Greetings from the CEO

Greetings once again from the JRCERT. While 2020 has certainly provided all of us with unique challenges, as we head into the holiday season and the new year, we look forward to better days ahead.

I would like to thank all of our programs for their creativity and flexibility during these times and their continued dedication to their students. Although it has been a difficult year, we have all learned a great deal together. During these unprecedented times, the JRCERT’s day-to-day operations have remained intact and we continue to provide our programs with the support and resources necessary to navigate through this environment. As always, the JRCERT staff is here and available to address any questions or concerns you may have, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please be sure to read through this edition of the Pulse for important information and updates on COVID-19, the 2021 Standards, and all of the current projects in which the JRCERT is immersed.

On behalf of the JRCERT Board and staff, we wish you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and all the best moving in to 2021.

Leslie

25 Years at the JRCERT

On Monday, October 2, 1995, the Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the day at $4,740 and shares for Apple were trading at $0.34. Se7en featuring Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman was the number one movie at the box office and Oasis released their second album featuring the future single Wonderwall. The JRCERT office was in Suite 900 of 20 N. Wacker Drive in Chicago and it was here that Leslie Winter started her first day with the JRCERT. After starting as an Assistant Director, Leslie moved into the roles of Associate Director and Executive Associate Director before becoming CEO in 2007. She has helped lead the organization.

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October 2020 Board Update

On October 15, 2020, the JRCERT Board of Directors met for the second of their semiannual business meetings in 2020. As with the Board’s meeting in April, the Board met virtually in order to promote the health and safety of the Board and staff. The Board continued to discuss topics and hear reports from committees and other meetings.

At the conclusion of the April 2021 Board Meeting, Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT, and Lorie Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R), will conclude their six-year terms as directors on the JRCERT Board. JRCERT staff and the rest of the directors will be sad to see Dr. Schans and Ms. Zelna leave as they have both provided countless hours of service to the organization.

While Dr. Schans and Ms. Zelna will be leaving the Board, two new directors will be installed at the conclusion of the April 2021 Meeting. These two incoming directors were nominated from the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT) and were elected by the current Board during the October 2020 Meeting. The Board thanks all of those interviewed during the nomination and election process. Meredith Brown, M.S., R.T.(R) was nominated by ACERT and is currently the program director at the McLennan Community College radiography program in Waco, Texas. Kae Fleming, Ed.D., R.T.(R) was nominated by the ASRT and is currently the Dean of Health Sciences at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee. The JRCERT Board and staff are looking forward to having Ms. Brown and Dr. Fleming join the organization and bring their invaluable knowledge.

25 years at the JRCERT (Cont’d From Front Page)

through several Standards revisions, expansion of the organization’s scope of accreditation, and the various economic struggles of the 2000s and 2010s. Twenty-five years later, many things have changed but Leslie’s dedication to the organization and the profession remains as strong as ever. While staff was not able to meet in person, the office celebrated virtually with Leslie on October 2, 2020 and wish her many more years with the organization.

“Twenty-five years later, many things have changed but Leslie’s dedication to the organization and the profession remains as strong as ever.”

MR Curriculum Adopted

At the October 2020 JRCERT Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to adopt the new 2020 magnetic resonance curriculum developed by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). The new curriculum has an implementation date of April 1, 2022. The magnetic resonance curriculum analysis grid will be revised to accommodate the changes made to the curriculum. The new grid will be posted on the JRCERT website once it is available.
Distance Education Best Practices Fall 2020

The JRCERT Distance Education Best Practices guide is now available [here](#). The JRCERT has established this resource to assist programs who have had to transition at least some component of their program to remote learning due to the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) worldwide pandemic. The Distance Education Best Practices Guide contains information regarding how to get started with course development as well as instructional materials and course activities for consideration. This guide also discusses course technology matters in addition to a section detailing support services for both learner and faculty. Considerations on how to improve overall student engagement and usability are also discussed. Additional online resources to aid programs with remote learning are also available for programs to peruse. Please take the opportunity to review this guide and implement the information provided into future curriculum delivery. As always, contact the JRCERT office if you should have any further questions regarding distance education learning.

**JRCERT Flipbooks**

The JRCERT is pleased to offer a new, interactive format for the presentation of various documents. The JRCERT has utilized Flipbook software to organize and display the new 2021 Standards for all modalities. Readers will find links embedded in the document to websites with additional information, as well as to the glossary to help clarify certain terms. These Standards Flipbooks also contain printable resources, including assessment plan examples, sample meeting minutes, curriculum maps, and much more.

The JRCERT has also developed a Flipbook titled *Best Practices for Distance Education Programs*. The purpose of this document is to aid programs that have been thrust into a distance education format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The document provides several points of consideration when developing and implementing a distance education course, as well as a list of resources for additional information.

Go to [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org) today to discover more about our Flipbooks resources!

**Town Hall Meeting**

The JRCERT was happy to host four Townhall sessions on November 10, 2020. Leslie Winter, CEO hosted and Traci Lang, Associate Director moderated. Leslie and Traci addressed many questions related to COVID-19, the 2021 Standards, and other accreditation matters. The JRCERT thanks all of those that attended and provided questions before and during the sessions. Be on the lookout for additional Townhalls in the future. A recording of the sessions will be provided in the near future. Be sure to check the JRCERT website and Facebook for a link to this recording when it becomes available.

The Link

The JRCERT’s learning management system LINK is up and running! Since July, several program directors have been enrolled in an Interim Report module preparing them for submission of their Interim Reports under the 2021 Standards. Attendees to webinars and workshops have also been enrolled in LINK as a supplement. We look forward to having more program directors and program officials utilize the LINK as more resources become available.

The 2021 Standards Course is now open for enrollment. The first courses are available on the JRCERT calendar at [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org).

If you have any ideas for future modules or courses for the LINK, please send your suggestions to the office.
COVID and Other FAQs

Q. Should I be documenting for my records the changes that I have made to my curriculum due to COVID-19? Do I need to submit those changes to the JRCERT?

A. Yes, all changes to standard operating procedures of the program should be documented by the program. This documentation can be detailed directly on the program’s contingency plan, through meeting minutes, and/or documentation records by the program director. The documentation may include courses that were taught in the online environment when they are typically taught in the traditional classroom environment; advisory council meetings that were postponed or conducted in the virtual environment instead of in-person; or changes in course rotation and sequencing, clinical scheduling impacts, etc. Due to the many constraints our programs are facing, the JRCERT understands that assessment tools and measurements may be impacted. Programs will want to also document the impacts to assessment outcomes, in terms of availability of outcomes and situational impacts on student performance.

At this time, the JRCERT is not requiring specific documentation regarding COVID-19 impacts on the program be submitted to the office.

Q. How do I address COVID-related accommodations made when I complete my Program Annual Report?

A. The Program Annual Report currently being collected is for the 2019 calendar year. Any COVID related modifications would not have been in effect for this time period. These adjustments will be addressed on next year’s Program Annual Report.

Q. Our program is not learning on campus, but we would still like our students to have laboratory experiences. Can we use synchronous learning, where students over video dictate to faculty in the lab how to complete the exercises?

A. No. While synchronous (or asynchronous) learning is appropriate for didactic instruction, laboratory experiences are meant to be hands-on with the students.

Q. Our program is having some difficulty getting back into our clinical settings. While we have prioritized getting our second-year students into clinical, can our first-year students complete clinical hours in our laboratory?

A. No. Laboratory experiences cannot take the place of student clinical hours.

Q. I just wanted to confirm that we cannot send students to new clinical settings until the JRCERT has approved these facilities, even though our local state has approved these facilities. I am basing this off of: In accordance with JRCERT policy, clinical sites must be approved by the JRCERT before students are assigned to the site. Is that correct?

A. This is correct. JRCERT Policy 11.400, Procedure 11.405D, “requires that programs apply for recognition of clinical settings and receive approval prior to placement of students.”

Q. For program consolidation, is it considered a substantive change if a course is eliminated and course content is added to an existing course? This would result in some existing courses increasing in credits, but the overall program content, outcomes, and total credits would not change - it would just be rearranged and condensed.

A. Please refer to JRCERT Policy 11.400, Procedure 11.408 which can be located here. It is considered a substantive change when the addition/deletion of more than two courses occur. This would include eliminating courses and adding curriculum content to established courses. Again, if this occurs in more than two courses, then a substantive change would have to be approved by the JRCERT Board of Directors prior to implementation.
COVID and Other FAQs (cont’d)

Q. Our sponsoring institution is interested in adding an Academic Certificate that could be offered to students who already have an associate or baccalaureate degree. What is the process to add a certificate option to an existing program?

A. Please refer to JRCERT Policy 11.400, Procedure 11.408Av., which states that a substantive change is required if there is an addition of courses at a degree or credential level different from that included in the program’s current accreditation.

Q. My program has an Interim Report due in six months. Can we get an extension for the due date right now?

A. The JRCERT encourages programs to work on reports (Interim Reports, Self-Study Reports, etc.) in sections to avoid an immense amount of work in a short period of time. Planning on writing reports several months in advance will allow for time to gather documentation from communities of interest and prepare cohesive narratives. If programs need extensions for due dates of reports, the JRCERT advises programs to contact the office in a timely manner before the original due date. The JRCERT considers extensions of due dates on a case-by-case basis. Extensions may be subject to fees.

USDE Regulation Regarding Financial Aid for Title IV Programs

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has recently revised its regulations. The USDE requires that programs that participate in Title IV federal funding for which the JRCERT serves as gatekeeper must disclose if the program’s educational requirements meet the states’ professional licensure or certification requirements. According to the regulation, these programs are required to provide information to the public regarding whether completion of the program would be sufficient to meet state licensure and certification requirements. This information must be posted on the program’s website and reviewed biannually for accuracy.

Programs for which the JRCERT does not serve as gatekeeper are advised to consult with their financial aid offices to assure that the necessary information is accessible to the public.
2021 Standards

After many years of draft and revisions, the 2021 Standards are set to be implemented January 1, 2021. These Standards were adopted during the April 2020 Board of Directors meeting. While there are similarities between the 2014 Standards and the 2021 Standards, the documents are unique. The JRCERT urges program officials to enroll in the 2021 Standards e-Learning course, which is now open. Course schedules are available here. This course will provide valuable insight into the new Standards and prepare program officials for continuing accreditation over the next several years.

Programs that have an Interim Report with a due date of January 1, 2021 or later will submit the Interim Report using the 2021 Standards. Interim Reports that were due before this date will continue to be submitted using the 2014 Standards. In July of 2020, programs had begun to receive notification that the Interim Report using the 2021 Standards was available for completion.

Programs that previously submitted continuing applications using the 2014 Standards will be evaluated using the 2014 Standards during the on-site visit, even if the site visit occurs after the January 1, 2021 implementation date. Any program that submits a self-study report using the 2021 Standards will be evaluated on-site using the 2021 Standards.

Programs are encouraged to note the required program responses and site visitor evaluation methods for each objective in the 2021 Standards. The required program response in each objective is what is required of the program when completing a self-study report. Objectives in the 2021 Standards may require a narrative, documentation, a narrative with documentation, or no response at all. Possible site visitor evaluation methods provide the site visit team and the program a list of methods that may be utilized during the on-site review to determine compliance with an objective.

Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or comments.