From the CEO

The cold of winter has finally subsided, and the warm weather is finally here! The JRCERT Board and Staff have been very busy this year and we appreciate the support that all of you provide the organization. Please be sure to read through this newsletter in order to stay current on important updates to initiatives and policies. We wish you all safe summer months and hope to see many of you at the 50th Anniversary Conference here in Chicago in November!

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

Curriculum Updates

At its 2019 April Meeting, the JRCERT Board of Directors elected to adopt two revised curricula. The Board adopted the 2019 Radiation Therapy Professional Curriculum as sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), as well as the 2019 Medical Dosimetry Educational Program Curriculum Guidelines as sponsored by the American Association of Medical Dosimetristas (AAMD). Both newly adopted curricula have implementation dates of September 1, 2020. The JRCERT will be providing updated curriculum guides under the Program Director and Faculty tab of the JRCERT website soon.
Board Update

The JRCERT Board of Directors met at the JRCERT office in Chicago on April 4th and 5th for their biannual meeting. The Board reviewed and determined accreditation awards for many programs, discussed issues concerning the radiologic sciences, and reviewed initiatives for the organization. A summative report of the actions taken by the Board at this meeting is available here. This was also the last meeting for Laura Borghardt, M.S., CMD.

The Board and JRCERT staff thank Ms. Borghardt for her many years of service and dedication to the organization and wish her success in all her future endeavors.

The Board and JRCERT staff welcome Mahsa Dehghanpour, Ed.D., CMD, who replaces Ms. Borghardt. Dr. Dehghanpour is a certified medical dosimetrist and Medical Dosimetry Program Director at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. The Board and JRCERT staff are eager to gain knowledge and insight from Dr. Dehghanpour.

Excellence in Education Conference

Join us November 4-5, 2019 for the JRCERT’s 50th Anniversary Excellence in Education Conference at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago! Registration is currently open, but spots are going fast. Discounted hotel rooms are nearly sold out and the Cocktail Reception scheduled for Monday night is also nearing capacity. Please visit jrcertconference.org for more details about the conference and to register.
Standards Revision Update

The JRCERT Standards Committee would like to update you on the progress of the Standards Revision. The committee met in April to begin the process of developing Draft 3. This process begins with the committee thoroughly reviewing each comment from all our stakeholders to identify themes. Feedback and comments were obtained through surveys, emails, and phone conversations.

The JRCERT is grateful for thoughtful feedback from the following national and state organizations: American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD), Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB), The Association for Medical Imaging Management (AHRA), and New Jersey Educators in Radiologic Imaging (NJEI).

The JRCERT is appreciative for all those who provided feedback on Draft 2. Draft 1 and Draft 2 remain on the website for those wishing to perform a more through crosswalk; however, some noteworthy changes for Draft 3 are as follows:

- Consolidating the Degree and Certificate documents into one Standards document for each modality.
- The credentialing examination pass rate will remain at a five-year average of not less than 75 percent at first attempt within six months of graduation. (Radiography, Radiation Therapy, Magnetic Resonance)
- The credentialing examination pass rate will remain at a five-year average of not less than 75 percent at first attempt within twelve months of graduation. (Medical Dosimetry)
- The job placement rate will remain at a five-year average of not less than 75% within twelve months of graduation. (All documents)

The project remains on schedule and you can review the complete timetable at our main Standards Revision webpage 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, mail@jrcert.org, or look for a JRCERT representative at an upcoming conference.

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

Sincerely,

Lorie Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR)
First Vice Chair
JRCERT Board of Directors
New Modules

Have you checked the JRCERT website for program resources lately? We heard your requests for program resources and have begun producing some new materials. Under the tab, “Program Director and Faculty” there is a “Program Resources” section. There you will find “Outcomes Assessment Planning” which provides an overview of the importance of assessing student learning outcomes and measuring program effectiveness. There is also a module on how to develop your interim report in radiography that includes some quick check questions to challenge your knowledge of an interim report. Additional interim report modules for radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry will be forthcoming in the near future. The checklists for all four interim reports have also been updated on the JRCERT website. Finally, some resources for the students and the public have been developed. Under the “Students” tab, you can find a short video discussing the benefits of programmatic accreditation. A module explaining the use of program effectiveness data when exploring programs to consider for enrollment is also located under the “Students” tab. Be on the lookout for future modules for program faculty that will include “Calculating Program Effectiveness Data” and “Developing Your Assessment Plan”. If you have ideas for professional development modules, please share your suggestions with us.

Organizational Report

The 2018 Organizational Report of the JRCERT is now available online here or under the “About JRCERT” tab of the JRCERT website. The report contains information and statistics about the JRCERT, and accreditation actions taken during 2018. Additionally, it contains demographical information on accredited programs and site visitors that performed site visits in 2018. If you have questions or comments about the report, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Additional Information for Interim Reports and Self-Study Reports

Over the last year, the JRCERT office staff has been working to improve efficiency in order to provide better experiences for our programs. One such improvement has been recently implemented and will be noticeable if you have submitted an Interim Report or Self-Study Report. In years past, if JRCERT staff requested additional or clarifying information for Interim Reports or Self-Study Reports, program officials would provide the documents as email attachments. With an update to the AMS Portal, programs are now able to attach the requested documentation and/or narratives in a much more organized manner. Program officials familiar with completing Responses to Report of Findings and Progress Reports will notice that the process to submit the requested documentation is very similar.

Program officials are reminded that answers to commonly asked questions and links to instructional videos are available under the Portal Helps section under the FAQ tab on the JRCERT website.
2018 Annual Reports

It is that time of the year again! The 2018 JRCERT Annual Reports will be available to programs on the Accreditation Management System (AMS) portal the week of June 17, 2019. Programs will receive a broadcast email announcing the availability of the annual report on the portal. Additionally, a link will be provided in the email to a Guide for Completing the 2018 Annual Report. The guide will also be made available on the JRCERT website under the Program Director and Faculty tab.

In regard to five-year credentialing examination pass rate and five-year job placement rate, the 2018 Annual Report is comprised of 2014-2018 data. All other questions and data, i.e., program completion rate, number of enrollments, and number of graduates pertain to the 2018 calendar year only.

If programs have graduation dates between January 1 and September 30, 2018, the Annual Report is due October 4, 2019. Programs that graduate students between October 1 and December 31, 2018 have an Annual Report due date of January 17, 2020.

If programs have not previously had final graduation dates after October 1 and require a due date of January 17, 2020, the program must notify the office.

Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation Workshop

Are you attending the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Radiation Therapy Conference this September in Chicago? If so, please consider arriving a day early to join us for an Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation Workshop. This workshop will take place Saturday, September 14 from 8am to 5pm. Attendees are eligible for continuing education credits. More information and registration is available here.
MRI Safety Policy

In October 2014, the JRCERT Board of Directors adopted an interpretation of Objective 4.3 (Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography/Radiation Therapy/Medical Dosimetry) and Objective 4.1 (Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Magnetic Resonance). This interpretation states that “Programs must establish a safety screening protocol for students having potential access to the magnetic resonance environment. This assures that students are appropriately screened for magnetic wave or radio-frequency hazards. Programs must describe how they prepare students for magnetic resonance safe practices and provide a copy of the screening protocol, if applicable.” As students could have potential access to the magnetic resonance environment at the beginning of clinical rotations, students should be screened and prepared for magnetic resonance safe practices prior to entering the clinical setting. If the status of the student should change prior to magnetic resonance rotations, the student should be screened again to ensure the health and safety of the student is maintained.

Required Documentation for Interim Reports

Interim Reports are required for those programs that have been awarded eight-years accreditation. These Interim Reports are due four years after the most recent site visit. The purpose of the Interim Report is to ensure compliance with specific objectives of the Standards since the time of the last site visit. Two groups of objectives require yearly documentation: supervision and assessment. Programs are required to ensure students, clinical instructors, and clinical staff are made aware of the program’s direct, indirect, and repeat supervision requirements on a yearly basis (Objectives 4.4, 4.5 - Medical Dosimetry Standards). Some possible ways to document that individuals are made aware of these Objectives include dated memos reviewing supervision policies, student handbook signoffs indicating the student is aware of all policies, and clinical instructor meeting minutes noting that supervision policies were reviewed. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of possible methods to ensure compliance. Programs are also reminded that analysis and sharing of student learning outcome data and program effectiveness data must occur annually and must be formally documented (Objective 5.4).
The JRCERT Welcomes New Programs

Congratulations and welcome to our newly accredited programs! Since the November 2018 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:

- **Yakima Valley Community College**
  Yakima, WA
  Radiography
- **Washington University**
  Topeka, KS
  Radiation Therapy
- **California Baptist University**
  Riverside, CA
  Radiography
- **College of Central Florida**
  Ocala, FL
  Radiography
- **Concordia College-New York**
  Bronxville, NY
  Radiography
- **Pima Medical Institute-El Paso**
  El Paso, TX
  Radiography

New Employees Jennifer Michael, Ed.D. and Tim Ebrom, M.S.

The JRCERT is excited to welcome Jennifer Michael, Ed.D., R.T.(R) as an Accreditation Specialist with the organization. Jennifer comes to the JRCERT from Northwestern State University where she recently served as Assistant Professor, Clinical Coordinator, and Department Coordinator for the Quality Enhancement Plan. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences and Master of Science in Radiologic Science Administration from Northwestern State University. More recently, she earned her Doctorate in Education, Curriculum and Instruction in Health Professions Education, from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Jennifer brings site visitor experience, many awards and honors, and involvement with many committees and organizations to the JRCERT.

The JRCERT is also pleased to welcome Timothy Ebrom, M.S. as an Accreditation Assistant with the organization. Tim earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Master of Science from DePaul University. Tim is excited to bring his passion for education to the JRCERT and is looking forward to working with the organization and profession.