Greetings from the CEO

Greetings and welcome once again from the JRCERT! With 2020 behind us, it appears that we are turning the corner here in 2021 with the hope of a return to more familiar circumstances ahead. I would once again like to sincerely thank all of our programs for their innovation and flexibility throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. It truly has been a learning experience for all of us, and we come through on the other side a little wiser and a little more appreciative of the better times ahead.

This edition of the Pulse is jam-packed with information, including updates from the Board and from the office, information regarding the JRCERT gonadal shielding position statement, upcoming technology improvements, and much more. Be sure to read through to learn about all of the exciting happenings at the JRCERT.

Have a great summer, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us in the JRCERT office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Leslie

Website and Portal Upgrades

The JRCERT has several technology improvements coming this year. The Accreditation Management System (AMS) portal will soon be upgraded, making it more user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing. Additionally, the JRCERT website will soon be undergoing a complete redesign with improvements in the find-a-program feature, and a more streamlined and consolidated theme. Both projects are on track to launch in the fourth quarter of 2021. Be sure to follow the JRCERT on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn for updates to these and more projects.
Spring 2021 Board Update

The JRCERT Board of Directors met virtually on April 22, 2021 for their biannual meeting. The Board discussed many important issues and topics and took accreditation actions on numerous programs. A summary of the April 2021 Board Meeting can be found here.

At the conclusion of the April meeting, Bette Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT and Loraine Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR) completed their six-year terms serving on the Board. The organization thanks Dr. Schans and Ms. Zelna for all of their hard work and dedication over their tenures.

Kae Fleming, Ed.D., R.T.(R) and Meredith Brown, M.S., R.T.(R) were installed as directors at the conclusion of the meeting. Dr. Fleming is currently the Dean of Health Sciences at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, TN and Ms. Brown is the radiography program director at McLennan Community College in Waco, TX. The organization is excited to welcome Dr. Fleming and Ms. Brown to the Board and look forward to the insight and experience that they will bring.

The Board also appointed a new Executive Committee: Julie Lasley, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(T) is the Chair; Tracy L. Herrmann, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FAEIIRS is First Vice Chair; Mahsa Dehghanpour, Ed.D., CMD is Second Vice Chair; and Chad N. Hensley, III, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(MR) remains Secretary/Treasurer.

Jason Stephenson, M.D. and David Daugherty, M.B.A., C.R.A., R.T.(R)(CT)(MR), FACHE recently resigned as directors. The JRCERT has requested nominees from the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the Association for Medical Imaging Management (AHRA).

Interim Reports

JRCERT Policy 10.300, Policy Statement 10.302 requires programs accredited for eight years to submit an interim report. This interim report is submitted during the fourth year of the eight year accreditation award and provides assurance that the program has continued to meet accreditation standards since the last accreditation award. This includes providing yearly documentation for supervision requirements and analysis/sharing of program effectiveness and student learning outcome data.

With the implementation of the 2021 Standards, the process for submission and review of the interim report changed slightly. Six months before the interim report is due, the program director will receive notification from the office that the report is due and that they may access the interim report via the AMS Portal. Soon after this notification, a JRCERT professional staff member will reach out to the program offering initial advice and additional resources. The program director will then be enrolled in an optional interim report module in the LINK LMS. After completing the module, the program can reach out to the professional staff member for a phone conference if they have additional questions or concerns.

After the interim report is submitted through the Portal, staff will review the documentation and then forward the report to the JRCERT Board of Directors for deliberation.

Many resources are available to programs as they work to submit their interim report: Interim Report Checklist, Interim Report Module, 2021 Standards Flipbooks, and JRCERT Professional Staff. You are strongly encouraged to utilize these resources to submit the best possible interim report.

Frequently Asked Questions

The uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic yielded several questions among JRCERT-accredited programs. To assist programs in answering these inquiries, the JRCERT hosted several Townhall meetings. While registration for these meetings quickly filled, the JRCERT has made available the most commonly asked questions in videos on the JRCERT YouTube Channel. Additionally, there is a dedicated COVID-19 FAQ page on the JRCERT website. As always, if you cannot find the answer to your question, please contact the JRCERT office and we will be happy to assist you.
JRCERT Flipbooks

The 2021 Standards were implemented January 1, 2021. In addition to PDF versions of the Standards documents, the JRCERT also provides a Flipbooks version of the Standards. The Flipbooks versions provide a more dynamic approach to the document. Additionally, the Flipbooks version has an appendix which provides a repository of additional information. Currently, the Flipbooks has sample assessment plans, sample meeting minutes, an example of a curriculum map, the program effectiveness data template, the Breast Imaging Policy Position Statement, magnetic resonance safety screening protocol information, and grievance policy information. More resources will be added to the Flipbooks in the future. If you have any ideas for potential resources to add, please contact the office.

A glossary of terms is provided in both the Flipbooks version and the PDF version of the Standards. In this glossary, you will find definitions of several terms as they relate to JRCERT accreditation. Clinical obligations, articulation agreements, distance education, and communities of interest are just a few of the terms included in the Glossary. Please be sure to reference this glossary when utilizing the Standards documents.

Town Hall Meeting

On May 20th, 2021, the JRCERT hosted a series of Townhall sessions. CEO Leslie Winter provided an update on the organization, addressed the continuing challenges many programs are facing, and answered questions from the attendees. Associate Director Traci Lang moderated the event. Each of the four sessions was filled to capacity and the JRCERT hopes that the attendees found the information helpful and educational.

If you were unable to attend the May sessions, a recording is available here. You may also access the video by visiting the JRCERT's YouTube Channel or by clicking on the YouTube link from the JRCERT’s website.

The JRCERT is planning to hold another session in November 2021. Please be on the lookout for a broadcast email with more information in the future.

Learning Management System Modules

The JRCERT will soon be expanding the course offerings in the LINK Learning Management System. In addition to the Interpreting the 2021 Standards course being offered, the LINK will also begin offering a facilitated Outcomes Assessment course, as well as an independent Introduction to the JRCERT Accreditation Process. Other offerings are also in development and review stages. For more information regarding the LINK Learning Management System, including frequently asked questions and an orientation video, visit the FAQ tab at www.jrcert.org.

Learning Innovation Networking Knowledge
JRCERT Position Statement on Gonadal Shielding in the Clinical Setting

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography are designed to promote academic excellence, patient safety, and quality healthcare.

**Standard Five - Objective 5.3** of the Standards requires programs to assure students employ proper safety practices. Programs achieve this by instructing students in the utilization of imaging equipment, accessories, optimal exposure factors, and proper patient positioning to minimize radiation exposure to patients, selves, and others. These practices assure radiation exposures are kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

Gonadal shielding has been a longstanding practice during radiography examinations in instances where the clinical objectives of the examination are not compromised. Recent research in the effectiveness of gonadal shielding during abdominal and pelvic radiography has found, in most instances, that:

- Gonadal shielding does not contribute significantly to reducing patient risk from radiation exposure;
- Gonadal shielding positioned improperly may have the unintentional consequence of increasing patient exposure;
- Gonadal shielding positioned improperly may result in the loss of valuable diagnostic examination results.

Based on the recent research pertaining to the use of gonadal shielding during abdominal and pelvic radiography and the longstanding practice in radiography to only shield in instances in which diagnostic quality will not be compromised, the JRCERT has concluded that routine use of gonadal shielding for abdominopelvic radiography exams should not be standard practice for clinical radiography students when the use of such could interfere with the diagnostic quality of the exam and may result in the risk of a repeat exposure.

Educational programs should review and consider amending, if necessary, policies to assure that the use of gonadal shielding should only be utilized when it will not interfere with the purpose of the examination and when it aligns with clinical facility policy.

Consistent with **Standard Five**, programs must have policies/processes in place to assure students are educated on the importance of the proper use of shielding and optimal use of radiation to promote the health and safety of students, patients, and the public.

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Congratulations and welcome to our newly accredited programs! Since the October 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors, three 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:

Keiser University/West Palm Beach Campus
West Palm Beach, FL
Radiography

Rasmussen University - Fort Myers
Fort Myers, FL
Radiography

Trenholm State Community College
Montgomery, AL
Radiography

Annual Reports

The JRCERT will be distributing information regarding the 2020 Program Annual Report by July. This year’s reporting process will be very similar to last year’s. Radiography, radiation therapy, and magnetic resonance programs are reminded that they must submit a copy of the Candidate Exam Results report from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) using the graduation date range of 1/2016 – 12/2020. Medical dosimetry programs must submit the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) reports from 2016-2020, indicating the number of graduates who passed on the first attempt during each year of this period. Additionally, all programs will be required to submit a completed representative sample of documentation that reflects employment verification for students graduating during 2020. Resources to help complete the 2020 Program Annual Report will be available on the JRCERT website soon.

The completed 2020 Program Annual report will be due October 8, 2021 for programs whose final 2020 class graduation was between January 1 and September 30, 2020. For programs whose final 2020 class graduation was between October 1 and December 31, 2020, the 2020 Program Annual Report will be due January 14, 2022. The JRCERT thanks its programs for taking the time to complete the 2020 Program Annual Report, and, as always, we are here to help should you need any assistance.

Mitigating Circumstances

The JRCERT limits the response time for sponsors and programs to comply with the relevant accreditation standards by establishing the following maximum timeframe for completion:

i. eighteen (18) months from the date of notice of non-compliance if the program is at least one (1) year but less than two (2) years in length;

ii. twenty-four (24) months from the date of notice of non-compliance if the program is two (2) years or longer in length.

Consistent with Policy 11.400, Procedures 11.404A and 11.404B and United States Department of Education (USDE) regulations, the program must be in compliance with all relevant accreditation standards by the timeframes listed above, or identify mitigating circumstances hindering the attainment of this outcome. If the program does not document compliance within the specified timeframe, the JRCERT must withdraw the program’s accreditation unless the JRCERT, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

Consistent with Policy 11.400, Procedure 11.405B, in order to be considered for a good cause extension, the program must identify the mitigating circumstances and provide the following:

- Listing of all students currently enrolled in the program, including those admitted since the program was initially placed on Probation;
- Anticipated graduation date(s) for the above students;
- Status and results of previously implemented action plan(s) to address the areas of non-compliance; and
- Action plan to aid students in the event that accreditation is withdrawn for failure to document full compliance with the STANDARDS.

At the April 2021 JRCERT Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved the addition of a fee for consideration of a good cause extension. This $500 fee will be implemented April 22, 2022 and will be invoiced to the program when the above information is received. If you have any questions when requesting good cause extensions for mitigating circumstances, please contact JRCERT Professional Staff.
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.

The JRCERT Newsletters are archived on the JRCERT website, www.jrcert.org, under the “Accreditation Information” tab.

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JRCERT Policy 10.900

In March, the JRCERT sent out a broadcast email with a Website Compliance Checklist. As part of Objectives 1.1 and 1.6 of the 2021 Standards, programs must make ensure that specific information related to the program is published on the program’s and/or sponsoring institution’s website.

In addition to those requirements in Objectives 1.1 and 1.6, programs must also adhere to Policy 10.900 as delineated here. Policy Statement 10.901i mandates that programs maintain “announcements and advertisements that accurately reflect the program offered.” If the program and/or sponsoring institution posts advertisements for the educational program via social media, television, print, etc., then the information published must be accurate.

The JRCERT will continue to periodically check program websites for compliance with Objectives 1.1 and 1.6, as well as Policy 10.900. If the JRCERT finds inaccurate or missing information, the program will receive correspondence noting the requirements.

Staff Update

The JRCERT is happy to welcome Tanner Caldwell, B.S. to the team! Tanner’s responsibilities as the Information Technology Support Specialist will include responding to technology inquiries, assist in troubleshooting and resolving computer and network challenges, assist with questions and various tasks in the LINK LMS platform, review program websites for compliance with the JRCERT Standards, and assist with the management of the JRCERT’s software, servers, and website.

Tanner recently earned his Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance from Western Governor’s University. He is currently working on obtaining his Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, also from Western Governor’s University. Tanner has numerous certifications including CompTIA Secure Infrastructure Specialist – CSIS Stackable Certification, CompTIA Project+, and EC-Council Certified Incident Handler (ECIH).

Welcome Tanner!