or look for a JRCERT representative at an upcoming conference.

I would like to thank Dr. Stephanie Eatmon, outgoing Standards Committee Chair and First Vice Chair of the JRCERT Board of Directors for her leadership and dedication to this most important charge. We will all carry the torch you lit!

As always, we look forward to your continued input and to publishing the first draft of the Standards in the near future.

Sincerely,



Bette A. Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R),  
FASRT  
Standards Committee Chair  
Second Vice Chair JRCERT Board  
of Directors

## CHEA Accreditation

The JRCERT is currently working on its Interim Report for continued recognition by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation). In accordance with the accreditation process, the JRCERT is conducting an audit of the program effectiveness data web pages for all our accredited programs in effort to determine

compliance with JRCERT **Standard Five - Objective 5.3**. We fully believe accountability is enhanced by making program effectiveness data available to your communities of interest and the public. Consistent with **Standard Five - Objective 5.3**, programs must publish, at a minimum, their five-year average credentialing examination pass rate,

five-year average job placement rate, and annual program completion rate on their program-specific web page. If the program does not publish this information directly on its homepage then the information must be clearly identified and easily available with minimal navigation. Thank you for your due diligence in this matter.



## JRCERT Organizational Report Now Available

The [JRCERT 2016 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 2016
- Details on the composition of the JRCERT Board of Directors
- Complete listing of JRCERT site visitors performing site visits during 2016



If you have any questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to call the office.

## ASRT Radiography Curriculum Revised

The JRCERT **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography** requires programs to follow a JRCERT-adopted curriculum. The JRCERT defines an adopted curriculum as the latest American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) professional curriculum. The ASRT recently finalized the radiography curriculum.

The JRCERT Board of Directors adopted the revised ASRT Radiography Curriculum at the JRCERT April 2017 board meeting. The implementation date is September 1, 2018 and is required for students beginning on or after that date. The JRCERT has amended the Curriculum Analysis Grid to reflect the revised curriculum.

The grid was developed by the JRCERT to assist programs in assuring all required components are appropriately reflected within the program's curriculum. The revised grid is available [here](#) or on the JRCERT Web site under Program Resources.

## The JRCERT Welcomes NEW Programs

Congratulations and welcome to our newly accredited programs. Since the October 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors, six applicant programs have been awarded initial JRCERT accreditation. The sponsoring institutions and program officials are to be commended for their hard work and demonstrated high levels of professionalism:

**Broward College Central Campus**  
Davie, FL  
Radiography

**Broward College North Campus**  
Coconut Creek, FL  
Radiation Therapy

**Michigan Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Consortium (MiRIS)**  
Lansing, MI  
Magnetic Resonance

**Saint Louis University**  
Saint Louis, MO  
Magnetic Resonance

**University of California, Irvine Medical Center**  
Orange, CA  
Medical Dosimetry

**University of Mississippi Medical Center**  
Jackson, MS  
Magnetic Resonance



## Important Information!

# Safety Practices and Guidelines in Magnetic Resonance (MR) Programs

All programs should have published policies and protocols that govern students' laboratory experiences. Some MR programs might be fortunate enough to provide laboratory scanning experiences for students, which may include allowing students to scan volunteers. Surprisingly, there are principles and guidelines that can be applied for the appropriate and safe use of MRI in human subjects for training and teaching purposes.<sup>1</sup> This practice may not be common for most MR programs; however, if used, it should be minimal and there should be strict guidelines and protocols created and followed.

MR is noninvasive and does not use ionizing radiation; nevertheless, volunteers, which may include students, must undergo appropriate MR safety screening. Programs must establish a MR safety screening protocol that assures students are appropriately screened for magnetic wave and/or radiofrequency hazards to ensure student safety as well as proper educational practices.<sup>2-3</sup>

Documentation of the MR safety screening, including signatures is a requirement. Any contraindications or concerns should exclude the volunteer from participating. All non-clinical, non-research MRI procedures should be performed under direct supervision of an experienced and qualified MR technologist.<sup>1&3</sup> Additionally, programs should implement a protocol to obtain informed consent as well as a protocol for incidental findings. This non-clinical, non-research training and teaching practice does not require approval from the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Board; although, the program would benefit from consulting with their local IRB or Ethics Board to ensure consistency with local guidelines and laws.<sup>1</sup>

MR programs may find it necessary to have students scan volunteers to educate and instruct students in appropriate clinical practice; however, the program must assure appropriate and safe MR practices are in place. Developing strict guidelines and protocols for this non-clinical, non-

research training and teaching practice in MR programs will help ensure that standard MR safety practices as well as proper educational practices, and the principles of beneficence are implemented and followed.<sup>1</sup>

### References

1. Reeder, MD, PhD, Scott B; Kimbrell, BSRT, Vera; Owman, RT, RN, Titti; Steckner, PhD, MBA, Michael; Calamante, PhD, Fernando; On behalf of the ISMRM Safety Committee. (2017). Guidelines for Documentation and Consent for Nonclinical, Nonresearch MRI in Human Subjects. *Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging*, 45 (1), 36-41.
2. Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. MR safety screening for all educational programs. [http://www.jrcert.org/sites/jrcert/uploads/documents/October\\_2015\\_Newsletter\\_Final\\_11\\_04\\_15.pdf](http://www.jrcert.org/sites/jrcert/uploads/documents/October_2015_Newsletter_Final_11_04_15.pdf). Published 2014. Accessed March 13, 2017.
3. Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. 2014 JRCERT Magnetic Resonance Standards for an accredited educational program. <http://www.jrcert.org/programs-faculty/jrcert-standards/>. Published 2014. Accessed March 13, 2017.

## MR Safety Screening Protocol Quick Tip

Completed student screening forms for MR as well as MR safety instruction provided prior to clinical rotations will provide assurance of an MR safety screening protocol. Listed below are a couple

of websites with information, including links to free MRI safety screening forms and videos on MRI safety.

<http://www.acr.org/quality-safety/radiology-safety/mr-safety>

<http://www.ismrm.org/smr/>



## Assessment Corner



*"I need help with outcomes assessment!"*

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>

## To Submit or Not to Submit

The United States Department of Education requires the JRCERT to have a policy on substantive change. This required policy ensures that any substantive change does not adversely affect the accredited program's ability to meet compliance with the **STANDARDS**. Substantive changes should not be confused with regular program updates (e.g., updating course descriptions, reorganizing the curricular sequence); however, JRCERT policy highlights specific program changes that must be reported.

One common substantive change is the addition of an alternative

learning option, including distance/hybrid delivery of four (4) or more radiologic science didactic courses. Distance/hybrid delivery courses are taught (more than 50%) through the use of TV, audio, or computer transmissions (broadcast, closed-circuit, cable, microwave, satellite transmissions). This does not include the general education component of the curriculum. Other substantive changes are (a.) the addition of courses at a degree or credential level different from that included in the program's current accreditation, (b.) change in terminal award provided by the program, (c.)

addition/deletion of more than 10% of existing clock hours, (d.) addition/deletion of more than two (2) courses, and (e.) addition/deletion of more than eight (8) weeks of program length.

All substantive changes must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation. Programs that fail to notify the JRCERT of a substantive change prior to implementation will be fined. Please contact any professional staff member should you have additional questions regarding substantive changes. Further information on substantive changes may be found at <http://www.jrcert.org/forms>.

## The JRCERT Accreditation Process: A Site Visitor's Perspective

by Loraine D. Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR) and Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT

This article is found at:

[The JRCERT Accreditation Process: A Site Visitor's Perspective](#)

## Accreditation Quick Tips

### New Clinical Settings

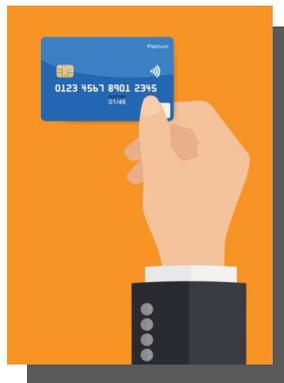
When adding a new clinical setting through the JRCERT AMS portal, click on Clinical Settings Change Requests. Next, click the “New” icon and enter the clinical setting information. When you click “OK”, it will create the setting and return to the table of clinical settings. To add personnel, highlight the clinical

setting and click the “Edit” icon. When the clinical setting information appears, scroll down to enter the Radiology Department Administrator and Clinical Instructors. When all personnel are entered, highlight the setting in the table and click the “Submit” button to submit it to the JRCERT for approval.



### Electronic Payments

The JRCERT is now accepting electronic payments via Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments, also referred to as Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Direct Deposit. This process transfers funds from one bank account to another and eliminates



the need for a check to be generated and mailed. If your institution is interested in having the ability to pay JRCERT invoices electronically, have your accounts payable department e-mail the appropriate form(s) to Teresa Cruz, Finance Manager at [tcruz@jrcert.org](mailto:tcruz@jrcert.org).

### Submitting Documentation to the JRCERT

- When submitting additional information for self-study reports to the JRCERT, please submit all information at the same time, as opposed to sending partial information on several occasions. This will help keep JRCERT records concise and decrease the chance of any documents being lost.
- The JRCERT does not track associate degrees for clinical instructors. Therefore, if a clinical instructor does not have a degree higher than an associate degree, it is not necessary to input a degree into the Accreditation Management System (AMS).
- When submitting documentation of ARRT registration or state licenses for program officials, please be sure that the registration is current and not expired.

#### Q & A

For answers to common questions please click the following link:

[Quick Tips Q & A](#)

## Watch for the 2016 Program Annual Report – Coming July 10th

The 2016 Program Annual Report will be available to programs on the Accreditation Management System (AMS) portal the week of July 10, 2017. 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 2016 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 2016 Program Annual Report are as follows:

Programs with final graduation of students between January 1 and September 30, 2016 - **October 6, 2017.**

Programs with final graduation of students between October 1 and December 31, 2016 - **January 19, 2018.**

## New Accreditation Assistant Jason Mielcarek

The JRCERT welcomed Jason Mielcarek, M.A.M.Ed., Accreditation Assistant, in December. Jason earned his master's degree in Mathematics Education from DePaul University, Chicago and taught for six and a half years in secondary education.

"I am excited for the opportunity to bring my passion of education to the JRCERT and am grateful to Leslie for this wonderful

opportunity. I look forward to being able to work with programs, the Board of Directors, and the staff at the JRCERT to ensure exceptional educational experiences for students across the nation." - Jason

Jason lives in Park Ridge, IL with his wife Meg and their rescue dachshund Deke; he enjoys running, training for marathons, and traveling to new places.



*The Pulse Newsletters are archived on the JRCERT Web site, [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org), under the "News" tab.*

### **Pulse Editors:**

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Joanne Sauter, B.M., Administrative Assistant

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