



TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Winter 2008

M.S.R.T. 1485 TEXTILE RD, ANN ARBOR, MI 48108

WWW.MSRT.ORG

PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING...

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MSRT Board Members

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Dear MSRT Membership:

Hope your holiday season is going well. We have braved the presidential election and high gas prices and now we are all bracing for a slow economy. Remember that the MSRT is here for you. Please contact myself and other members of the Board if you have any ideas or suggestions.

We are in the planning process for the 11th Annual RT in DC April. 19-21. I long for the day we can stop beating on doors because the government has finally done the right thing. We can't stop now! Keep contacting your legislators and make them understand why this is so important. We will be sending 5 individuals, including our student liaisons, Kimberly Martin and Amy Lacy. It is important that all aspects of the profession be heard.

The website is under construction! Keep watching for changes and we expect to have online registration for the Mid-America Meeting scheduled for March 20 & 21, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint. We will have the Radiation Therapy Review, Mammography, and CT track in addition to the General track. Flyers should be in the mail soon so reserve the date!

The Annual Meeting Committee is proud to announce that the Annual Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Bay City Riverfront on October 7, 8, & 9, 2009. The golf outing will be held on October 6th. We hope this change of venue will please those of you who are looking for a change. It is a beautiful property and there is much to do in the area. Look for more details to come.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Dawn Sturk, M.S.,R.T.(R), RCIS
2008-09 President



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING...

As I write this, it is November 28th and I am sitting in a house on top of a mountain in Vermont. It is absolutely gorgeous here!! My boyfriend's mother's house sits at the foot of the mountain they call "Camel's Hump" for obvious reasons. There is something very relaxing and breathtaking about watching deer climb the side of a hill or watching the sun rise over a mountainside. And the sky is so clear at night you can see the Milky Way.

At dinner yesterday, they have the tradition of going around the table and each person stating what they are most thankful for. I was dreading when my turn came, only because I was a stranger at this table. I was visibly embarrassed and got off the hook because they could tell I was uncomfortable. Whew... But I *am* thankful for a lot of things. I am thankful for my boyfriend, Jeff, coming into my life and for my wonderful son and soon to be daughter-in-law. I am thankful that my father is out of the hospital having been cured of his liver abscess. I am thankful I still have a job which is a big plus in this economy. Finally, I am thankful for having such awesome friends. You know they are there, for support and advice, but when you really need them, they shine through even brighter. (Thanks Laurie, Christina, Julie and Amy.)

Well, it's soon to be a new year. I am interested to see how our new president will handle the tough issues he has thrown himself into. I have faith he will do a great job. In a story about his TV appearance Saturday morning by Jon Brooks, "President-elect Barack Obama on his *Meet the Press* appearance. After running through a litany of dismal economic conditions, he summarized, 'This is a big problem and it's going to get worse.'" I only hope everyone will give him a chance to prove himself before we start hearing anything bad about him.

The MSRT has some changes in store for next year. Our website is being redesigned as we speak. Changes are slow, so be patient. They will be worth the wait! Our annual meeting will be held in a different location in 2009, downtown Bay City at the Doubletree. We hope to see everyone there.

I hope that everyone has a Happy Holiday and a fabulous New Year! Stay safe and I'll see you in 2009!!

Dawn M. Dickinson RT (R)(M)(CT)
Editor

Continuing Education Coordinator Position Available

We, the MSRT, are in need of an individual to work with the ASRT on submission of programs for continuing education approval for the Annual Meeting, Mid-America Meeting and other functions.

CE Coordinator is a compensated position. Applicants must be an active member of the MSRT & ASRT. Organizational skills are a must!

For questions please call Dawn Sturk at 810-257-9835 or email me at Dsturk1@Hurleymc.com



ALL members of the Radiologic Professions,

With the recent election, as patient advocates, we need now to begin communicating with members of Congress (To become a Democratic Congress with new agendas) to move on the Care Bill. Emails, letters, phone calls etc. Remember they work for US and as constituents; they will listen to those from their own district far quicker than a Federal Lobbyist.

The MSRT is committed again this year, to visit the Congress during the RT in DC event with other affiliates of the ASRT. We will be visiting each member elected by Michigan, and voicing the importance of this legislation, but you can help plant the awareness and interests within your own Districts.

We can't drop the ball on this....there are a lot of NEW faces at the federal level that need to be educated. Michigan's Representatives and Senators need to be reminded of their commitment to support and begin to do so NOW in preparation of a new Congress at the beginning of the new year.

Your future is in your own actions and hands.

We all need to ACT.

Your Legislative Committee

Should a Patient's Photo be Included with Their Radiological Exam?

By Dawn M. Dickinson

In a recent story printed in the Scanner, a study was conducted at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel, was performed to determine if the addition of a photo would change the interpretation of the exam. According to the author, Yehonatan N. Turner, M.D., a photograph of a patient was taken before the exam was performed and it was scanned into PACs for the radiologists to see the human behind the exam they are dictating. Radiologists have very limited or no contact with patients. By adding photographs to PACs, they can get the feel of being a part of the treatment of patients as humans not just a disease or body part.

The study was conducted in CT, 316 people agreed to be photographed and their pictures became part of their record and appeared as their exam was opened by the radiologist. Radiologists were given a survey to complete after interpretation about what they had experienced. All of them said they felt more empathy towards the patients and stated some of the photos had shown physical signs of the disease which aided in interpreting.

The article states that 81 exams with incidental findings were shown to the same radiologists three months later and only 80% of those same findings were seen.

The radiologists involved in the study commented that the photographs didn't lengthen the time of interpretation it did affect how well they read the images. All of them thought a photo of the patient should be included on all exams now and in the future. Dr. Turner said, "The photos were very helpful both in terms of improving diagnosis and the physicians' own feelings as caregivers. Down the road, we would like to see photos added to all radiology case files."

Turner, Y. N. (2008, December 2). *Patient Photos Spur Radiologist Empathy and Eye for Detail*. Retrieved December 8, 2008, from

http://asrt.yellowbrix.com/pages/asrt/Story.nsp?story_id=123886541&category=ASRT+Newswire&ID=asrt

HOW ARE YOU RELATED TO THE MSRT FAMILY?

BY BILL MULLER

(reprinted from Fall 2008 Technically Speaking...It deserves repeating)

It was just a little over a year ago that I received an e-mail from Paul Hyde. At that time, Paul was the President of the Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologists (MSRT). The e-mail was sharing the sad news of the untimely death of Lois Zehnder, the MSRT Treasurer. In his e-mail, Paul said something that went to my heart, "We have lost a member of our family." As I thought about the word "family" I thought back to my own relationship with the MSRT and thought how true that is.

For many years, I was just a "member." I paid my dues and I attended a few MSRT conferences, but that is the only relationship I had with the organization. I figured one had to be a "super tech" like Mary Ellen Tice, Henry Orth, Jerry Wolcott, Reah North, and so many others... the icons of our profession... in order have a greater part in the MSRT. I thought they were at the top of our field, men and women who excelled as technologists and thus held the positions of leadership in our state society. How could I, a common technologist, ever be more than just a member?

A little more than five years ago I was made aware of an opening for a registrar with the MSRT. I applied and was given the job. (Of course I was the only applicant). I immediately felt as though I belonged in this organization. I was accepted for the person I am, not because I was the registrar. Members of the board, from the president on down offered their assistance as I became acquainted with the job. They were there to help in anyway they could, and even after five years, they still are. I found them to be very appreciative of everything I did and still do.

More importantly I saw they are people just like me. They didn't work in gold trimmed offices or live in mansions in exclusive neighborhoods. They did not become a part of the MSRT for the power they might have. They did not run for the various offices they held for the glory of the position. They did not elevate themselves to a pedestal expecting to be honored. Rather, they became part of the MSRT because they are passionate about our profession. They are concerned about patient care, and about helping all technologists to be the best we can be. They work hard for all of us, and for our profession. They are people just like me and you. That is why I fit right in. They cared, they listened, and they stood with me, just as they have been doing for a long time. Yes, we are a family who care about a lot of things, and each other.

I write all this because there may be many in our state who think they might like to be involved in some way, who would like to see our profession continue to get better, who would like to help with the conferences and seminars - but don't feel they are good enough to be in the "inner circle" of the state organization, or they don't have any "contacts" to get them "in", or they, like me, think the leaders of the society are part of a "good old boys network" and as such are not interested in newcomers. But none of that is true.

If you are a technologist or a student in a radiation science program, if you care about your profession, and would like to work with an ordinary bunch of people to make it better, you are good enough, and you are wanted, and the only contact you need is to talk to a board member. There are many places you can serve in the MSRT - on the board, on one of the various committees, or helping to plan the Annual Meeting and/or Mid America Conference. We are always looking for new insight and ideas - perhaps they will come from you. So why don't you get involved - for yourself, for us and for your profession. Come and be a part of the family.

November 18, 2008

Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologists (MSRT)

1485 West Textile Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108



MSRT Board of Directors and Members,

Recently I had the opportunity, with the assistance of Representative Mike Rogers, to acquire a new American flag to present to the society. The MSRT has long been without an American flag for organizational functions. This is no ordinary flag; it comes with its own special history. In honor of the discovery of X-Rays by Wilhelm Roentgen and in honor of all radiologic Technologists in Michigan, this flag was flown over the capital on November 8th, 2008. This also coincided with National Radiologic Technologist week.

The MSRT and its member's have always embraced their patriotism during our organizational/educational meetings. I have never known not saying the Pledge of Allegiance during our annual meetings. Who can honestly say they were not moved the first time (or anytime) they heard Mr. Robert Nelson sing the National Anthem. It is with this sentiment that I donate this flag to the MSRT. It is truly a small return of what I have been given by this organization.

Thanks you for your committed representation of our profession, and please display this flag with its unique history with pride, not only as Americans but also as R.T.'s.

Respectfully,
Rex A. Miller

STUDENT'S CORNER

This year we are excited to have two student liaisons, Kimberly Martin and Amy Lacy. They are both 2nd year x-ray students at Lansing Community College. Here they tell us a little about themselves and what their plans are for the coming year.

Hello Everyone,

My name is Kimberly Martin and I am one of two student liaisons that were elected at this year's annual MSRT meeting. I feel very honored to have the privilege of participating in this great organization as a student! In the coming year I hope to spread the word of the MSRT to the student population in Michigan in hopes to gain some new members, for the students are our future. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or questions feel free to contact me at Marti624@msu.edu. I hope the coming holiday season finds you all healthy and happy and I am looking forward to working with you in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Martin, MSRT Student Liaison 2008-2009

Hello there!

My name is Amy Lacy, and I am one of the student liaison representatives for the MSRT for this year. The goal for me as a student liaison is to address and hopefully alleviate any problems, questions, or concerns any student may have for me. For me, being a first year Radiologic Technology student came with some fears, and lots of excitement. As a second year student, I feel I can be of help to any student in any program throughout the State of Michigan. As Student Liaison, I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in April of 2009 to talk with Congress about the CARE bill, which is something you can learn about in detail on the MSRT website, and will most likely greatly affect you if you plan on pursuing your career as a Licensed Radiologic Technologist. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or general topics regarding this exciting career. I greatly look forward to the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Amy Lacy, MSRT Student Liaison 2008-2009

See Website for Email Link and Information





November 14, 2008

As you may have already found out, the MSRT web site is going through a major upgrade. In October our web site changed to a basic information page. Since this is being built from the ground up, you will notice more functionality within the site over a period of time. It is projected to be fully operational by our 2009 Annual Meeting.

During the next few months our priorities will be to update and upgrade our membership data base. We are also working to streamline many of our "on-line" functions such as membership renewal, meeting registration as well as expanding our communication process with the members. While this process will take some time, we believe the final product will enhance the opportunities for being a MSRT member. Other improvements we hope to incorporate include:

- Membership Tracking CE Credits
- Possible On-Line CE Credits
- Communication Improvements
- Greater Networking
- MSRT Stores

These are just the highlights of the potential our new web site holds. This is also your opportunity to tell us what you want to see in your web site. We welcome all suggestions from our members. If you would like to make a suggestion, please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Thank you for your patience while these changes are being made and I am sure we will all benefit from this much needed upgrade.

Respectfully,

Rex Miller (Committee Chairman)
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